

La Porte City Traffic Commission

The March meeting of the La Porte City Traffic Commission was held at the La Porte City Police Station Conference Room on March 7, 2023. The following members were present:

Karyl Feikes – Chairperson	Andy Snyder – Secretary	Jeff Batchelor
Bill Degnegaard	Rip Ludlow	Sarah Ford
Laura Konieczny	Mike Frazee	Paul Vincent

The following items summarize the meeting:

1. The minutes of the February 7, 2023 meeting were approved. Motion by Laura Konieczny and seconded by Paul Vincent.
2. **Public Comment –**
 - David Heinold, Assistant City Planner, attended the meeting and requested several parking restrictions to facilitate the proposed Slicer Pathway Project.
 - a. 8th St. No Parking both sides between C St. & E St. This will make 8th St. a consistent No Parking zone on both sides between A St. & F St. Currently 8th St. allows parking on one side or the other at various points. A motion to recommend this change to the City Council was made by Paul Vincent & seconded by Rip Ludlow. It passed unanimously.
 - b. To restrict parking on the west side of A St. from 10th St. to 14th St. A motion to recommend this change to the City Council was made by Paul Vincent & seconded by Sarah Ford. It passed unanimously.
 - c. To restrict parking on both sides of A St. from 14th St. to 18th St. A motion to recommend this change to the City Council was made by Paul Vincent & seconded by Mike Frazee. It passed unanimously.
 - Dean White and Kevin Gao of 701 Lincolnway attended the meeting to request a parking space be designated as Curb-side pickup for the Asian Fusion Restaurant. Their request is for the first space north of Lincolnway, on Monroe St, on the west side of the street. The commission decided to take this into consideration, visit the area and discuss it further at the April meeting.
3. The recommendation to change a parking space in the 700 block of Clay St. to be designated as a Loading/Unloading Zone should be on the City Council agenda at their 3/20/23 meeting. The requested parking space is the first spot north of the alley on the east side of the roadway.
4. The recommendation of the Commission to support vacating of a section of the 900 block of State St. will be on the City Council agenda at their 3/20/23 meeting.
5. Karyl reported that she has not had further discussion with Austin Epple, La Porte County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer for La Porte High School, regarding concerns with the High School parking lot exit onto 10th St.

6. The recommendation to request restricted parking for a distance of 30' from the corner on the east and south side of Stanley Ct. will be on the City Council agenda at their 3/20/23 meeting.
7. The Commission again discussed the concerns of Daniel and Carol Biggs (1610 Indiana Ave.) regarding speeding and the number of accidents at the intersection of South Ave. & Indiana Ave. Jeff Batchelor indicated that he had followed up with Mr. & Mrs. Biggs to help facilitate some corrective action. Jeff stated that the tree at this location had been removed to improve visibility. He also reported that signage and striping are being installed to better restrict vehicles from parking too close to the corner and in turn obstructing driver's line-of-sight.
8. Regarding the request for a stop sign somewhere on Polk St. Karyl indicated she had spoken with Nick Minich pertaining to the extension of Polk St. The project is still under consideration, and he will take this into account as it moves forward.
9. Nick Minich is continuing to work with INDOT regarding the proposed projects involving Indiana Ave. and Pine Lake Ave. There were no additional updates available for this meeting.
10. The Commission will continue to monitor the parking situation and the dangers of pedestrians crossing the roadway in the area of The Dunes Event Center on Clear Lake Blvd. The Clear Lake Loop project should accommodate pedestrian traffic better. This project is expected to begin in the spring.
11. The recommendations to the City Council to place stop signs at the intersections of Eason Ct. & 9th St. and D St. & 15th St. will be on the City Council agenda at their 3/20/23 meeting.
12. In reference to the Handicap Parking Space at the intersection of Scott St. & Woodson St. Nick Otis informed Karyl that if a Handicap parking space has not been enacted by ordinance it can be removed. Mike will check to see if this space, which was previously reported as no longer being needed, was enacted by ordinance. If not, he will remove it.
13. Regarding the lack of street lighting at the intersection of Andrew Ave. and W. 20th St. It was reported that Jamie Novak, from the engineer's office, can assist with the process of forwarding this request to NIPSCO. Laura Konieczny will forward Jamie's contact information to Jeff York of 1006 W. 20th St.
14. Mr. Kajer's request to change the 2-way stop at the intersection of Newporte Blvd and N. Madison to a 3-way stop was discussed further. He suggested the additional stop sign be designated as a stop for the westbound lane of Newporte Blvd. The Commission agreed with this suggestion. Andy Snyder made a motion to forward the recommendation to the City Council. It was seconded by Laura Konieczny and passed unanimously. It was noted that even with some of the planned improvements to the landscaping in this area, the intersection would be better served with a stop sign.
15. Rip reported that since the round-a-bout at the intersection of State St. & Chicago St. has been removed the intersection can be confusing. Mike Frazee indicated he will try

to place more signage and lane striping to direct motorists away for entering the wrong way on Chicago St.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Laura Konieczny and seconded by Paul Vincent.

Due to several commission members having schedule conflicts with the April 4th meeting date, it was decided to move the April Traffic Commission meeting to one week later. The next Traffic Commission will be held Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 5:00 PM in the conference room of the City Police Station.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Snyder, Secretary