



City of Blaine Anoka County, Minnesota Minutes

Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Sq Dr NE
Blaine MN 55449

Traffic Commission

This meeting will be a hybrid of Zoom and in-person. The Mayor has signed a declaration allowing members of the council, staff, and the public to attend the meeting remotely via Zoom as has been done during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The council chambers will have limited seating, with audience chairs being set up at least six feet apart. There will be an overflow area where the meeting can be watched in the Cloverleaf Farms Room, also with chairs set up at least six feet apart. Please note that all visitors to city hall are required to wear a face mask while inside the building.

Public comments may be submitted prior to the meeting by sending an email to PublicComment@BlaineMN.gov or by calling 763-717-2782 no later than Noon on Tuesday May 4. Public comment during the meeting will be taken both remotely via Zoom and in-person in the council chambers. Members of the public can join the Zoom webinar at <https://blainemn.zoom.us/j/96050009906>

The Traffic Commission is an advisory body to the City Council. The Commission's function is to review neighborhood traffic concerns on local streets, define issues, review alternatives and cost, hold neighborhood informational/public hearings and make recommendations to the City Council. For each item the Commission will receive reports prepared by City staff, hold neighborhood information hearings and take comment as needed and discuss and act on each issue/concern. The City Council will make all final decisions on these matters.

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call To Order

The Blaine Traffic Commission met in the City Hall Chambers on November 4, 2020. Chair Haas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this hybrid meeting was held both virtually and in person.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Chair Haas; Vice Chair Wold; Commission Members: Anderson, Chmielewski, and Wifler

Members Absent: Commissioner Hill and Skarich.

Staff Present: City Engineer Dan Schluender, Sergeant Nate Hatanpa

Also Present: City Council Liaison Officer Green

Present: 4 - Haas, Wold, Chmielewski, and Wifler

Absent: 2 - Hill, and Skarich

3. Approval of Minutes

3.-1 SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 TRAFFIC COMMISSION MINUTES

Attachments: [09-01-20 TC](#)

Motion by Commissioner Wold to approve the minutes of September 1, 2020, as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wifler. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 5-0.

Aye: 4 - Haas, Wold, Chmielewski, and Wifler

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

There were no comments.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to adopt the November 4, 2020, Traffic Commission Meeting Agenda, as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wifler. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 5-0.

Aye: 4 - Haas, Wold, Chmielewski, and Wifler

6. Public Hearings/Comments

None.

7. Previous Business

7.-1 REVIEW OF CROSSWALK POLICY

Attachments: [stillwater crosswalk policy](#)
 [River Falls WI Crosswalk Policy Summary](#)
 [Mankato Crosswalk Policy](#)
 [Edina Pedestrian Crosswalk Policy](#)
 [burnsville ped policy](#)
 [brooklyn center crossing signs](#)
 [City of Blaine Crosswalk Policy-SMP](#)
 [Crosswalk treatments](#)

Mr. Schluender stated at the Commission meeting in September a discussion was held concerning midblock crossings and the City's current crosswalk policy based on a request from a resident to consider a crossing on Ulysses Street between 113th Avenue and 117th Avenue. Since that time there has been an additional request to have a midblock crossing on Aberdeen Street between 125th Avenue and 121st Avenue. It was noted staff has collected several crosswalk policies for the commission to review and comment upon and several commissioners have submitted materials for consideration. Staff commented further on the City's policy and requested feedback from the Commission regarding midblock crosswalks.

Commissioner Anderson discussed the Burnsville crosswalk policy and believed this policy was very comprehensive. He recommended the City consider adding language to address crosswalks near senior living facilities.

Commissioner Chmielewski explained he found it interesting that all of the policies tried to avoid midblock crosswalks for safety reasons.

Commissioner Wifler agreed stating there wasn't anything new in the other policies that the City of Blaine's policy was missing. He commented none of the policies identified walking paths within their policies. He explained there were several walking paths in his neighborhood that occurred without crosswalks.

Mr. Schluender stated under Item 8C the location of the City's designated trail system was addressed. He explained additional verbiage could be considered to address the City's walking paths. He indicated Item 8F could be added to address the need for crosswalks near senior living facilities.

Mr. Wifler recommended the language regarding walking paths be specific to direct crossings on major roadways. He reported this came to his attention by a resident in his neighborhood where a trail ends on Lakes Parkway and continues on the other side of Lakes Parkway to the beach. He noted this same path winds up to Edison. Mr. Schluender stated this was a great example of an area that needs to be addressed.

Commissioner Chmielewski explained that crosswalks were not allowed on roadways where the speed limit was over 30 miles per hour. Mr. Schluender commented this was the current recommendation within the crosswalk policy. He was of the opinion the 30 miles per hour speed limit was a good requirement.

