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**TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMISSION**  
**Minutes – March 13, 2019**  
**Council Chambers – Village Hall**  
**801 Burlington Avenue, Downers Grove**

Chairwoman Dunne called the March 13, 2019 meeting of the Transportation and Parking Commission to order at 7:10 P.M. and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Chairwoman Dunne, Commissioners Wrobel, Wilkinson, Schiller, Saricks, Carter, Jenkins

**Absent:**

**Staff:** Public Works Traffic Engineer Will Lorton, Officer Fisher, Public Works Administrative Secretary Andrea Banke

**Visitor Roster:** Dave Peterson, Joe Doll, Shea Sullivan, Julianne Green, Eric Meyers, Kristin Clancy, Kendra Meyers, Julie Ovalle, Elaine McDermott, Kim Breier, Angela Suggs, Noelle Schwartz, Patrick, Cruise, Piotr Gubernat, Leonard Fili

A quorum was established.

Chairwoman Dunne reviewed the procedures to be followed for the meeting, explaining that the Commission will forward a recommendation to the Village Council for approval.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 9, 2019 MINUTES**

**COMMISSIONER JENKINS MOVED TO ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER SCHILLER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE 4:4.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

No public comment on non-agenda items.

Chairwoman Dunne proceeded to files on the agenda.

**File #2-19 Lester School – Traffic Control Revisions**

Traffic Engineer Will Lorton said request is presented to staff based upon school reaching out through petition. There have been improvements over the last 2 years with parking to help circulation and there are very few restrictions already in the area. There is no parking during the drop off and pick up times, as well as additional no parking from 7-9 in some other locations, and a temporary road closure one way presently on Lincoln Ave restricting westbound traffic and allowing only eastbound traffic. Lester school is petitioning to create a one-way street on Indianapolis during pickup and drop off hours, as well as Florence, and prohibiting U-turns on Florence. Staff reviewed data and worked with the school, and staff recommendation is to

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implement a one-way during pickup and drop off times at Indianapolis and Fairview to Florence. Due to the timing of this falling toward the end of the school year, staff would like to create a pamphlet to hand out to parents regarding the ordinance change over the summer to be implemented in the fall. Until then staff will work with school staff to provide these documents to students, parents, and residents of the area to familiarize them with the proposed changes. Staff is requesting to implement the changes of one-way on Indianapolis Ave. from Fairview Ave. to Florence Ave. during 8am-9am and 2:30pm-3:30pm. Staff is recommending additional signage on Florence Ave. for no U-turns. These would go into effect at the end of the school year.

Chairwoman Dunne asked Mr. Lorton to remind everyone of the modifications that were made when this subject last came up a year or two ago.

Mr. Lorton responded that modifications were made on Indianapolis Ave. to prohibit parking on the south side of the street. The issue was with parking on both the north and south side significantly narrowing the street making it hard for traffic to get through. The removal of the parking still creates an issue since there are stone shoulders and ditches in the area, so that when cars are parked on the north side, two-way traffic cannot get through and it becomes a larger issue with buses traveling that way.

Chairwoman Dunne is concerned about how it will impact cars coming off of Fairview and going east.

Mr. Lorton stated they would be re-directed to Lincoln.

Chairwoman Dunne brought up concerns the school listed in their letter in reference to double-parking.

Mr. Lorton stated that would be handled by the pamphlet and enforcement at the beginning of the next school year. It is an issue requiring more enforcement than signage.

Commissioner had a question regarding nature of signage at each end of Indianapolis.

Mr. Lorton stated there would be two signs on the corner of Fairview & Indianapolis: a permanent no right turn sign from Fairview as well as a temporary sign with a barricade that the school will move into and out of the street as necessary. Additional sign at Fairview that is right turn only during pickup and drop off hours. There is a similar arrangement at Florence to prevent a left turn.

Chairwoman Dunne stated she is generally opposed to doing directional one-way traffic due to the negative impact it can have on the neighbors there, but since Lincoln is already a one way, this completes the pair. Glad to hear staff is going to provide procedures to parents.

Mr. Lorton stated that resident at corner of Fairview and Indianapolis called to say they had no opposition to this and there was an email received from another resident with concern about potholes and that could go either way.

Commissioner concerned about backup at Indianapolis for westbound traffic for left-hand turns.

Mr. Lorton responded that left-hand turns are not allowed during those times and they must turn right only.

Commissioners questioned creating left turns at light for those going south or west.

Mr. Lorton stated those going south would need to circulate out of parking area.

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Commissioner questioned volume of traffic coming out of school making turns.

