

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Monday, January 8th, 2024 – 7:00 PM
Council Chambers - Village Hall

1) Call to Order

Chair Burke called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM. [Meeting was delayed due to lack of quorum.]

Roll Call

Present: Jack Eskin, Jenna Holzberg (arrived at 7:29 PM), Julie Johnston-Ahlen, Jason Nudelman, Rob Burke

Absent: Jason Jenkins.

Staff: Staff Liaison Jill Juliano, Steve Pautsch- Village Consultant from Civiltech Engineering. Village Engineer Bill McKenna.

2. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Eskin made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Johnston-Ahlen. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

3. Approval of the Draft November 29, 2023 Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Eskin made a motion to approve the draft November 29, 2023 Transportation Commission meeting minutes. It was seconded by Commissioner Nudelman. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Non-Agenda Public Comment

Chair Burke asked if there were any non-agenda public comments. Staff liaison Jill Juliano stated there is no non-agenda public comment.

5. New Business

5a) Petitions to Implement Traffic Calming Measures at the 900 block of N Humphrey Avenue, the 1000 block of N Humphrey Avenue and the Intersection of Berkshire Street and Humphrey Avenue

Steven Pautsch, Village consultant from Civiltech Engineering who is assisting in the processing of traffic calming petitions, gave a presentation on the three petitions including collecting a lot of traffic data in the northeast section, focused analysis on

Humphrey Ave, looking at rush hour traffic volumes and bypass travel patterns as well as crash data for a five-year time frame.

The following persons spoke their comments aloud:

Judy Chrisman 1000 N Humphrey Ave is requesting speed humps on her block due to the success the speed humps have had on those blocks. Chair Burke stated that speed humps are not available on certain blocks but we could still recommend them to the Village Board.

Mari Davis made a statement about the traffic on her street is congested if the expressway is backed up on Austin, cars have gone through barriers during block parties and barricades as well.

Jessica Worthington 900 N Humphrey feels like there's more traffic on her block, more than any other block. She says it is due to North Ave and Austin and would like the streets to be safer. Speed bumps or something that would make the streets calmer.

Kim O'Donnell at 947 N Humphrey read a letter from her 10-year-old daughter. She is requesting a speed hump due to speeding. Kim then spoke on her concerns with the ongoing traffic. Kim has been trying to petition for this street for 4 years and she has seen dogs being hit and cars skidding by careless drivers.

John Maschoff 1000 N Humphrey main concern is safety and would like to know the benchmark number for what is a safe speed, an issue of rolling stops. For sake of our children, make sure they are safe.

Written public comment:

Sheena Rayford 1000 N Humphrey in 2022 wrote for patrol to come to Berkshire and Humphrey. Cut through traffic from Austin and speeding is a disaster waiting to happen. She is requesting narrowing at the alleys to allow for one lane along with round about barriers as well.

Kurt Roskopf traffic calming devices can push traffic to other streets and bother other residential streets.

Staff recommendation for police enforcement and portable speed radar signs and a paint and post extension at the northeast corner of Division and Humphrey intersection.

Chairman Eskin is concerned about the bump out and its location Division and Humphrey is made to address right turns from division. Consultant Pautsch states it will hopefully slow down the turning vehicle. Commissioner Nudelman made suggestions about replicating the bump out on both the north and south side of Division. Jill Juliano stated traffic diverters are not considered a traffic calming device.

Commissioner Holzberg states the cut through traffic is unacceptable. She would like to see a broader approach. What else can we do, additional bump out along Humphrey? We could be more aggressive other than this recommendation.

Commissioner Nudelman questions if the paint and post could be used to put up temporary traffic circles or roundabout at this intersection? A: Consultant Pautsch suggests that the problem is the road is 30 ft wide and not enough space for circles or roundabouts. Village Engineer McKenna commented due to size constraints the Village would not be doing the posts but will do paint.

