

A regular meeting of the Troy Traffic Committee was held Wednesday, July 20, 2022 in the Council Boardroom at Troy City Hall. Pete Ziegenfelder called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Richard Kilmer
Cindy Nurak
Sunil Sivaraman
Cynthia Wilsher
Pete Ziegenfelder
Tyler Koralewski, Student Representative

Absent: Al Petrusis
Abi Swaminathan

Also present: Lt. Chuck Roberts, Fire Department
Bill Huotari, City Engineer/Traffic Engineer
Jim Heidt, 321 Hickory
Harold Dallow, 338 Hickory
Bill VanHorne, 384 Hickory
Sharon VanHorne, 384 Hickory
Fara Jensen, 3555 Bellows
David Jensen, 3555 Bellows

2. Minutes – May 18, 2022

Resolution # 2022-07-16
Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Wilsher

To approve the May 18, 2022 minutes as printed.

Yes: Kilmer, Nurak, Petrusis, Sivaraman, Wilsher, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Petrusis, Swaminathan

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. No Public Hearings

REGULAR BUSINESS

4. Request to Remove No Parking Restrictions – Hickory Drive, Plum Drive to Kirkton Drive

Sharon VanHorne of 384 Hickory Drive requested that the No Parking restrictions on the south side of Hickory, from Plum Drive to Kirkton Drive be removed so that residents can park on one side of Hickory Drive. Ms. VanHorne reports that they and several other residents have multiple vehicles that do not fit in the driveway so they park along Hickory Drive and/or along Kirkton Drive thereby displacing parking spots for other residents.

Troy post office mail carriers provided the following input via a signed letter:

City of Troy Traffic Committee

With regards to removing the no parking signs on Hickory dr from Plum to Kirkton.

We postal workers kindly request you don't, it makes it very hard at times if not impossible for us to make our mail deliveries.

*Thank you
Troy mail carriers*

[Letter was signed by eight (8) mail carriers]

Troy Police Sgt. Warzecha provided the following input via email:

I do not agree with removing any parking signs on the south side of Hickory between Plum and Kirkton. I spent some time in the area over the past few weeks and observed the roadway to be very narrow and can understand why there is no street parking in the area. I did observe on several occasions the residence at 320 Hickory, 364 Hickory, and 384 Hickory parking in violation of the posted signs. Each time I observed the vehicles parking in violation of the posted signs I also observed that each of the driveways was either empty or there was plenty of room to park another vehicle. I did not take enforcement action as I was aware of the upcoming meeting about the potential change.

Traffic Engineering received five (5) emails opposed to any changes and one (1) email in support of changing the No Parking restrictions, as follows:

Hi Mr. Huotari,

I am writing you in response to object to the notice we received from the Traffic Committee. At the July 20th meeting they will discuss the removal of the no parking on the south side of Hickory Dr, between Plum Drive to Kirkton Drive. I live on the corner of Hickory and Kirkton and this parking restriction faces the front of my property where the mail is delivered. I am opposed to this as it is the side of the street that receives mail delivery. On many occasions people park on the south side even with the restrictions and we do not get mail delivery.

I am also apposed to the remove as there is a lot of traffic through the neighborhood as people use Hickory to cut through to the other main roads. The removal would make traffic a mess if people were parked along the street and I feel kids from the neighborhood would be

more likely to get hit, or cause accidents with cars and the narrow roads. There is also a elementary school that is at the dead end of Hickory. I believe if the no parking was removed, parents from the school would park there to pick up kids and make it an even bigger mess to get through the neighborhood.

if you remove the no parking restrictions can you switch it to remove the parking restrictions on the North side of Hickory instead? As that side of the road does not have mail delivery.

Please let me know how the meeting goes, I look forward to the outcome of the no parking on Hickory Dr.

*Thank you,
Karie Pasternak*

To Whom it may concern,

There is no sidewalk there. People and kids on bikes or walking use the street to get by all up and down Hickory in that section. The street is narrow, visibility could be hampered. Especially seeing as Morse is just down the way.