Mr. Lorton stated he did not have turning counts at Fairview and Lincoln. Presently restricted so there should be no one turning left there.

Commissioner questioned if drop off on designated right-of-way could be a consideration for relieving traffic congestion on Lincoln.

Mr. Lorton stated it is zoned west of Florence for drop off during afternoon peak period. Does not think it's wide enough to support it. Commissioner thinks more long-term permanent solutions on school right-of-way should be utilized. Mr. Lorton responded any large restructuring by the school would impact stormwater requiring a lot more work and possibly causing more issues. Mr. Lorton stated staff is maximizing what can be done in the Village right-of-way and also providing literature to teach parents proper procedure for pickup and drop off area.

Commissioner thinks all the changing signage is confusing and that expanded right-of-way and pickup and drop off area is something to further investigate and pursue.

Commissioner asked about other situations like this within the Village, how it was resolved, and how people responded and adjusted to it.

Mr. Lorton stated that Lincoln Ave. was the last one brought to TAP in 2011 or 2012, prior to his working at the Village, and it was implemented. School is greatly in favor of it remaining and there have been no issues with it. Mr. Lorton expects some issues initially when implemented, but believes as long as staff is providing educational materials to the school for the parents that it will work out.

#### **CHAIRWOMAN DUNNE OPENED UP THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No public comment.

#### **CHAIRWOMAN DUNNE CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING AND OPENED DISCUSSION AMONGST THE COMMISSION**

**WITH RESPECT TO FILE #2-19, MR SCHILLER MOVED TO MAKE THE RECOMMENDATION AS SHOWN.**

**SECONDED BY MR. SARICKS WITH THE ADDENDUM THAT THE LITERATURE AND TRAINING MATERIALS ALL BE IN PLACE BY THE SCHOOL YEAR.**

**ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE 7:0.**

#### **File #3-19 Carpenter Street at Carol Street Petition - Discussion**

Mr. Lorton stated this item is presented in response to a resident petition from 2018. Staff completed traffic counts of the intersection in the petition. There was additional concern for other intersections in the area, so staff expanded the look. The petition represents Carol & Carpenter, but will be expanded to include a few other intersections later in the year. Looking at each intersection individually as well as a network and whole, other locations were included and staff is looking for resident feedback. The pedestrian counts will be completed when there are more students walking to and from Kingsley. Existing data on Carol & Carpenter shows the counts do not meet the requirements for an all-way stop. Presently, Carol St. & Carpenter is stop controlled in the east west directions. The petition requested an all way stop which prompted the

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count. Carol St. is approximately 19 ft wide, classified as a local street, carrying traffic east west. Currently west of Carpenter there are parking restrictions 7am-4pm due to the proximity to the high school. Carpenter street is approximately 24 ft wide, classified as a local street, carrying traffic north south. North of Carol street, the west side is no parking anytime. North of Carol street the east side is restricted parking 7am-4pm. South of Carol street restricted parking 7am-4pm. All parking restrictions here are due to the proximity of the high school. Crash data shows only 3 crashes since 2005, one single car crash, one rear end, and one parked vehicle crash. The ADT's for Carol are between 47-134 which do not meet the peak volume required for the all-way stop. The percentile on Carpenter does exceed 30mph. Staff will be providing info to PD for enforcement. The driver feedback sign will be placed for southbound traffic coming from 63<sup>rd</sup>. Additional resident concerns from the area were received as staff began to expand the locations.

Staff is recommending to look at each intersection individually and follow up later in the year once pedestrian counts have been collected. The two additional intersections on Norfolk are stop controlled one way, the concern is adding stop control all-way at those as well. Staff placed on the agenda resident feedback of the area in general.

Commissioner and Chairwoman Dunne clarified items on agenda. Driver feedback signs are temporary and usually up for 2-3 weeks or a month at a time depending upon location and request. Speeding concerns will be addressed by PD.

## **CHAIRWOMAN DUNNE OPENED UP THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Shea Sullivan 1050 Carol St.: At intersection of Carol and Carpenter on the northeast corner and started the petition. Living room window and driveway are on Carpenter, has 3 children. Neighborhood has changed and there are tons more children. Wants overall better traffic control. What is currently there is not adequate. Stands outside every day watching cars speed by, barely stop at Norfolk, and go flying to 63<sup>rd</sup>. Sees cars come off of 63<sup>rd</sup> to avoid light at Main and whip around Carol straight to Main where there are 18 kids just on that block alone. Wants all area resident concerns taken seriously and new measures implemented and not dragged out.