Commissioner Johnston-Ahlen is not in agreement with the recommendation, she suggests due to data collection and the putting in the bump out. It is not a volume issue and maybe due to the lack of volume is contributing to the speed issue. She suggests putting a traffic calming measure such as paint and posts at the intersection would be the option to consider.

Chair Burke comments that we would not able to recommend speed humps in this area due to the rules and regulation that the Transportation Commission has, as approved by the Village Board.

Village Engineer McKenna recommends saving this item for this the next Transportation Commission meeting since it would need further discussion and evaluations. Item is tabled until the next commission meeting.

5b) Vote to Change the Meeting Day of the Monthly Transportation Commission Meeting to the 2nd Monday of the Month

Commissioner Holzberg made a motion to change date of the Transportation Commission to the second Monday of the month. It was seconded by Commissioner Eskin.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Holzberg, Eskin Johnston-Ahlen, Nudelman, Burke

Nays: None

The motion passed unanimously 5 to 0.

6. Old Business

No old business to review.

7. Adjourn

With no further business Commissioner Holzberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Commissioner Johnston-Ahlen, The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM

Submitted by,
Anita Bahena
Administrative Assistant.

From: [Kimberly O'Donnell](#)
To: [Transportation; Pautsch, Steve](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Transportation Commission Comment
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 10:16:34 AM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Sorry - resending with a correction to my comment - Please share this one. Thank you!

Hello,

I know that this is late to submit, but I hope that you will consider and include it. Thank you. The holidays were busy for my family and I'm just getting to this.

To The Traffic Commissioners,

My name is Kim O'Donnell and I wrote to you years ago to address the traffic concerns on 900 N Humphrey Ave and at the intersections on both sides of our block - at Humphrey and Division and at Humphrey and Berkshire.

When I started this petition, my children were 18 months, 4 and 6. During the pandemic we lived outside, in our tiny yard, on our sidewalks, walking daily to get out of the house. This is when it really came to my attention how bad the driving was in our neighborhood. Now my kids are 5, 8 and 10. I have gone from a stay at home mom to a full time working mom as a teacher in district 97. We walk to Hatch School when we can, but it is a scary walk due to the driving we see on the way. We eat dinner outside on our front porch and watch this recklessness every single day during the warmer months. It is frustrating. I attended several traffic committee meetings during year 1 and 2 after I submitted my petition, but honestly I grew frustrated at the lack of response and I stopped. Thank you for finally addressing our concerns.

We have been waiting years and watching in fear at the reckless driving on our street. We continue to see streets **WEST** of Ridgeland Ave get traffic mitigations put in place, while ours gets ignored. I have started to wonder if our village is more motivated by monetary donations, than equity, when traffic mitigations continue to go up in areas with bigger houses, while nothing gets done on our street that borders Austin Ave. I moved to Oak Park because I thought our village lived by its mission of equity, but I'm finding this hard to believe when our block continues to be ignored. A block that is more diverse than most blocks in Oak Park. A block that is visited often by residents from the Austin neighborhood. I'm happy to know that you are addressing our concern now. I am hopeful that we have not been forgotten. PLEASE hear our concerns.

Through the years I have asked, why can only border streets on the North and South border sides of Oak Park get traffic mitigation, but not the streets that border the East side of Oak Park? Cars routinely use our street to bypass traffic on Austin Avenue. Zooming all the way from Augusta down to North Ave. There is nothing stopping them. The forced right at Division is neglected by most drivers. We have video footage to show this from our neighbors on the corner at 900 N and Division. We even have cars drive down our street when it's blocked off for block parties.

As I've written time and time again - Here's what we've seen on our street:

- Cars race down our street - on both sides
- Cars pass me on the left, while I drive to school when I stop at stop signs.
- Cars speeding and hitting cars parked on the side of the street
- A dog got hit by a car, while walking with it's owners
- Cars neglect the stop signs - even with children in sight
- Cars neglect the forced right turn at the 800 N Humphrey block onto our block
- Cars pass other cars who stop at the stop signs - even with pedestrians waiting to cross at the intersection.
- Cars way above the speed limit on both Berkshire and Humphrey
- Cars go all the way from Augusta to North Ave without stopping once.
- A car drove up the curb and down the sidewalk after crashing at Taylor and Berkshire.