There isn't enough Easement like they have on Cherry. If they did it wouldn't be so bad but, as it is, I don't think it's a great idea.

Regards,

*Dan Bousho
94 Hickory
Troy, Mi, 40803*

Dear William,

I am writing to you in response to the letter you sent regarding removing the “No Parking” restrictions on the south side of Hickory from Plum Drive to Kirkton Drive. I am against this happening due to ALL the mail boxes being located on the south side of the street. Should someone park in front of the mailboxes then the mail carrier will NOT deliver mail. I have witnessed this happen since I've been working from home. Please consider that this is a poor decision to make – especially since there is no parking on the north side and no mailboxes located on that side of the street. Many of these home lots are only 55 feet wide and not enough room to park cars without blocking a drive or the mailboxes. Another consideration is that Hickory is not as wide of a street as others in the area (ie., Kirkton near 15 Mile & Hartshorn) that allow parked cars and still have enough space for two cars to pass each other. Please note that school busses come down our street several times a day which would make it difficult for two cars to be able to pass any parked cars. I do hope you get the post master's opinion on how their workers like to work around parked cars in front of mail boxes.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to call if you would like more information.

Terri Myke

310 Hickory Drive, Troy MI 48083

Thank you for this opportunity to speak regarding parking in both side of Hickory Dr..

I have attached a few pictures taken today of the steet, as you can see the street is very narrow and cars can hardly pass a school bus had to turn around, as I LOVE the idea of people having to drive slowly on our street. The people that use these streets as a drive thru from Maple Rd, to Livernois, and the apartments behind the school use these streets to short cuts. And we have been complaining to the city, about the speeds everyone drives on Hickory, and I am very serious about the speeds they can get up to 50-60, its rediuclas and dangerous, most neighborhoods have the kids play in back yards due to the danger or excessive speed.

Making parking available on the streets is just not wise, you really should have the streets monitored for speed and give tickets, that NEEDS to be done, please consider what people say in NOT parking on both sides of the streets.

Thanking you in advance

Kathleen Gill

Sally Gill

Helen Bezwusczak

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in regards to the request to remove the no parking signs on the southside of Hickory between Hickory between Plum and Kirkton. I currently share ownership of the property at 392 Hickory with my sister. This property is located at the corner of Hickory and Kirkton and the parking restriction faces the front of this property where the mailboxes are located. I am opposed to removing the parking restrictions.

Currently the parking restrictions are only during the day (Monday-Saturday) which will allow those who wish to park there after work hours and on Sunday when mail is not being delivered. Even though there are parking restrictions there have been several times recently that people have been parking there which in return has caused us not to receive mail.

With removing the parking restrictions I could see this causing additional issues as well.

- Hickory is a main street that is used to cut through from Livernois to Rochester or Livernois to 15 mile road. With the additional people parking in the street this will cause an increase of traffic. Which will make it harder for emergency vehicles to safely maneuver through the streets.
- With Hickory being an older street I feel the infrastructure is not made to accomodate for such parking. There is no shoulder and only a ditch. During winter months it will make it harder for snow plows to clear roads.

- *With the school at the end of the street this will increase the amount of parents that park here to pick up their children instead of going to the school and waiting in line. This will cause even more traffic on Hickory. Also there are a lot of children walking home from school. Allowing parking will increase traffic and unsafe for children walking home from school.*

Thanks,

Marcie Danis

I agree to the removal of the no parking signs. I don't see any reason why the signs are there to begin with some of the home don't have enough parking space if they have any guest.

Feris A. Seba

Bill VanHorne of 384 Hickory has lived at his home since 1997. They never had a problem with parking until recently as they now have two (2) children who also drive. Mr. VanHorne and his son were ticketed recently on separate occasions even though they were only parking temporarily. He assumes that some neighbor called Troy Police to report them parking on the street. The family must "shuffle" cars and has to park one block away on Kirkton. They do not block fire hydrants and/or mailboxes when parking on the street.

Sharon VanHorne of 384 Hickory added that there are eight (8) single driveways and four (4) double driveways along this section of Hickory.