2. Julianne Green 1133 Norfolk St.: Has been there since 2012 and has been calling Village in the past 6 years to discuss traffic on Norfolk Main to Dunham. There are no sidewalks on south side of Norfolk. Two doors down from elementary school and children do not have a safe way to walk to school. They have to cross street where there is no crosswalk or stop sign and walk through neighbor's yards to get to school. If raining or snowy they have to walk in the street due to swails. On south side of Norfolk from Carpenter to Saratoga there are 16 children who don't have a sidewalk to walk to school. Kids walk through her front yard but should not have to do that. No crosswalk at the corner of Saratoga & Norfolk, no crossing guard, and no permanent crossing guard at Barrett and Norfolk, and Powell has crossing guard capable of doing her job 50% of the time. Kids are small and when cars are lined up to pick up children, they cannot see the kids who are walking. People who live 4 doors down from Kingsley drive their kids to school to get them to and from safely. Neighborhood population is booming. 545 signatures for considering sidewalks on the south side of Norfolk and a stop sign at Norfolk and Saratoga, and other traffic and safety constraints for the children. Thinks old trees should come down to accommodate a new sidewalk. Has called regarding sewer restructuring and told

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sidewalks not considered due to budget constraints. Swales are so steep 3 cars have gone into her ditch. Swales have been redone 3 times so budget that wasn't there for sidewalk has gone into re-engineering the swales which are difficult to walk around. Has copies of signatures for petition.

Commissioner asked if pavement markings are adequate and in good shape. Resident replied that there are not adequate pavement markings and the ones that are there cannot be seen and used due to parked waiting cars.

3. Noelle Schwartz 1031 Norfolk St.: Has 3 kids ages 10, 7, and 2. According to IL state report card Kingsley has increased enrollment by over 15% in the last 3 years. Old houses on large lots are being replaced by two homes increasing population density. Wants Village to recognize the need to increase traffic safety based on the increased traffic in the area. Kingsley is one block from South high school which has an enrollment of 2700 students. Add in Kingsley students and there are over 3100 students commuting every day to and from both schools. Most of these kids are going during start and dismissal times. Norfolk is the main and most traveled road to Kingsley and South high. Traffic is not safe and laws are being broken. Sees busses without stop signs out loading and unloading children. Terrible accident happened on Norfolk to elderly couple who walk the neighborhood. Man had hit and run and he may not recover. No record found online or in the paper about this accident.

4. Kristin Clancy 6660 Barrett St.: Has a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader at Kingsley. Lives 2 blocks south of Kingsley. Walks with son every day. Cars illegally pass buses daily. Have unique traffic issues due to being by south high and reckless driving. Ideas for implementation: more crossing guards am and pm, crossing guard able to assist during all weather conditions, police presence after school, 4-way stops at Norfolk and speed bumps, better signage at Norfolk and Saratoga for westbound drivers, and Norfolk and Powell for eastbound drivers warning about busses. Wants sidewalks installed so pedestrians are not walking in the street.

5. Kim Breier 1027 Adelia St.: A 2 block street one block south of Main and 63<sup>rd</sup> behind Teddy's. 23 school aged children on her block, 35 school aged children total on Adelia St. During 2-6pm she has to stand at the edge of her driveway and scream at cars trying to miss the light at Main and 63<sup>rd</sup>. Serves as the PTA president at Kingsley. During drop off and dismissal hundreds of people are walking the streets of the neighborhood. Wants to know why more attention isn't being given around their school.

6. Patrick Cruise 6340 Saratoga: Concerns: Norfolk – 8am to 3pm – Norfolk is a dragstrip. Changed his work schedule a year ago to take child to and from school. Sees quite a few drivers pass the stopped school buses. Short terms fix: increase signage, striping, hiring someone for pm shift at corner of Barrett to make sure cars don't pass school busses. Get a 3 way stop at Norfolk and decrease speed of vehicles going eastbound.

7. Joe Doll 1124 Carol St.: Retiree in neighborhood. Agrees with everything everyone has said prior to him. States high schoolers driving down Norfolk are dangerous. Carpenter & Carol has a house on SE corner with bushes and big trees that make it hard to see if heading westbound on Carol. Dangerous corner. Trees need to be pruned.

8. Eric Meyers 1100 Carol St.: Intersection southbound on Carol from Carpenter there is a line of trees making it hard to see. A 4-way stop would make it easier and safer to cross there. Questioning data collection source that 4-way stop is not needed. Petition signed over a year ago

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for 2 stop signs on Carol and Carpenter. Cars going over 30mph and wants to know how fast they are going. Strongly urges commission to do additional data collection to put stop sign in place. Wants this to go quickly due to dire need for stop signs.

