



166 Lincolnway
Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 462-1161
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Minutes for Traffic & Safety Committee Meeting held
07/21/2025

Meeting Date and Time: 07/21/2025, 10:00am

Attendees:

Committee Members:

Max Rehlander, Engineering
Brian McDonald, Police
Katie Travis, Public Works
Ellen Kapitan, City Council
Maggie Clifton, Community Engagement
Mike Cervik, Fire

City Staff:

Daniela Martins, Engineering
Ashley Miller, Engineering
Joe Hall, Police
Andre Cotton, Police
Chuck Gleason, Valpo Parks

Members of the Public:

Carol McCreery
Frances Saar
James Ferguson
Laura Krinock
Jane Jones
Joe Dauginas

Max welcomes everyone to Traffic & Safety, the July edition. We have a few new faces, so I'll kind of just go over general rules and what traffic and safety covers. Generally, this is just more of a public comment community. That way, if you guys have concerns about traffic or safety concerns within the city, you can come to the Police Department, Engineering department, or Public Works Department. Ultimately, the committee has very little authority, anything that kind of takes regulatory action needs to go before the Board of Works for formal approval. However, the committee does take a vote on agenda items that need to go to board of works to say, hey, this has a 6-0 in favor of a trip to safety. So just one kind of step in the process is to make sure community engagement has happened prior to the board of



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works approval. OK, so with that said. Max continues with welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming and giving a brief explanation regarding our process as well as who makes up the committee members, so traffic and Safety Committee is made up of six different committees members engineering, police, public works, engagement and City Council, as well as is fire. As far as any agenda items that need formal voting on, it's those six members who cast the vote. With that said, we can go ahead and get started.

1. Discussion Items

- a. Traffic Study at Froberg/500 N – This was added by councilwoman Kapitan but also because when we were going through the Midwood annexation there is a gentleman who lives in the Brigata neighborhood who is concerned about the safety of 500 N/Froberg Rd. If any has driven Froberg north of Beauty Creek there is a sharp curb to left 90 degrees to get to Brigata/Midwood area. We just want to talk about it as a discussion standpoint as to measures that can be taken and kind just discuss the intersection itself, Councilwoman Kapitan would you like to jump in. Ellen starts off stating that it has come up in conversations about the annexation of Midwood, between developers doing a traffic study, and a lot of opposition from the public but I figure let's get on top of this and taking everything into consideration if there is any updates or what steps we could take for traffic control or safety. A resident reached out who runs out there is concerned about the narrowness of the road out there. Max continues with how engineering would review the situation would be one from vehicular and two from pedestrian, with vehicular the intersection has been that type configuration forever not sure when the road got put in but it's just based on county surveyor to the section lines. Max asked Brian or police department, "do you know off hand of any accidents or running off the road in that area. Joe answered statically I don't believe it high numbers, every once in a while, during the winter we will get calls of slide offs along the stretch of road. Max continues that is the first key metric that we look at



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is crash history. Now we that said we can look at advance signage, how old it is, the fading over time. Engineering team can drive around the area and look at the signage. Ellen asks what comes through the traffic study the developer did. Max answers with they only review intersections & drive access adjacent to their development and what would be necessary with this new development. That area is also on our pathway master plan, which will connect those north/west areas.

- b. Promoting Safe Driving among VHS Student Drivers – Ellen states that she must thank the police department for their time, Captain Hall was able to bring an SRO and help me understand the roles that they have within the schools and the reality of consequences for things that do not happen on school property. It would not be the school's intention or ability to discipline, so there are multiple factors as to why it wouldn't work. She continues with she appreciated everyone's feedback, but it is back to the drawing board for this area.
- c. Crosswalk at Chestnut/Madison St. – Laura states that she appreciates the study that was done & thanks Max because she has had a lot of correspondence with the Engineering team, she understand that a stop sign is not warranted from that traffic study, but her concern is that there is no stop sign from Campbell to Elmhurst down Chestnut there is absolutely no stop signs so it is a open wide road, and people exceed the speed limit down Chestnut. There are two schools and a park in the Jessee-Pifer neighborhood. With the hotel and the roundabout eventually going in its going to increase traffic, so with a crosswalk I'm hoping it would provide some traffic calming for the safety of kids walking to school and the pedestrians who walk that area. Jane speaks gratefully that they painted a crosswalk at the intersection of Elmhurst and Prospect and spoke with a neighbor whose parents live directly across from that intersection and stated that before the crosswalk was painted about 50% of traffic wouldn't stop and now after the crosswalk being painted about 90% of people stop at the stop sign.