Jim Heidt of 321 Hickory has lived at his home for 47 years. No parking signs were posted to avoid parked vehicles blocking the mailboxes. There is currently parking allowed after 6:00 PM and on Sundays. Mr. Heidt had children and they had to shuffle cars but figured it out based on the restrictions posted on Hickory. Mr. Heidt submitted a copy of a letter from Troy mail carriers.

Harold Dallow of 338 Hickory stated that no parking on Hickory represents safety and harmony in this neighborhood. Mail carriers will not deliver mail if the post office boxes are blocked and/or obstructed.

When this item was last considered [at the May 16, 2012 Traffic Committee meeting] the USPS would not consider moving mailboxes to the north side of Hickory. Traffic Engineering did not re-confirm this for the current request.

Mr. Ziegenfelder clarified that the north side is the fire hydrant side of the street and is posted as no parking at all times.

Ms. Wilsher has lived just to the south of this area on Maple Road since 1962. She had five (5) children and had to play "musical cars" when her children were driving as she could not park along Maple Road. Hickory is a very narrow street and has always been posted no parking. She stated that Troy Fire Department would have a very difficult time getting around parked cars.

Mr. Kilmer stated that Troy Police is opposed to the requested change. He supports keeping the signs as-is or posting Hickory as no parking at all times.

Resolution #
Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Wilsher

RESOLVED, that the existing time limited No Parking zone on the south side of Hickory be **MODIFIED** to prohibit parking at all times.

Yes: Kilmer, Wilsher
No: Nurak, Sivaraman, Ziegenfelder
Absent: Petrusis, Swaminathan

MOTION FAILED

Mr. Sivaraman asked for clarification of the motion and as to what residents were notified of.

Mr. Koralewski asked about parking in the greenbelt area between the edge of the road and areas where this is sidewalk.

Resolution # 2022-07-17
Moved by Sivaraman
Seconded by Nurak

RESOLVED, that **NO CHANGE** be made to the existing No Parking zone on the south side of Hickory Drive, from Plum Drive to Kirkton Drive.

Yes: Nurak, Sivaraman, Ziegenfelder
No: Kilmer, Wilsher
Absent: Petrusis, Swaminathan

MOTION CARRIED

5. Request to Extend No Parking Zone – Bellows Court

David Jensen of 3555 Bellows Court, requests that the No Parking zone be extended “one (1) driveway over to allow the trucks to make the turn without having to drive up/over the island”. Mr. Jensen adds “Garbage disposal trucks are having a difficult time navigating the cul-de-sac on Bellows Court when cars are parked (legally) along the side”.

Troy Police Sgt. Warzecha provided the following input via email:

I agree with moving the no parking sign back on Bellows Court

Traffic Engineering received one (1) email opposed to removing the no parking restrictions, as follows:

I live at 3572 Bellows Court. I can't get out or onto my driveway due to people parking at the very end of my driveway and my neighbors. When there is a party or get-together the street going around the Court ISLAND gives no room to even try to get into the driveway. There is a fire hydrant that is on the island at the short oval end. Taking down the No Parking sign is a hazard for Emergency vehicles. When landscapers/mowers come around they can't get to their employers homes. Whenever there is an event at Barnard School the parents park around the entire court creating the afore mentioned problems. It is so overcrowded they park on both sides of Anvil and onto Niagara. PLEASE, DON'T TAKE AWAY THE NO PARKING ZONE. It has to have come from the new neighbors who moved in recently. They don't use their driveways and THEY park on the street. This has been a problem for years. I have called numerous times. It is awful at night. The Court is dark and having a black vehicle parked at the end of your driveway creates a difficult problem. Please don't change the zone just because of one person. This is not an OPEN Court. There is an island with large trees planted on them making it even darker along with the fire hydrant. We need a larger no parking sign rather than taking it down for just one household. The no parking court is the exact reason we moved here! It is a very safe place for children and this protection is more important than a lazy person who doesn't want to park in their garage or on their driveway.