9. Leonard Fili 1015 Norfolk St.: Bought the house 10 years ago, has two children. Norfolk 7am-8:30am you cannot go east on Norfolk due to traffic. Accident that happened with elderly man in neighborhood was his dad, and it happened on a Saturday when he was at the edge of the street picking up his mail. Picks up his kids every day from school because it is not safe for them to walk due to traffic. Neighborhood is more crowded and traffic is getting worse. From November when the accident happened, has never heard what happened as far as his dad's accident. His dad was in Good Sam for 2 months and now is in nursing home. Wants help finding out how to find who did the hit and run accident to his dad. Has \$5000 reward and wants to work with PD.

10. Elaine McDermott 1480 Concord: Questions: spots included for additional pedestrian counts – is Powell & Norfolk included? Mr. Lorton stated it is not included because there is a crossing guard at that location. Ms. McDermott is requesting a traffic count there due to that is where kids get on and off buses. Wants a police officer there to ensure cars do not pass buses. Crossing guard is not enough. Wants a 4-way stop there to help avoid cars passing buses. Wants to know if “horse” (barricade) in the middle of the crosswalk will help slow down cars during times of high traffic in addition to crossing guard as a short-term solution. Other question is what does the commission take into account in addition to traffic numbers?

Mr. Lorton stated traffic volume is considered for stop control, not speed. Placing additional stop signs where they are not warranted will result in drivers getting frustrated and rolling through stop signs not stopping creating unsafe conditions for pedestrians that think they have a safe crossing, but do not. Additionally, they look at crash data for correctable crashes such as angles. Ms. McDermott wants others signs and barriers to slow drivers down. Thinks Kingsley is unique being only a block away from the high school. Wants to make sure the Village is taking account everything – that there are many inexperienced high school drivers around Kingsley.

Commissioner question: Does crossing guard have a sign she can put in the intersection. Resident replied she only has a stop sign that she carries.

Another resident stated that a sign in the road will be hit by drivers trying to get around parked buses.

Ms. McDermott thinks that anything that can slow down traffic will be helpful.

11. Julie Ovalle 1134 Adelia St.: Has lived there since 2006. She has 4 boys, kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. There are about 40 kids on the 2 blocks of Adelia. Older kids walk to school and sees them almost get hit by a car every day. Drives 1<sup>st</sup> grader because it's not safe for him to walk. Has been trying to get an additional crossing guard at Kingsley for the past 2 years. One crossing guard who walks with a cane is not adequate. In the summertime Kingsley has 2 active baseball fields and there are also sporting events at Downers South creating a lot of traffic. The high school has stop signs and speed bumps, but the elementary school has nothing. Feels there are a lot of extenuating circumstances that make their school unique and need to be considered rather than just numbers on paper.

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12. Name not given: Came back up to state that Mr. Lorton told her the numbers are not there to warrant a 4-way stop. Thinks that other circumstances need to be taken into consideration before something regrettable happens.

13. Dave Peterson 1046 Carol St.: Lives at intersection of Carol & Carpenter. Moved into home in 2012 and selling factor was that it was 2 blocks away from the school. When son started kindergarten this year he noticed there is not a stop sign to cross Carpenter. Problem with cars cutting through from 63<sup>rd</sup> to get to Main. No sidewalk on east side of Carpenter with drainage ditches. Kids are forced to cross Carpenter with no stop sign. Being so close to a grade school and all they're asking for is a couple of stop signs to prevent tragedy.

14. Piotr Gubernat 1113 Norfolk St.: Lives 2 doors down from Julie and Noelle. The three circles on the diagram are a disaster waiting to happen. Correlation does not mean causality and just because they don't have the traffic numbers doesn't mean there isn't going to be an accident. Lives 5 doors down from the school and drives kids to school every day. There are no sidewalks or stop signs and high school kids treat Norfolk like it's a drag race. Wants speed bumps, more crossing guards, more police presence – something, anything to improve the situation. Wants to know if residents need to put in the sidewalks and speed bumps themselves.

**No more public comment**

**CHAIRWOMAN DUNNE CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING AND OPENED DISCUSSION AMONGST THE COMMISSION.**

Chairwoman Dunne has questions for Will: Who provides crossing guards?

Mr. Lorton said crossing guards go through PD. Staff does counts for where crossing guards are required. There are some outstanding locations where staff has recommended crossing guards be places, but there are vacancies that are not filled. PD is covering some locations at some schools to cover vacancies where there is no one applying to be crossing guards. Removed one of the crossing guards at Kingsley at Powell & Dunham because it is an all way stop with only 2 children crossing there. Hard for PD to cover all the crossing guard vacancies.

Chairwoman Dunne asked what sort of training is required to be a crossing guard?

