

Traffic Safety Committee Minutes
Meeting held on Friday, July 16, 2021 at 9:00am

Persons in Attendance: Chief Brian Kilcullen, Commander Delpha, Officer Emilio Rosario,
Jim Rotondo and Devon Neary

Guests in Attendance: Nikki Hindman and Chris Siliski.

Absent: Ted Gillen and Brad LaFaso from LaFaso Electric

Meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chief Kilcullen

New Business:

1. Request for placement of a Stop sign at the intersection of Nichols St. & Kendall Avenue
Ed Larson

There is currently no traffic control, here. Chief Kilcullen has no issue with this request and approved it. He asked if there were any objections. No objections.

2. Request for a Pedestrian crossing at the intersection of So. Main Street & Strongs Avenue

It was mentioned that this was brought up at a Board of Alderman's meeting. There are no crosswalks in place. None going North from there. Devon mentioned that it's got to be 3/10's of a mile. On Strongs Avenue, we put in a Yield to pedestrians sign. Devon mentioned that the Yield to pedestrian signs are tough. Feels this intersection should be similar to West Street and Merchants Row intersection where it gives you 25 seconds to cross. Jim was asked if this was an excessive time to cross. Jim mentioned that he saw back up of traffic, here. It was due to a problem with equipment. He believes all lights are synchronized. Chief mentioned that this is difficult because there are no crosswalks right now. Jim mentioned there is one at Strongs Avenue and was told that there's like 6 lanes of traffic and we don't have equipment, here. Devon stated that this isn't a quick fix. He will try to poke Vtrans manager and connect this with the paving. Jim mentioned this would be great. Devon mentioned that maybe we could look at roundabout for this intersection. Jim mentioned that if it can come from a Vtrans project and not out of City budget, that would be great. Devon thinks that what Jim said makes a lot of sense and also feels that Allen Street could use a roundabout. Jim feels we need a traffic study for the City. Devon agreed. If we could have this as a recommendation from this committee to the full Board, to investigate the full potential. If we had this data, it would be helpful. Chief Kilcullen asked if a roundabout was an option with the tracks running through @ Park Street. Devon mentioned that they're usually smaller than you anticipate.

3. Request for a Pedestrian crossing at the intersection of So. Main Street & Park Street

This item was brought up at a Board of Alderman's meeting along with Request #2. The same person asked about a Pedestrian crossing at Center and Court. Devon mentioned they

could do a turning movement count. On Center Street, it's still wide and pedestrians aren't always seen. Maybe curb extension could get pedestrians out there. Chris Siliski mentioned that maybe yield signs would help. Jim mentioned that we're trying to replace Yield signs with Stop signs. If there aren't cleared piano keys in crosswalk, that could be the problem.

Non Agenda Item

Chris Siliski brought up parking on East Washington Street. Chief mentioned that he drove up there. He also mentioned that we've had issues with people parking in the green spaces. It's a disaster. Devon asked why there was an issue to ban parking in the green spaces. Chief mentioned that people felt that it was taking away parking spaces. Chris mentioned that with the illegal parking, there were like 8 cars parked onto the sidewalk. Chris mentioned to Jim that he thought they were going to replace one sidewalk and remove one. Which sidewalk would be better to be permanent? Jim said that they will be replacing both sidewalks. Maybe one this year and one next year. We will also be putting up curbs just like we did on Lafayette Street. The foresters are putting trees in and we'll be doing curb cut management by the Chaffee. One thing that we don't have is where the "No parking" will be. Chris Siliski thanked Jim, Chief Kilcullen and everyone around the table for this. Chris recommended sidewalk on North side would solve 90% of the illegal parking. Jim asked if Chris was recommending "No Parking" on the North side. Chris said that was exactly what he was thinking. Jim mentioned there will be a 6" curb. Nikki asked if the City was sticking with right sides being "No Parking"? She mentioned that if curbs are being put up, they can't park. Nikki mentioned that the sidewalks are the primary problem. South Side may be draining into North side. Jim mentioned that they will do the North sidewalk this year. There aren't any "No Parking" signs on this street. Chief mentioned that when we did this on Edgerton Street, we coordinated this with the Fire department and the neighbors while taking into consideration where the fire hydrants are. Chris asked when they think all this will happen. Jim mentioned in the next few weeks. Devon got online to take a look at the Street view to see which side the hydrants are on. On right, the North side. One hydrant on the corner at East Street and East Center Street. Not an issue with parking.

Chief mentioned that on Library Avenue and Park Avenue, they did alternate days for parking.

Devon mentioned that on Spellman Terrace, there is no parking on the right side.

Chris said that it seems that "No Parking" on the North side makes sense. Think's curbs will take care of the parking problem.

Devon mentioned that there's more potential for parking on the South side. Jim mentioned

that the bus stop would be on the North side. Chief Kilcullen agreed that it makes sense to post “No Parking” on the North side.

