

City of Peoria's Complete Streets Ordinance Submitted to SmartGrowth America

Mr. Stoffer stated he was in the process of submitting the City of Peoria's Complete Streets Ordinance to the SmartGrowth America group to be included on their web site with those of other cities.

MINUTES

Commissioner Messmore moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Transportation Commission held on March 15, 2016, as printed; seconded by Commissioner Ray.

Approved by unanimous viva voce vote.

ITEM NO. 1: Consideration of a Motion to MOVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS ITEM #1 Forward for Discussion Regarding CONSIDERATION of a REQUEST to CONVERT FREDONIA AVENUE, Between COOPER STREET and WESTERN AVENUE, from TWO-WAY TRAFFIC to ONE-WAY TRAFFIC.

Commissioner Messmore moved to move forward on the Agenda for discussion at this time, Unfinished Business Item #1, the Consideration of a Request to Amend the Traffic Code of the City of Peoria to Convert Fredonia Avenue between Cooper Street and Western Avenue from two-way traffic to one-way traffic; seconded by Commissioner Lyons.

Approve by viva voce vote.

CONSIDERATION of Proposed Request AMENDING the TRAFFIC CODE of the City of Peoria, As Needed:**A CONSIDERATION of a REQUEST to CONVERT FREDONIA AVENUE, Between COOPER STREET and WESTERN AVENUE, from TWO-WAY TRAFFIC to ONE-WAY TRAFFIC. (Letter of Request from Moss Bradley Residential Association and Location Maps Attached) [District 2]**

Mr. Stoffer explained that the item had been discussed at the March 15 Regular Meeting of the Commission but the Commissioners requested representatives of the Moss-Bradley residential area be present at the meeting to address the request. He stated several members of the neighborhood were in attendance at the meeting, and he introduced Mr. Brian Burelli, President of the Moss-Bradley Residential Association.

Mr. Brian Burelli, President of the Moss-Bradley Residential Association, stated the problems of traffic congestion, speeding, and traveling the wrong way on neighborhood streets was again brought to his attention at the February meeting of the Association. He said they discussed several suggested measures such as additional STOP signs and speed limit signs, but changing this one last block from two-way traffic to one-way traffic seemed to be the best way to help the people directly affected by the problem.

Mr. Todd Richardson, resident of 610 N Cooper Street, Peoria, expressed concern regarding traffic congestion in the area when Whittier School students are being dropped off in the morning and released in the afternoon. He said buses are not able to pass. He said drivers would back up and cut through and speed through any street or alley that they could in order to avoid the situation.

As a result of further discussion, Commissioner McNamara determined the problem was at its worst in front of the school and that District 150 representatives had communicated with the parents about what they could do to help the situation.

As a member of the Peoria Public Schools Board, Commissioner Adler stated he would follow up on the matter with the School District, as well.

Mrs. Lisa Richardson, resident of 610 N Cooper Street, Peoria, stated motorists parked anywhere in the area, including in front of her garage, and she expressed concern about Bradley charter buses adding to the traffic concerns. She spoke in favor of the conversion to one-way traffic, as she said it would force traffic out to Western Avenue.

Ms. Christina Stalker, resident of the Moss-Bradley residential area of Peoria, spoke in favor of the conversion. She discussed the narrow streets and stated the one-way traffic pattern made for an easier situation.

Ms. Ilga Williams, resident of 614 N Cooper Street, Peoria, showed pictures of the traffic parking and congestion problems. She stated the problem was worse in the afternoon because of Whittier parents parking and waiting to pick up their children.

Commissioner Messmore moved to recommend to the Peoria City Council the adoption of an Ordinance Amending the Traffic Code of the City of Peoria to Convert Fredonia Avenue between Cooper Street and Western Avenue from two-way traffic to one-way traffic; seconded by Commissioner Adler.

Approved by viva voce vote.

Commissioner Adler stated any action taken on the matter by School Board would be done administratively.

Mr. Stoffer explained that the proposed Ordinance would be presented to the City Council for adoption at a meeting in May. After its adoption, he said the appropriate signs and striping would be installed during the summer, and he said he would work with Mr. Burelli on neighborhood flyers to be emailed to the Association's group list in order to re-educate the neighborhood on the traffic pattern conversion.

ITEM No. 2: REPORT BACK RE: BICYCLE LANE STRIPING for LOCAL RESIDENTIAL STREETS and/or RESIDENTIAL COLLECTOR STREETS

Mr. Stoffer outlined the contents of the Report Back, and Commissioner Ray said he appreciated the answer to his concerns and that he supported the information provided.

No official action was taken.

ITEM No. 3: PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION Regarding City of Peoria's Ordinance Submittal for SMART GROWTH AMERICA COMPLETE STREETS CITIES LIST.

Mr. Stoffer reiterated he had contacted SmartGrowth America regarding submitting Peoria's Complete Streets policy for inclusion on their web site, as he said he hoped it would help in bringing other cities on board. He said he had not yet heard back from the group.

Commissioner McNamara referred to the comparison study he had prepared between the SmartGrowth America example city for Complete Streets guidelines and its weighted points and Peoria's Ordinance. He said he produced a rated list showing Peoria's policy captured 99 percent of the important points. He noted the only area he felt that it was short on was in the implementation criteria where it called for naming a staff person or a board or commission member to have authority for it. Even though that item was lacking, he said he encouraged Mr. Stoffer to submit Peoria's Complete Streets policy to SmartGrowth America.

**ITEM No. 4: OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST to the Transportation Commissioners:
A UPDATED Transportation Commission WORK ITEMS CHARTS**