Office Fisher responded that crossing guards receive in house training at the police department consisting of a few hours as well as some training on the scene with an office.

Chairwoman Dunne makes the recommendation for a crossing guard at Kingsley.

Chairwoman asked why the hit and run accident involving the elderly man in the neighborhood was not online or in the newspaper.

Officer Fisher stated he does not have that information and is unfamiliar with the accident. PD does not typically put a press release out unless it is a major case.

Chairwoman Dunne asked if the gentleman who's father was hit can get information on the accident.

Officer Fisher stated he can fill out a FOIA and receive the report and information.

Resident questioned why the police don't put out a press release for an accident.

Officer Fisher responded that he does not have the information for that protocol on hand.

Commissioner asked about the 3 crashes since 2005 and if the database includes pedestrian injuries and accidents.

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Mr. Lorton stated that it does include pedestrian accidents but is by intersection and there is a lag time of about 6 months to a year from when the accident occurred to when it appears in the data.

Chairwoman Dunne confirmed that as scope widens that crash data will also be included. Mr. Lorton confirmed this.

Chairwoman asked if there is an official school zone in front of school.

Mr. Lorton stated there is a bus zone and custom signage regarding stopping for buses.

Chairwoman Dunne asked to make sure that signage is compliant and that the one on the ground is re-posted. Mr. Lorton confirmed this.

Chairwoman Dunne asked if bus drivers have been recording license plate numbers to pass along to PD. Commissioner asked if buses have dash cams to record vehicles passing buses.

Commissioner stated there are some missing elements for safe routes to school, specifically at Adelia and Carol. Stated that in the absence of staff there to cross them, measures must be taken to come into compliance with safe routes to school.

Chairwoman asked if there are long term plans in place to put in sidewalks or if residents have the ability to put in sidewalks where there are none available to them.

Mr. Lorton stated he would have to look into that. Previously the Village was trying to get sidewalks on every street on at least one side of the street, and that about 95% of streets have sidewalks on at least one side.

Commissioner brought up cut through traffic coming from 63<sup>rd</sup>. Wondering if Village can look into no right hand turns during school hours to cut down on traffic.

Mr. Lorton stated that 63<sup>rd</sup> is County right-of-way and any signage has to be approved by County.

Commissioner asked about speed radar signage to help slow people down on Carpenter and Carol. Mr. Lorton stated those signs are being put into place on both those streets.

Chairwoman Dunne likes the turn restriction idea off of 63<sup>rd</sup> St. Definitely wants to look into that and get County approval for signage.

Commissioner asks for stop sign request to be revisited as counts are completed.

Chairwoman Dunne brought up landscaping on corner of Carol & Carpenter and that there is something in code that property owner has to trim back. Requesting code enforcement to look into that.

Commissioner asked about getting police presence out at Kingsley on a short-term basis. Officer Fisher replied that currently this location is on their directed patrol list so all the day shift officers have directed patrol to patrol this area specifically during school hours.

Commissioner asked if pavement marking can be included in budget for upcoming year for all schools where making needs to be re-done as well as coordinating with sidewalk group to put in new sidewalks. Mr. Lorton stated that staff will investigate it. Commissioner wants stop sign put



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in place in light of the serious accident that occurred. Wants to have PTA reach out to help fill crossing guard positions.

Chairwoman clarified that direction Mr. Lorton is looking for from the board tonight is approval for traffic study in the neighborhood and specific intersections.

Mr. Lorton stated that as of now, the recommendations would be for looking into crossing guard counts, sign compliance, possibility of bus drivers reporting passing cars, no right turn off of 63<sup>rd</sup>, sight distance for code enforcement, additional striping as necessary, and investigation for staff to add sidewalk – all in addition to pedestrian counts at these and 5 other locations.

Chairwoman asked for thoughts on how to prevent high schoolers from using these roads.

Commissioner stated that PD should target enforcement and issue tickets.

Mr. Lorton stated there is targeted enforcements by PD in the area.

Commissioner asked amount of ticket for passing school buses.

Officer Fisher responded he does not know exactly but believes it's substantial and around \$250.00.

**WITH RESPECT TO FILE #3-19, MR. SCHILLER MADE A MOTION THAT AS STATED BY STAFF, WITH ADDITIONAL PROVISOS THAT WERE DISCUSSED AND RECORDED, BE INCLUDED IN THE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL.**

**SECONDED BY MR. CARTER.**

**ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE 7:0.**

**DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS:**

No old business to discuss.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

No communications to report.

**ADJOURN**

Chairwoman Dunne adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Andrea Banke  
Recording Secretary