Chris appreciated everyone’s open mind on this.

Non Agenda Item

Nikki Hindman thanked everyone for having her here today. She wanted to talk about cutting down curbside signs. Maybe we can do 15 minute parking. Chief asked about the 15 minute meters. Emilio mentioned that Tom said they have some of these (red-tops) by The Bakery, People’s Bank, Wales Street and Center Street. We would like to have more of these in key locations. Devon suggested that we start with inventory to see how many we have.

4. Request to re-install 2 Handicap parking spaces & signs in front of the Library Avenue entrance to the Rutland Jewish Center – Martin Wasserman

Chief mentioned he wasn’t sure what regulations are to designate a handicap spot. Jim mentioned that he would need to do a little bit of research. Devon mentioned that it looked like there were 2 in this location at one point in time. Jim stated that if we agree to do this, let’s mimic what they did on Center Street. Commander Delpha asked if this would help handicap people with access to the school? Yes.

This request was approved.

5. Request to re-install a “Blind driveway” sign just to the west of the driveway at 1 Clement Road Martin Wasserman

Chief Kilcullen mentioned that he drove by and thinks this may be Rutland Town. Jim mentioned that it looks like he needs a sign and needs to talk to Rutland Town about this.

6. Request for surveillance on Lafayette Street due to vehicles speeding – Aaron Yadow

Chief Kilcullen will have the Patrol Officer’s check on this.

7. Request for surveillance at intersection of Lafayette Street and Easterly Avenue due to motorists rolling through stop sign – Aaron Yadow

Chief Kilcullen will have the Patrol Officer’s check on this.

8. Request for stop signs with “Cross Traffic Does Not Stop” plaques to be installed at the following locations:

Charles Street at Lafayette Street
Charles Street at Wallace Street
Birchwood Avenue at Lafayette Street
Wallace Street at Easterly Avenue

Chief stated that there are No stop signs at these intersections. We need Stop signs to be put up here. He's not sure that it's a necessity to have "Cross traffic does not stop" signs installed. Jim mentioned that the "Cross traffic does not stop" signs are good at 2 way stops but doesn't feel they are necessary at T intersections. Devon mentioned on 4 way stops to have a Stop sign only and asked that Howard Street be added to the list to get a Stop sign.

9. Request to install a "No Parking This Side of Street" sign near the intersection of Lincoln Avenue & Williams Street – Steven Plummer

Chief mentioned that he's not sure if there is a problem with people parking on Williams Street. DPW said they will install this sign.

10. Request to replace a faded "No Parking This Side of Street" sign near the intersection of Williams Street And Elm Street – Steven Plummer

Jim mentioned that he will have this sign replaced.

11. Request to install a "No Parking This Side of Street" that includes arrows to be installed midblock on Williams Street – Steven Plummer

This request wasn't approved.

12. Request to consider installing stop signs with "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" plaques at the intersection of James Street & Brown Street – Ted Gillen, DPW

Chief mentioned that this is an uncontrolled intersection. Jim feels that this is a good idea To install stop signs with the "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop"

Non Agenda Item

Devon asked how much effort is it to fill in the tree pads downtown. Jim said he would want to talk to City Forester to see about replacing trees and filling with concrete.

Emilio mentioned the meters are horrible in the Wales Street lot and not sure what the fix is. Asked if we could pull them straight. They're jamming because grass is higher than meter. He will go out with Tom Franzoni and see how many should be replaced.

Other old business

1. Follow up to RHS pop up

Devon met with Giovanni & Assistant Superintendent Bliss. They are going to make some on Campus stuff permanent. They agreed that we should move mid block crosswalk North or South, away from entrance to School. It makes sense to move it a little bit more South.

Maybe we can put the Crosswalk in at Harrington Avenue and remove the mid block crosswalk and put in a pedestrian counter next school year. We could use the signage at the current “mid block” crosswalk for Harrington Avenue crosswalk. Jim asked if everyone agreed. Yes.

2. Willow Street and Loading zones follow up – Mayor Allaire

This has been on the Agenda a few times. Currently, it is posted “No parking, Rutland Herald only” Nikki Hindman mentioned that Belden Company is leasing this building to a Design company and it looks like employees are parking there. These people will have access to the Parking pit in August. Chief mentioned that they’re used to a certain way downtown. We do need to do something there. We need to clear the block. Devon asked the Chief if he felt it was necessary to also do “No Parking” on the North side, here. Chief said Yes. Devon mentioned maybe doing hash marks in front of the loading zones. Asked if Emilio would write tickets. He said he would. Nikki asked if we needed to ask Belden Company to take the “No parking, Rutland Herald only” sign down. Was asked if we envisioned posts. Commander Delpha mentioned that there are signs posted. Devon stated that he didn’t feel that people pay attention to posted signs on buildings. Jim asked the Chief if we were putting “No Parking” signs on both sides and where the new signs need to go.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am by Chief Kilcullen.