

**CITY OF WOODSTOCK  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

September 16, 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, September 16, 2015 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

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

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jason Osborn

**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 Mark Indyke to accept the August 19th, 2015 Special Meeting minutes with the following changes:

*Page 1, Commission Comment, first sentence: Change \$90,000 to \$9,000.*

*Page 3, third paragraph, first sentence: change pads to paths.*

Ayes: Caron Wenzel, Mark Indyke, Susan Hudson, Chairman A. Celentano. Nays: None. Absentees: Jason Osborn. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

**FLOOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Public Comments - Jeff Van Landuyt announced that the Sidewalk Inventory presentation will be presented to the City Council October 20, 2015. Susan Hudson plans to attend the Council meeting to answer any questions regarding the presentation.
2. Commission Comments

**TRANSMITTALS:** (No discussion or action requested)

1. [WWW.railwaypreservation.com/vintagetrolley/trolleylist](http://WWW.railwaypreservation.com/vintagetrolley/trolleylist)  
Caron Wenzel described a documentary on Walt Disney and his park designs and commented that his integrated public transportation design is one of the most complete transportation plans she's ever seen. She went on to describe how Disney imagined what would be an ideal prototype place to live early on. She commented that there is no reason why traditionally designed towns like Woodstock could not be retrofit and designed to be more user friendly. C. Wenzel states she is looking at the transportation streetcar idea as a start to retrofitting in Woodstock. Susan Hudson added that in another town the streetcar became a source of contention because it was set up for tourists (that don't exist) going to attractions (that don't exist) and became costly to maintain. She added however that Woodstock is in a different situation. C. Wenzel said Woodstock could "stack the function" by adding electric vehicles and installing charging stations. Andrew Celentano commented that it's a very interesting concept to model Woodstock's transportation system to Disneyland's.
2. [WWW.bargainbusnews.com/trolley](http://WWW.bargainbusnews.com/trolley) No comments.
3. Streetcars Return to U.S. cities – NW Herald, 11/13/2013 – No comments.
4. Engineering Students help city win grant – Woodstock Independent – Aug 5-11, 2015 no comments.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

## 1. High School Project Update

A. Celentano stated that he met with Woodstock High School Project Lead the Way students three weeks ago and they came up with two projects: 1. Develop a plan for a bike path addition connecting to Prairie Trail. He added that he would like to contact Eberhard Veit (a local bicycle enthusiast) to see if he would like to advise the students on the project. 2. Route 47 frontage road. A. Celentano states he discussed with the students how a lot of businesses will be hurt if the projected Route 47 expansion takes up to 4 years to complete. He also discussed with the students the importance of economics, cash flow and how the project will impact the community. A. Celentano also suggested that the local Chamber of Commerce would be a good source of information for the students regarding how the Route 47 expansion would impact businesses. A. Celentano stated that he will ask the students to come to the next Transportation Commission meeting October 21st to introduce the project to the commission. A. Celentano also asked commission members if any of them would like to meet with the students and that he is scheduled to meet with the students at Woodstock High School the next day at 1:15 PM. M. Indyke stated he is willing to meet with the students and C. Wenzel said she would be there to meet with them as well.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

## 1. Consideration of Transportation Plan Revisions – all chapters

A. Celentano stated that he read through the plan and he had a few questions though he wants to postpone discussion of the plan to the next meeting. He also asked commission members to bring comments and suggestions on the Transportation Plan to the next meeting.

## 2. Electric/County Fair Transit Bus

C. Wenzel explained that Woodstock could obtain a grant for a public charging station, buy the electric bus, or an electric vehicle of some sort and run the bus from the Square to the McHenry County Fairgrounds. M. Indyke said that he was thinking of hydrogen powered vehicles and there are companies that make public transportation that use hydrogen. C. Wenzel added that we could have a municipal charging area that has hydrogen and electric and write a grant for it. M. Indyke commented the problem with charging vehicles is that it takes a lot of time. The commission discussed various chargers and charging times. C. Wenzel suggested that the Woodstock High School students could make this into a project and look into what combination of vehicle charging stations would Woodstock eventually need and what grants are available as well as ways to promote alternative transportation. A. Celentano stated that the city would have to put in several different charging stations and the question is how much of a burden would it be for Woodstock to put in those charging facilities. The commission also discussed having a "lunch bus" that would operate during peak lunchtime traffic hours along Route 47. S. Hudson suggested also using the bus for special events at Emricson Park or at the Square. C. Wenzel said the bus could be leased to groups that do special tours; the Autumn Drive for example. A. Celentano asked C. Wenzel to put something together regarding what type of busses would be appropriate for Woodstock. C. Wenzel said that the biggest problem is having a crew staff the busses and maintenance costs. S. Hudson commented that the benefits of having the bus may be less tangible but would be a way to reduce traffic on Route 47 during the lunch hour and this could be a good alternative until the widening of Route 47 becomes feasible. S. Hudson said the bus could be something cute, modern and futuristic, like a streetcar on outside and high-tech on the inside. S. Hudson also pointed out that the bus should be something for the function of the community and not just for tourists. C. Wenzel added that the bus has to be practical and comfortable. A. Celentano commented that the school busses are not being used from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. S. Hudson suggested contacting car companies that may have a prototypical vehicle that could be sent out to our charming City of Woodstock. She suggested looking for a prototype vehicle program we could get involved with. She said that we could contact car companies and let them know this is what we want to do. A. Celentano asked C. Wenzel if she and Jason Osborn could look into this and put something together. C. Wenzel states she would do that.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Continued Review/Update of 2008 Transportation Plan – October 2015
  - A. Celentano asked J. Van Landuyt if he wanted to present this to the City Council in January or February. J. Van Landuyt replied that he would but it would be as appropriate for the Chairman of the Commission to do so.
2. Presentation on Enterprise Zones – October 2015  
Garrett Anderson will possibly be there to talk about the Enterprise Zone.
3. Interaction w/ Department of Community and Economic Development re: Route 47 Improvements  
J. Van Landuyt stated that the Community and Economic Development are working with business owners. A. Celentano stated that there is a new group called “Check the Route”. M. Indyke added that this is through the Chamber and is a map of businesses on Route 47. S. Hudson commented that what continues to bother her is the lack of safe pedestrian crossings along Route 47. She said that she feels sorry for people who are trying to get across and can’t get across safely. She commented that if it will take 10-15 years to widen Route 47, that’s a long time for people to wait to cross the street. We need signals and signage, it’s a process and it’s expensive and she asked what can we do to make it better. J. Van Landuyt stated that a simple crosswalk will not work without a signal, he said people will not stop and without a signal he’s not sure of a safe way to cross. S. Hudson asked what could be done and they need to look for some alternatives and find out what it would cost. A. Celentano asked to put this on the agenda for November. A. Celentano stated that waiting ten or more years for a pedestrian crossing is nuts. S. Hudson said that there must be a grant available for this.

**ADJOURN:** To a Special Meeting October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 @ 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amy Weber – Deputy City Clerk