

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
JUNE 17, 2024

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via e-mail in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Garrett Bolella at gbolella@norwalkct.gov to provide written comment prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Collier-Clemmons; Commissioner Lopez, Commissioner Paladino

STAFF: Deputy Chief Terry Blake; Garrett Bolella, Asst. Director, TMP; Kyle Benjamin, Traffic Analyst; Nathan Fankhanel, Junior Engineer, TMP

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Mayor Rilling welcomed new commissioner Ron Paladino who was recently appointed to the Traffic Authority and Police Commission. Commissioner Paladino said he is honored to be here.

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 20, 2024

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2024, AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS- COMMISSIONER LOPEZ AND COMMISSIONER PALADINO**

2. APPROVE THE PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE ST. ANN'S FESTIVAL FROM JULY 22, 2024, TO JULY 29, 2024.

Mayor Rilling asked if the road closures are the same as what has been done in the past. Mr. Tamburro said "yes"

****COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE ST. ANN'S FESTIVAL FROM JULY 22, 2024, TO JULY 29, 2024.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. APPROVE THE FULL ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE NORWALK COMPLETE STREETS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ON JUNE 23, 2024, FROM 7:00AM TO 12:30PM.

Mr. Bolella provided an overview of the event and said over the past two years TMP has been moving towards the adoption of complete streets which entails an ordinance and a policy for the city, as well as the creation of a design and implantation guide. He said it is an all-encompassing approach to planning, designing, building, operating, and maintaining the roadways, and looks at enabling safe access for everyone. He said the original approach to roadway design has been somewhat autocratic and this effort will widen the toolset and look at roadways under a much larger lens and be more contact sensitive.

Mr. Bolella said TMP is very committed to engagement which has continued through the process and the event that is included on the agenda is for a demonstration day and is a temporary demonstration project and anticipate that it will last approximately one month and will collect feedback. He said it will showcase an opportunity for reimagining the streets and in this case will reimagine the intersection of North Main Street @ Ann Street, and the purpose of the event is to build awareness around the complete

streets legislation and is intended to be a participation event to get the community involved and to understand the benefits of complete streets. He said for the project TMP is requesting an intersection closure at North Main Street @ Ann Street on Sunday, June 23, 2024, beginning at 7:00AM., but will maintain local traffic only, and staff has canvassed the neighborhood and met with all the businesses to discuss what this project entails. He said at 10:00AM they are looking for the community to arrive and depending on the number of volunteers to help paint the curb extensions can end anywhere from 12:30PM to 2:00PM and is also weather dependent. He said they will work at the edge of the travel lanes and do any of the painting in the roadway first to be sure the roadways can be opened back up to travel as quickly as and efficiently as possible and have a detour plan for the area. He invited the members of the commission to also participate. Mayor Rilling requested that Mr. Bolella verify with the Law Department that a special meeting would not need to be called since it is just going to be a workshop. Commissioner Lopez asked if the traffic will be diverted to Marshall Street. Mr. Bolella said people traveling from the north will be directed to MLK Blvd. and people coming from the south would be directed use Marshall Street.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER- CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FULL ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE NORWALK COMPLETE STREETS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ON JUNE 23, 2024, FROM 7:00AM. TO 12:30PM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Rilling noted that Chief Walsh is absent from the meeting and is on a very well-deserved vacation and Deputy Chief Blake is sitting in his stead.

4. APPROVE PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT CHANGE & SCHOOL ZONE LETTERS TO OSTA FOR MISCELLANEOUS NORWALK STREETS

Mr. Benjamin said that DPW will be repaving the roadway and installing new sidewalks this summer. He said half of the road is already 25 MPH and the other half is 30MPH and will be requesting the entire road be 25MPH and a small portion be a school zone along Cranbury School.

Mr. Benjamin said there are also a few other letters included on the agenda item that are mostly requesting school zones or streets that should be 25 MPH changed to 25 MPH. Mayor Rilling asked what the other locations are. Mr. Benjamin said they include Creeping Hemlock Drive to West Rocks Road to Butternut Lane, Grumman Avenue from Half Mile Road to Newtown Avenue, a school zone on Grumman Avenue from Live Oak Road to Mohawk Drive, a school zone on Knowalot Lane from Field Street to Grumman Avenue, and Keeler Avenue from Connecticut Avenue to Flax Hill Road.

Mayor Rilling requested that the area where the new South Norwalk school is being built also be looked at as a school zone on Meadow Street. Mr Benjamin said once the school is nearing completion they will put in for that request. He said TMP is also looking at some improvements to the area and will work towards the smaller improvements.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT CHANGE & SCHOOL ZONE LETTERS TO OSTA FOR MISCELLANEOUS NORWALK STREETS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. APPROVE THE PROPOSED “NO PARKING” & “2-HOUR PARKING” REGULATIONS ON KNIGHT STREET

Mr. Benjamin presented a map of the area and said there is a medical office located at 32 Knight Street which has some inset parking and are requesting the spaces in green on the map located on Knight Street become two-hour parking spaces, and the area in red become “no parking” so there are no vehicles impeding the two-way portion of the street. Mayor Rilling said the roadway is challenging and this is a step in the right direction and requested that TMP look at the rest of the roadway because if an emergency vehicle needed to get through on certain days, they would not have much success. He also asked if the flow of traffic will be reversed as part of the Wall Street design project. Mr. Bolella said an alternative flow and configuration will be studied on the roadways in the area in the future.

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED “NO PARKING” & “2-HOUR PARKING” REGULATIONS ON KNIGHT STREET.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. APPROVE THE PROPOSED PARKING SHIFT ON GREGORY BLVD. AT LUDLOW PARK

Mr. Fankhanel presented a map of the area, and said this item was brought to the attention of TMP by a resident who lives on the corner of Rowland Avenue. He said staff is essentially proposing to relocate the parking that is currently permitted on the west side of Gregory Blvd. and there will be no loss or gain of parking. He said this will allow residents that live on Rowland Avenue to have better sightlines looking up towards Fifth Street, and the parking will allow both residents and visitors to park on the east side of the side of the street.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd