



CITY OF VALPARAISO

166 Lincolnway
Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 462-1161
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Minutes for Traffic & Safety Committee Meeting held
5/19/2025
Meeting Date and Time: 5/19/2025, 10:00am

Attendees:

Committee Members:

Max Rehlander, Engineering
Maggie Clifton, Community Engagement
Mike Cervik, Fire
Brian McDonald, Police

City Staff:

Bob Thompson, Planning
Ashley Miller, Engineering
Joe Hall, Police
Andre Cotton, Police
Chuck Gleason, Parks Department
Daniela Martins, Engineering
Jessica Story, Parking Enforcement

Members of the Public:

Frances Saar
James Ferguson

Absent Committee Members:

Katie Travis, Public Works
Ellen Kapitan, City Council

1. Discussion Items

- a. Downtown Parking Zone – Jessica Story states that people are always confused of the signage for parking throughout the downtown area. She has presented an example of what she was looking to get posted in place of the current signs posted. She also states that she has noticed people will reverse into a parking stall when they are on a one-way street. Max states that you are not allowed to reverse into a stall per our city ordinance, if you witness people do it then ticket them. Jessica then states that when she tickets people for doing



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that, they will state how it doesn't say that's not allowed anywhere posted. Max states that they are two separate issues, but the signage is the bigger issue right now then asks if Maggie or Brian can recall if this issue has come up in the past.

Brian asks how many calls we receive. Jessica states quite a bit, people call complaining about there not being a sign where they parked, people don't understand the parking zones.

Brian asks Joe if we could do like a social media educational post making people aware. Joe states putting a social media educational post is a start, unfortunately we can't put a sign in front of every stall.

Max states that he appreciates the research Jessica has done regarding this issue from other communities and that he would really like Katie Travis's input on what would be the best solution, he would like to do the social media educational post this summer and see how it goes then fall/winter we will reconvene.

- b. Request for a 15-minute parking sign along Jefferson St. – Ashley explained how we were contacted by one of the owners of Super Subs which is a sandwich shop at the corner of Jefferson St. & Washington St. at the end of February about a 10-minute sign being posted for pick up orders. The city decided since we have a 15-minute parking sign in front of Gil's Pharmacy at the end of Washington St. to make it uniform we would change the request from a 10-minute to 15-minute parking sign. Engineering sent out letters to surrounding businesses of the block for any input about posting the sign, but we did not get a response from anyone, and the sign would also be utilized by all surrounding businesses not just the sub shop.
Chuck wonders if it makes more sense to put it at a slot on Washington St.
Max answers with the owner specifically asked for it to be at the slot on Jefferson St. at the intersection of Washington St.



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Maggie states that even if businesses may not have responded prior to the sign being placed but they may respond once it has been placed but she thinks it's a good idea.

Max asks if we have a motion, which Maggies follows up with a motion and Max seconds motion passes 4-0 with no Katie Travis & Ellen Kapitan. Now it will go to the Board of Works for approval then upon approval Public Works will post the sign.

- c. Bicycle Safety – Joe states how VPD has put out social media post for bike safety month, so everyone is aware for to people to continue to be safe for drivers and bike riders.
Chuck states how he saw the emails, and he appreciates them, he knows Valpo Parks has also done some post in the past about bike safety. Valpo Parks has some monthly bike rides, which are on Mondays at 5:30pm, it is called Pathway Monthly Bike Rides, there is a Facebook group. The group doesn't cross any major street, and the next one starts at Tower Park and will either go to Valpo Velvet or Dairy Queen and they go through October.
Max states that he believes Ellen was wanting to do something and Joe stated that she was happy with their post.
- d. Indiana Safe Zones – Enacted by HEA 1015
Indiana Safe Zone is a program administered by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) that aims to save lives of motorists and road workers by reducing vehicle speeds and crashes in work zones and creating safer conditions for motorists and construction crews.
Brian states he has experienced a safe zone in Indy where a white INDOT truck is parked, and you can get see the device and they have signage informing you that it is up ahead. It will take a picture and send you a ticket. If you would like more information the website is www.safezonesin.com



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- e. Street Parking on Harmel Dr. by Tomato Bar – The Engineering Dept. received a Voice a concern from a resident who lives in the neighborhood that enters by Harmel Dr. about the street parking beside Tomato Bar. She states that for the most part it is okay to maneuver but if a car is parked close to the exit of the parking lot onto Harmel the cars exiting can't see oncoming traffic from the south. Further oncoming traffic from the south can't see if a car is trying to exit the parking lot. Max asked Brian if they had received calls from this location. Brian states that they haven't got complaints from this area, it's the first time they have heard of this, but we can send out officers on Friday & Saturday to monitor and then review over the next month and come to the next meeting with our findings. Max motions to table until next meeting. Mike asks if there is sufficient parking for the multiple businesses in that strip, because he has also witnessed people parking everywhere and anywhere, they can squeeze. Max asked Mike if he wanted to also check with Vicki about that, next time they request to expand then they will be told that parking needs updated.
- f. Crosswalk Painting schedule downtown area – Ellen asked to have this added but Max spoke in her place since she was not present. Max stated he did speak with Katie about this and the reasons they cannot paint at this time in the downtown area is because the month of May tends to be wet/humid which causes the paint to not last as to why they do the painting at night during the dry months like June, July & August. Public Works is also looking to hire a contractor as well because they are very busy currently. Jessica asks if Public Works also handles painting of the handicap pavement markings. Max says yes, they handle both so if you see something please reach out.



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- g. Washington St. at US 30 Lanes & Traffic Lights
 - Brian is hoping to improve the flow of traffic at the intersection of Washington St. & US 30. On the north side of US 30 at Washington St. the far west lane can back up due to someone going straight instead of turning westbound on US 30, then it becomes a rat race to cross US 30 because it is two lanes then once you cross it goes down to one lane on the south side. Do we know when it was redesigned and why? Brian suggested that the far west lane be a turn only lane and be designated by pavement marking and signs, so people are aware. Max believes it changed during the intersection improvement in 2019-2020, but prior to the redesign it was a right turn only. Max will dig into why it changed and update at the next meeting.
2. Updates on Projects/Initiatives
 - a. SS4A Grant – FHWA update; Bob still has no agreement; he spoke with the point of contact with Federal Highway. Bob is unsure what will happen next but he did state that Congress did also reach out so they may be looking into it as well.
 - b. Public Comment –
 - i. James F. said regarding downtown parking, most people coming downtown are not from Valparaiso so maybe putting up a parking zone sign informing where and what the parking zones are. Max states that it is a good idea.
 - Chuck has been looking into bike safety and roundabouts; he's also reached out to get accident information and was curious about Sturdy Rd. where it comes out by VU. It's two lanes heading south towards Rt. 30 but when heading north on Sturdy away from Rt. 30 it's only one lane on Sturdy Rd. Chuck was wondering about the process to get one of the lanes on the west side of Sturdy to be a turn lane along with a pedestrian island. Max states that it's a good idea and it's the first he has heard of it, but he likes it.



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- iii. Mike states that along Rt. 30 entrance by Strongbow center there a no turn on red sign on the north side but not on the south side which gets complicated at the Walmart entrance and maybe a only turn on green towards Taco Bell. Max states he will reach out to INDOT and find out.
- iv. Joe states he will reach out to Ellen and let her know that they have the information for the Valparaiso St. & Glendale intersection she asked about. Max states that he can send it to engineering and we will share it with her through email.

The meeting ended.

Next meeting June 16th, 2025, at 10:00am



- Current Parking sign
Discussion item 1.a.



- Potential Parking Sign

Discussion Item 1.a

-Discussion Item 1.g