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Joe states that he will run a report on Urban SDK and bring the data back at the next meeting.

- d. Pedestrian Signal Downtown – Delayed signal – Max explains it's just a matter of coordinating with other agencies, which he has shared with Ellen and there is not much at the moment to update.
- e. Traffic on Jefferson & Greenwich – A resident reached out stating they have been quite some collision at this intersection due to not paying attention, the resident was hoping to get a cross traffic does not stop under the stop sign. Brian states that off the top of his head he doesn't recall there being anything that sticks off here but they can review their crash history and report back to the team next meeting, Joe states that he will run a report from Urban SDK and bring the data to the next meeting.
- f. All-Way stop control study – Ransom Rd. & Goodrich Rd. – Daniela speaks on how a traffic control evaluation is being conducted to determine the most appropriate traffic control strategy for the future four-way configuration of the Ransom Rd. & Goodrich Rd. intersection, specifically, whether to maintain two-way stop control or implement all-way stop control once the Goodrich Rd. extension is finalized. The intersection currently operates with a STOP control on Goodrich Rd., with free flow traffic(uncontrolled) along Ransom Rd., and both roads have a posted speed limits of 30 MPH and are classified as collector street. The five warranted factors that were looked at was: Warrant A. – Crash Experience, Warrant B. – Sight Distance, Warrant C. – Transition to Signal Control, Warrant D. – 8-Hour Volume, Warrant E. – Other Factors. We believe construction should be wrapped up in about two weeks roughly, so we would just hold off until after this goes before the BOW for approval before the road is open. Max states since we don't have another meeting until later in August, he will make a motion contingent upon further committee review to then be considered at the August 8th BOW meeting for a four-way stop control at Ransom & Goodrich. Motion passes with a 6-0 vote.
- g. Vale Park Rd. pavement markings entering VHS – Last year, east of VHS entrance we converted the



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median to a left turn only between Campbell St. and the entrance, since the sidewalk on the south side of Vale Park Rd is currently being built out to be a wider pathway, we can remove the bike lanes from on the road and relegate the travel lane which is from Forest Glen Dr. to the entrance of VHS, which this request from the SRO officer at the high school and this item would also need BOW approval. It will be completed near the start of school, but the pathway is a little delayed but thinking later August possibly Labor Day weekend. Max makes a motion to approve restriping of Vale Park Rd. between Forest Glen Dr. & VHS entrance; motion passes 6-0 vote.

2. Updates on Projects/Initiatives

- a. SS4A Grant – FHWA update – Bob was not present, so Ashley gave the update that was sent to her from Bob, The SS4A agreement has been submitted to the FHWA central office by their Indy office. Central office is reviewing the agreement and hopefully approving it soon. We are going to be advertising for a consultant soon.
- b. Public Comment –
 - i. Jane was curious as to what the parking distance was from stop sign. Max states it is 20 ft. and should be marked. Jane states there is a trailer that is parked on Chestnut east of Campbell that is parked right in from of the stop sign. Brian states that next time she drives by and sees that its still parked and call the non-emergency number and we will have an officer come out and try to reach out to the owner and go from there.
 - ii. Brian follows up with an update about the project safeway and patrolling being done on 250 W by Sue Neff's. They have had several speeds in the 50mph and officers are continuing monitoring and citing violators.

Next meeting August 18th, 2025, at 10:00am