

**CITY OF WOODSTOCK
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
October 21 2015
City Council Chambers**

The regular meeting of the Woodstock Transportation Commission was called to order at 7:11 PM by Chairman Andrew Celentano on Wednesday, October 21 2015 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Indyke

STAFF PRESENT: Director of Public Works Jeff Van Landuyt, Economic Development Director, Garrett Anderson

OTHERS PRESENT: Deputy City Clerk Amy Weber

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Susan Hudson, second by Jason Osborn to accept the September 16, 2015 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Caron Wenzel, Jason Osborn, Susan Hudson, Andrew Celentano. Nays: None. Absentees: Mark Indyke. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

1. Public Comments
None.

2. Commission Comments

A. Celentano asked about the article that indicated that truck weight limits will be going up to 91,000 pounds. J. Van Landuyt replied that this was mostly on state routes. He added that Woodstock has its own city code section regarding major truck through routes. The city could restrict weight limits on local streets if they want to. J. Osborn noted that the new limit is just 11,000 pounds more. A. Celentano also remarked that the article also indicates that trucks are getting longer. J. Van Landuyt agreed, but noted that a third rear axle could be needed as well. The commission speculated on how new weight limits and truck lengths might impact existing roads and existing turning movements. A. Celentano added that in some cases, this change could require a bridge to be replaced or the truck rerouted because the bridge could not withstand the extra weight.

TRANSMITTALS: (No discussion or action requested)

1. August 2014 Pace Ridership Report.

A. Celentano wondered if ridership has gone up or down on the bus route going down Randall Rd. J. Osborn noted that after the first three days, they counted only a handful of people. From the August report, they are down a little bit.

2. Grant to help fund Woodstock student designed walkway at conservation area – NW Herald June 28 2015. No Comments.

3. Press Release – August 18 2015 Re: Enterprise Zone.

C. Wenzel remarked that Harvard is starting to think of agricultural production potential more. They are trying something new with it, looking at it from an agritourism perspective.

G. Anderson introduced himself to the commission and briefly described his role as the new Economic Development Director. He also described his strategy for improving and growing Woodstock's economy, which has four main categories: technology, networks, community support and capital. He is stepping up the city's presence on Facebook and social media, working with the local Rotary Club, attending networking events, contacting real estate partners, and reviewing demographic data, and what programs, like the Enterprise Zone, are available to help with capital needs. Garrett described the Enterprise Zone for the commission, noting the various levels of property tax relief available and the length of terms for that and other incentives.

G. Anderson then presented the sales tax report, breaking the city's businesses into five different zones. The Route 14 zone and the Route 47 & 120 zones account for a huge portion of all of Woodstock's sales tax receipts. A. Celentano interjected that this was another reason to keep Route 47 vital. G. Anderson thanked the commission for their efforts, noting that transportation and transportation related amenities are things that people look for when considering where to build and live. G. Anderson and the commission reviewed more maps showing available sites, the new fiber optic path, good areas for future growth and where the city has TIF districts as well as the new Enterprise Zone. A. Celentano had a concern over the impact of the Enterprise Zone on the city's infrastructure, and its plans for the future. The commission agreed, and discussed the need for better paths, and easier access to businesses, whether by automobile, bike or foot traffic.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Electric Trolleys – Progress Report.

C. Wenzel reported that she is still working on putting something together with J. Osborn. C. Wenzel will finish putting something together and send it to J. Van Landuyt, who will send it around. The commission moved the electric trolley topic to November.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. H.S. EDD Students Introduction & Presentation – Bike Rack Rental System

Students present for presentation included: Jordan Loacker, Sam Wright, Spencer Stumpf, Martin Halilaj, Tess Deringer, Nicholas Gulli, Pat McGrath and Daniel Regna. Steve Thompson, CTE Department Chair, was also present. Jordan Loacker explained the project. Sam Wright added that they wanted to put in a bike rental system to benefit citizens of Woodstock, reduce congestion and decrease fossil fuel use. Spencer stated they wanted to improve things by designing a system for people to use around Woodstock, saving money and gas. Jordan talked about some of the design issues they encountered, including how to implement a locking mechanism, various safety concerns and where and how to install the bike racks. Possible locations include the old courthouse, train station, and similar locations. One possibility for the locking mechanism is an Ardeno board. J. Osborn had a concern regarding the credit card payment system and how it could be handled securely. He suggested possibly coordinating with Woodstock Rec Department as they have system in place that might work. A. Celentano said it was a good introduction, and suggested possibly make the system a no-cash one.

Next, Pat, Daniel and Tess presented a piece entitled Urban Bike Route Extension. They discussed expanding bike trails to Ridgefield, partially by connecting to the prairie trails system. The group explored the topic because there are very irregular paths for commuting and leisure in Woodstock, and a bike path throughout Woodstock would help move people through the community and also be a tourist draw. They have developed a variety of maps showing how to extend paths from Culvers all the way downtown, via Walmart, over the Route 47 bridge and over to the square. The group had used Survey Monkey to design a survey for local business people and public officials asking if a bike path would be helpful to the community. The feedback from the survey was positive, and that making Woodstock more bike friendly would bring more people to Woodstock's businesses. S. Hudson asked the students about

some of their assumptions of the amount of impact that bike paths could have on the community, and suggested changing some of their language to be less emphatic. J. Osborn noted that he is slightly jealous of communities that have trails and believes Woodstock is at a disadvantage relative to many other communities. A. Celentano added that while a good bike path system may not cure a stagnating economy, it will help make a community more attractive. C. Wenzel liked the presentation, but wondered how the group proposed to handle signage for where the bike paths cross, or are crossed by, roads. Pat indicated this is in the plan, but it hasn't been fully developed yet. The commission then questioned the students about some of the specifics of particular locations and marking necessary on the trails. The students indicated they have thought of most of the commissions concerns, and hope to incorporate answers/solutions in their final presentation. The commission indicating they were looking forward to that presentation.

2. Consideration of Transportation Plan Revisions – all chapters

Commission agrees to each send comments and suggestions for revisions to J. Van Landuyt individually. A. Celentano added that the comments and suggestions are all minor.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Continued Review/Update of 2008 Transportation Plan – November 2015
2. Alternate ways to get across IL Rt. 47 – November 2015
3. Interaction w/ Department of Community and Economic Development re: Route 47 Improvements

ADJOURN:

Motion by Susan Hudson, second by Caron Wenzel to adjourn to a Regular Meeting November 18 2015 @ 7:00 PM. Ayes: Chairman Andrew Celentano, Caron Wenzel, Jason Osborn, Susan Hudson. Nays: None. Absentees: Mark Indyke. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Weber – Deputy City Clerk