Mr. Schluender thanked the Commission for their input. He explained he would amend the policy per the Commission's discussion. He then requested the Commission address the two crosswalk requests with the first request being made at Ulysses Street between 113th Avenue and 117th Avenue. The additional request to have a midblock crossing was on Aberdeen Street between 125th Avenue and 121st Avenue. He recommended the Commission direct staff to conduct a traffic study on both crosswalk locations. He noted the study would then be brought back to the Commission for further consideration.

Commissioner Wifler reported the second request would provide pedestrians access to businesses but noted most of these businesses were not walk-up businesses. He encouraged the Commission to be cautious when considering this crosswalk. Mr. Schluender agreed.

Motion by Commissioner Wifler to direct staff to hire a consultant to conduct traffic studies at the two crosswalk locations as discussed. Motion seconded by Commissioner Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 5-0.

Aye: 4 - Haas, Wold, Chmielewski, and Wifler

8. New Business

8.-1

REVIEW OF FLOWERFIELD ROAD TRAFFIC ISSUE

Attachments: [Flowerfield](#)
 [Flowerfield Road Speed Study](#)

Mr. Schluender stated staff has received a complaint concerning speeding traffic on Flowerfield Road between Lexington Avenue and Ghia Street. This portion of Flowerfield Road is a paved, 24 foot wide rural section with 2 foot gravel shoulders and no sidewalk or trail. The street is posted and signed at 35 miles per hour. The resident also expressed concern for the combination of pedestrian and vehicular traffic on Flowerfield Road. Staff has collected traffic data on this segment of Flowerfield Road, see attached summarization memo from the police department and the associated data. This past week we received a second resident request to compare the traffic on Flowerfield Road and 87th Avenue also between Lexington Avenue and Ghia Street. Staff collected traffic data for this segment of 87th Avenue and it was noted the 85th percentile was 39 miles per hour, while the 85th percentile on Flowerfield Road was 37 miles per hour. It was recommended a 35 mile per hour speed limit sign be posted on 87th Avenue and that the Commission call for a neighborhood meeting for the residents that live along Frazer Street and

Ghia Street. This meeting would be held both in-person and via Zoom.

Commissioner Anderson asked if there were any concerns raised about the speed of traffic along Frazer Street or Ghia Street. Mr. Schluender reported the only concerns that have been brought to staff were for the speed of traffic along Flowerfield Road and 87th Avenue.

Commissioner Chmielewski believed 87th Avenue has been a 55 mile per hour roadway for as long as he can remember.

Chair Haas questioned if 87th Avenue met the requirements to be designated 35 miles per hour. Mr. Schluender stated this road would meet the rural residential definition requirements.

Chair Haas inquired if a speed study had to be completed in order to place a speed limit sign along 87th Avenue. Mr. Schluender explained the Commission could order a speed study, but noted this could increase the recommended speed limit.

Commissioner Wifler asked if Flowerfield Road could be included in the speed study. Mr. Schluender stated this roadway could be included. He noted this roadway was currently posted 35 miles per hour.

Chair Haas recommended a speed study be completed on 87th Avenue. He suggested staff investigate if a speed study had ever been conducted on Flowerfield Road.

Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to direct staff to complete a traffic study on 87th Avenue. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wold. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 4-1 (Commissioner Anderson opposed).

Aye: 4 - Haas, Wold, Chmielewski, and Wifler

Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to direct staff to call for a neighborhood meeting for the residents that live along Frazer Street and Ghia Street. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wifler. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 5-0.

Aye: 4 - Haas, Wold, Chmielewski, and Wifler

8.-2

REVIEW OF HARPERS STREET TRAFFIC ISSUE

Attachments: [Harpers St email](#)
 [Harpers](#)

Mr. Schluender stated staff has received a complaint of speeding traffic on Harpers Street from 125th Avenue to Lakes Parkway. The Engineering and Police Departments are currently collecting traffic data and patrolling this segment of street in response. Once the data has been collected and reviewed the concerned

resident will be contacted in order to discuss the matter.

9. Other Business

Chair Haas reported he received a call from a resident regarding 129th Avenue and this concern was forwarded to City staff.

Commissioner Anderson discussed a concern he had at 125th Avenue and Aberdeen Street. He stated the sight lines were obstructed by the curve in the road, which could impact pedestrian safety and students walking to school.

10 Update on Traffic Enforcement

Sergeant Hatanpa provided the Commission with an update from the Police Department. He introduced Officer Jake Green to the Commission noting Officer Green would be serving as the department's DWI officer. He explained the department has been focusing its efforts on Harpers Street north of 125th Avenue, along with the 1600 block of 121st Avenue from Aberdeen Street to Hastings Street. He reported the speed of traffic along 113th Avenue between Jefferson Street and Ulysses Street has increased since construction was completed. He noted extra patrols would be conducted along this roadway.

11 Next Meeting - Tuesday, December 1, 2020

Chair Haas stated the next Traffic Commission was scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Wifler to adjourn the Traffic Commission meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Chmielewski. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 5-0. Adjournment time was 7:26 p.m.