Fran Morrison

David Jensen of 3555 Bellows Court stated that he has lived at his home for 37 years and has enjoyed living on Bellows Court. When a vehicle parks near the start of the cul-de-sac larger vehicles, like a garbage truck, have a very difficult time navigating around the cul-de-sac and run over the island. He has repaired damage to the island several times over the years. He had six (6) children and they were able to navigate parking issues related to multiple vehicles. He has discussed his request with neighbors and there is support in the cul-de-sac.

Mr. Sivaraman asked for clarification of what was requested. The start of the no parking zone would be moved approximately one (1) lot.

Ms. Wilsher drove the area and there was a car parked in the cul-de-sac and it was difficult to navigate around the cul-de-sac and can't imagine how a garbage truck or fire truck would be able to make it around if a vehicle were parked in the cul-de-sac. She noticed tire tracks in the island.

Lt. Chuck Roberts stated that the cul-de-sac is very tight without vehicles parking and their emergency vehicles would not be able to navigate the cul-de-sac if a vehicle were parked. Troy Fire Department supports extending the no parking zone as requested.

Resolution # 2022-07-18

Moved by Ziegenfelder

Seconded by Sivaraman

RESOLVED, that the existing No Parking zone on Bellows Court be **MODIFIED** to start at the property line between 3555 Bellows Court and 3563 Bellows Court.

Yes: Kilmer, Nurak, Sivaraman, Wilsher, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Petrulis, Swaminathan

MOTION CARRIED

6. Request for Traffic Control – Forge Drive at Kettle Drive

Dennis Smith of 3812 Forge requests that the intersection of Forge Drive at Kettle Drive be reviewed for purposes of traffic control at the intersection. He stated that the existing Yield sign does not stop traffic and creates a hazardous situation for drivers and pedestrians. Mr. Smith would like to see the intersection be modified to ALL-WAY STOP control.

Troy Police Sgt. Warzecha provided the following input via email:

I'm also in favor of changing the yield sign to a stop sign at Forge and Kettle.

Mr. Ziegenfelder is in favor of Stop signs at all intersections.

Mr. Sivaraman stated that an ALL-WAY Stop would be way too much for this intersection.

Ms. Wilsher also does not support ALL-WAY Stop at this intersection, but does support replacing the existing Yield sign with a Stop sign.

Ms. Nurak supports replacing the existing Yield sign with a Stop sign only.

Mr. Koralewski does not see the need for ALL-WAY Stop at this intersection.

Resolution # 2022-07-19
Moved by Ziegenfelder
Seconded by Sivaraman

RESOLVED, that the intersection of Forge Drive at Kettle Drive be **MODIFIED** from YIELD control on the Kettle Drive approach to STOP control on the Kettle Drive approach to the intersection.

Yes: Kilmer, Nurak, Sivaraman, Wilsher, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Petrulis, Swaminathan

MOTION CARRIED

7. Public Comment

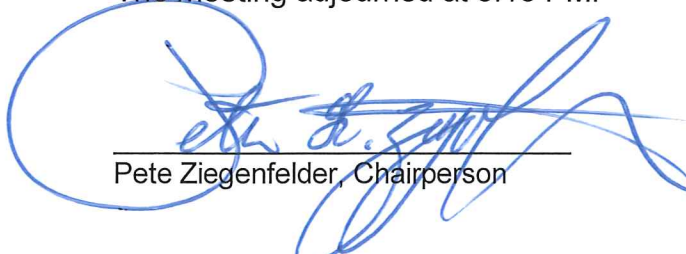
There was no further public comment at the meeting.

8. Other Business

Lt. Roberts discussed emergency access to the Zen apartments at 888 W. Big Beaver. Fire lanes need to be posted on the north side of the apartment complex to allow for fire department access in the event of an emergency. Lt. Roberts will follow up with a request for fire lanes at the September meeting.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.



Pete Ziegenfelder, Chairperson



William J. Huotari, City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

G:\Traffic\aaa Traffic Committee\2022\7_July 20\20220720_Minutes_Traffic Committee_FINAL.docx