We have children in $\frac{3}{4}$ of the houses at the corner of Berkshire and Humphrey. We are putting our own signs up to ask drivers to slow down. It's not helping. Before my kids leave our home for college, please address this concern. Make ALL of Oak Park safe for kids walking to school and parks, not just for the kids on the other side of Ridgeland.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kim O'Donnell

On Fri, Jan 5, 2024 at 10:10 AM Kimberly O'Donnell [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello,

I know that this is late to submit, but I hope that you will consider and include it. Thank you. The holidays were busy for my family and I'm just getting to this.

To The Traffic Commissioners,

My name is Kim O'Donnell and I wrote to you years ago to address the traffic concerns on 900 N Humphrey Ave and at the intersections on both sides of our block - at Humphrey and Division and at Humphrey and Berkshire.

When I started this petition, my children were 18 months, 4 and 6. During the pandemic

we lived outside, in our tiny yard, on our sidewalks, walking daily to get out of the house. This is when it really came to my attention how bad the driving was in our neighborhood. Now my kids are 5, 8 and 10. I have gone from a stay at home mom to a full time working mom as a teacher in district 97. We walk to Hatch School when we can, but it is a scary walk due to the driving we see on the way. We eat dinner outside on our front porch and watch this recklessness every single day during the warmer months. It is frustrating. I attended several traffic committee meetings during year 1 and 2 after I submitted my petition, but honestly I grew frustrated at the lack of response and I stopped. Thank you for finally addressing our concerns.

We have been waiting years and watching in fear at the reckless driving on our street. We continue to see streets east of Ridgeland Ave get traffic mitigations put in place, while ours gets ignored. I have started to wonder if our village is more motivated by monetary donations, than equity, when traffic mitigations continue to go up in areas with bigger houses, while nothing gets done on our street that borders Austin Ave. I moved to Oak Park because I thought our village lived by its mission of equity, but I'm finding this hard to believe when our block continues to be ignored. A block that is more diverse than most blocks in Oak Park. A block that is visited often by residents from the Austin neighborhood. I'm happy to know that you are addressing our concern now. I am hopeful that we have not been forgotten. PLEASE hear our concerns.

Through the years I have asked, why can only border streets on the North and South border sides of Oak Park get traffic mitigation, but not the streets that border the East side of Oak Park? Cars routinely use our street to bypass traffic on Austin Avenue. Zooming all the way from Augusta down to North Ave. There is nothing stopping them. The forced right at Division is neglected by most drivers. We have video footage to show this from our neighbors on the corner at 900 N and Division. We even have cars drive down our street when it's blocked off for block parties.

As I've written time and time again - Here's what we've seen on our street:

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- Cars speeding and hitting cars parked on the side of the street
- A dog got hit by a car, while walking with it's owners
-

Cars neglect the stop signs - even with children in sight

- Cars neglect the forced right turn at the 800 N Humphrey block onto our block
- Cars pass other cars who stop at the stop signs - even with pedestrians waiting to cross at the intersection.
- Cars way above the speed limit on both Berkshire and Humphrey
- Cars go all the way from Augusta to North Ave without stopping once.
- A car drove up the curb and down the sidewalk after crashing at Taylor and Berkshire.

We have children in $\frac{3}{4}$ of the houses at the corner of Berkshire and Humphrey. We are putting our own signs up to ask drivers to slow down. It's not helping. Before my kids leave our home for college, please address this concern. Make ALL of Oak Park safe for kids walking to school and parks, not just for the kids on the other side of Ridgeland.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kim O'Donnell

--

Mrs. Kimberly O'Donnell

[REDACTED]

She/Her

--

Mrs. Kimberly O'Donnell

[REDACTED]

She/Her

From: [Kimberly ODonnell](#)
To: [Transportation; Pautsch, Steve](#)
Subject: Comment for transportation meeting
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 10:14:57 AM
Attachments: [image0.jpeg](#)

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Hello,

I realize that this letter is late, but I hope that you can include it for comment in the meeting on Monday. My daughter wrote it.

