

**CITY OF WOODSTOCK
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**
June 17, 2015
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock Transportation Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Andrew Celentano on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Andrew Celentano, Caron Wenzel, Mark Indyke, Jason Osborn, Susan Hudson

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Director of Public Works Jeff Van Landuyt

OTHERS PRESENT: Deputy City Clerk Amy Weber

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Susan Hudson, second by Jason Osborn to accept the May 12, 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Susan Hudson, Jason Osborn, Caron Wenzel, Mark Indyke and Andrew Celentano. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

1. Public Comments
None.

2. Commission Comments

Andrew Celentano announced that Jason Osborn and Caron Wenzel were reappointed to the Transportation Commission until 2018. Andrew Celentano discussed the MC-Dot transportation program brochure and discussed the motor fuel tax dropping, due to improved fuel economy and more electric cars. Jason Osborn clarified how fuel tax is formulated in county and city. Andrew Celentano noted we will likely see a lot more toll roads. Mary Peters, former Secretary of Transportation was in Chicago Friday and said we need to be moving in that direction. Caron Wenzel noted that chemicals mixed with asphalt sprayed on road surfaces helps to stabilize it, makes it last longer—maybe we could have the high school kids look at it.

TRANSMITTALS: (No discussion or action requested)

1. Tuk-Tuk taxi maker aims to make inroads in US – NW Herald, May 24, 2015
Andrew Celentano saw pictures of google car-- really tiny. Caron Wenzel not optimistic about google car. A discussion of self-driving and electric cars ensued.
2. Woodstock Railroad Crossing Violations 1/1/2009 – 5/1/2015 – Woodstock P.D.
The commission discussed the report from the Woodstock Police Department—which areas are most dangerous, how to decrease traffic and pedestrian violations of the railroad crossing gates, and the impact of the train on economic development. Comparisons of the value of access to the rail line versus access to I-90 were discussed.
3. Village of Fox River Grove – Ordinance Re: Golf Carts & Other Non-Highway Vehicles
Andrew Celentano asked the commission if they would define golf carts as appropriate for city use if this comes down the road to Woodstock. Mark Indyke noted that Fox River Grove is not a community that has home rule. Woodstock does not have stickers and we are not home rule. He's advocated for vehicle stickers but was told we can't do that because we don't have home rule. Andrew Celentano added they

might have gone to referendum. Further discussion of the types of stickers needed for golf carts, as well as the types of golf carts that might be appropriate ensued. All agreed that if they supported a program like Fox River Grove's, they would have to limit it to electric vehicles. Andrew Celentano noted that there are issues about how the town restricted roads—Woodstock would have to do something to limit access to major roads—you can't take a 20 mph vehicle and put it on route 47. If the council is ready to go forward with this it would make a great project. Commission all agree that this is a good idea.

4. The Smartest Train on the Track – Governing Magazine, May 2015

Mark Indyke noted that the railroad industry mandated to put these things in place within a certain amount of time, but Jason Osborn added that it's not cheap and it's an unfunded mandate. Caron Wenzel stated they are going to have to do it to avoid rolling disasters. Railroad travel will not be viable until it is done and safe enough.

5. City of Edwardsville – Benefits of Home Rule

Andrew Celentano noted that Woodstock does not have home rule. The Commission discussed various ways to try and get home rule, including holding a referendum, paying for a special census and waiting six more years for the next Federal Census. Overall, the commissioners were unsure why the city was pushing for a special census in hopes of achieving home rule.

6. A Trolley Time Machine – Hi-Liter, April 15, 2015

A discussion of various trolley, fares and uses began with Caron Wenzel stating that she wants one. Susan Hudson didn't see the value on a regular, daily basis. Mark Indyke noted it might help eliminate some of the parking issues in the city. Several members liked the idea of a trolley bus that would go up and down route 47 with a jog over to the square. This would help employees at lunch time and reduce some of the congestion at busy times. The commission agreed that Economic Development and the Chamber of Commerce should explore the option further, particularly looking for grants or other funding sources, since there is a large upfront cost. It was noted that Hearthstone already runs its own, small shuttle bus to the square. If the timing could be worked out right, this could be a great service for the County buildings on Seminary. Opinion was mixed on whether this should be a private venture, city/county funded, or some mix of public/private monies and efforts. Overall, the commission felt it should be explored further.

7. March, 2015 Pace Ridership Report

No comment

8. April, 2015 Pace Ridership Report

No comment

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Review and acceptance of Chapter 7 of the City's 2005 Transportation Plan

The Commission reviewed the changes made to the plan, including some additional comments on safety and proper safety planning. The plan has three goals. Parking and alternative structures were added. Corrections and minor changes were suggested and made to the plan draft. The plan's position on the western bypass of Woodstock by Route 14 was discussed, as was the possible relocation of the Metra station. The commission decided to leave that portion of the plan as is and moved to approve and accept Chapter 7 as corrected.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Street Cars Discussion

Jason Osborn noted that a more pressing issue for the city, instead of street cars, might be to eliminate any barriers to Uber. When people come out from the city, they are accustomed to Uber. Andrew Celentano wondered if the city needs to give them licensing to do that kind of business and asked if we want to continue with the possibility of streetcars? The commission discussed various pros and cons of streetcars with Mark Indyke suggesting that they pass the project on to the WHS Project Lead the Way high school

program to examine it more closely. All members agreed one of the big issues in Woodstock right now is congestion at lunch time and other high volume times. Street cars might help alleviate some of the congestion, but it may not be cost neutral enough to be viable. Other options to address the lunch situation would be a lunch shuttle/truck, working with the Chamber to develop lists of restaurants for local businesses. Several buses, in coordination with PACE, were suggested. One at lunch time, one for events, and one for tourists. Andrew Celentano asked for volunteers to develop a more formal position statement on street cars and/or other similar options. Caron Wenzel and Jason Osborn volunteered to work on this. Andrew Celentano noted that the economic development along street car routes can be incredible and cited Philadelphia as an example. Susan Hudson noted we should look more at cities more similar in size and structure to Woodstock. Jason Osborn and Caron Wenzel will work on looking at similar microsystems.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Continued Review/ Update of 2005 Transportation Plan – July 2015
2. County Fair Transit Bus – July 2015
3. Chapter 8 –
4. Community Transit –
5. Uber ride sharing and car for hire and do we have barriers to that.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Mark Indyke, second by Susan Hudson to adjourn to a Regular Meeting July 15, 2015 @ 7:00 PM.
Ayes: Chairman Andrew Celentano, Caron Wenzel, Mark Indyke, Jason Osborn, Susan Hudson. Nays: None.
Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Weber – Deputy City Clerk