Thank you for considering her comments.

Kim O'Donnell



Sent from my iPhone

Dear traffic Commissioners,

Its come to my attention that the street of

N Humphrey Ave, my street, is unsafe. I want a speed bump. I've seen cars drive down side walks while children like me were playing. cars going so fast that you can barely see them. Onetime, on the way back from school, I saw a car skim the edges of my neighbors car. that car was going so fast. It could have hit anybody in the street trying to cross. That's not the only thing i've seen. I've seen cars that have people in them who seem to not care. they just mindlessly speed past stop signs. My mom has been fighting for a speed bump since I was six. and now, I'm ten. there are multiple streets with speed bumps, and now, its our turn. I'm not watching any other cars harm, or speed on my street. I want to be safe. and so do others.

From, Maggie O'Donnell age ten

From: [Sheena Rayford](#)
To: [Transportation](#)
Subject: Traffic Calming Humphrey and Berkshire
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 4:02:15 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Traffic Calming

In 2022 on December 20th I wrote to my zone officer to ask if a patrol car could come to Berkshire and Humphrey because there had been 2 accidents in as many days. One accident occurred on Friday Dec 16, 2022 and the second accident occurred on Sunday December 18th 2022.

Since my home is on the corner, and I have a ring camera, I am very knowledgeable about the issues that plague the intersections of Berkshire and Humphrey.

1. Cut through traffic from Austin to avoid the light and congestion at North Ave.
2. Cut through traffic from North Ave.
3. Speeding traffic from Austin to Ridgeland
4. Speeding traffic from Division
5. Speeding traffic from Ridgeland
6. Cars not adhering to stop signs
7. Cars not adhering to speed limits

The worst is cut through traffic from Austin.

The intersection of Humphrey and Berkshire with speeding traffic from Austin is a disaster waiting to happen. My hope is that someone or someone's child isn't badly hurt or killed and that a resident simply obeying the rules of the road isn't also badly hurt or injured. This worst case scenario can be avoided by acting now.

I would offer a suggestion of narrowing at the alleys through a median barrier between Austin and Humphrey to allow for 1 lane along with a median roundabout barrier - if possible at the intersection of Humphrey and Berkshire.

Please act now. The time is now and to delay could be catastrophic.

Sheena Rayford
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kurt Roskopf](#)
To: [Transportation](#)
Subject: Calming Devices on N Humphrey Ave
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 2:43:43 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

I would like to provide comment regarding the petition to implement traffic calming devices on the 900/1000 blocks of N. Humphrey.

I am not in favor of this proposal for the following reasons:

- Traffic calming devices can have the unintended consequences of pushing traffic to nearby streets.
- If you allow the calming devices on these streets, you have to allow them on all streets. This would impede the efficient flow of traffic.
- I have visited these blocks a number of times in the past week to see first-hand the potential negative impacts traffic is having on these blocks:
#1 - Surprisingly, there simply isn't very much traffic on these blocks.
#2 - I saw no aggressive driving during my visits.
- Traffic on any given block sort of is what it is. When you buy a house on 900/1000 N Humphrey, that is the kind of traffic you get. It is a known factor before deciding to purchase/rent. You can't buy a house at Oak Park Ave/Chicago Ave and then complain about traffic noise and expect traffic calming devices to be implemented!
- The blocks of N Humphrey that are being discussed, and the intersection of Berkshire/Humphrey already have the ultimate traffic calming device installed -- FOUR-WAY STOP SIGNS! Neighboring blocks aren't as lucky.

I wish I was able to attend the meeting personally to share my comments. Many important issues come before the Traffic Commission, but this one is a slam dunk... no way!!

Kurt Roskopf
[REDACTED] Hayes Ave