

MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMISSION
JULY 13, 2020

Note: The monthly meetings of the Traffic and Parking Commission are documented via video and are available through Metro ITS Department (<http://www.nashville.gov/Information-Technology-Services.aspx>) and Metro Nashville's YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/MetroNashville>)

The regular monthly meeting of the Traffic and Parking Commission was held at 3:00 p.m., on Monday, July 13, 2020, via WebEx.

Attendees

Commissioners

John Green (chair), Feller Brown (vice chair, absent), Betsy Williams, Sara Lee Woods, Karen Robbins, Pastor Marvin Neal (absent), Council Member Freddie O'Connell, Lieutenant Mike Gilliland, Nora Kern

Staff

Chip Knauf, Diane Marshall, Korby Bowden, Jon Boghozian, Jorge Riveros, Mary Beth Ikard, Teresa Costonis, Derek Hagerty

Others

Tiffany Giordano, John Gore, Alfred Degrafinreid, Erin Hafkenschiel, Michael Briggs

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman John Green announced Ordinance No. BL2006-1050 regarding the appeals process of the Traffic and Parking Commission.

"If you are not satisfied with a decision made by the Traffic & Parking Commission, you may appeal the decision by filing for a writ of certiorari with the Davidson County Chancery or Circuit Court. Your appeal must be filed within 60 days of the date of the entry of the Commission's decision. We advise that you seek your own independent legal advice to ensure that your appeal is filed in a timely manner and that all procedural requirements have been met."

Motion to comply with the Governors Executive Order 16 regarding electronic meetings:

"The items on the meeting agenda constitute essential business of this body and meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak."

Motion to comply: Council Member O'Connell

2nd: Commissioner Woods

Motion passed: no opposition

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Kern moved to approve the July agenda and Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member O'Connell moved for approval of the June 22, 2020 minutes and Commissioner Kern seconded. Approved with no opposition.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda 20-07 was presented and Commissioner Woods made a motion that items (a) and (b) be removed from consent. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kern. All in favor, no opposition.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 20-07

Parking Regulations:

a) CD 19: Authorize valet zone at 1 Music Square West for the Virgin Hotel; requested by Premier Parking

removed from consent

b) CD 19: Authorize removal of 6-space parking meter zone on east side of Overton Street (near 901 Division Street) for construction of Nashville Canopy; requested by Ragan-Smith Associates

removed from consent

Traffic Regulations

c) CD 9: Authorize speed limit reduction on Neelys Bend Road from Gallatin Pike to dead end (Peeler Park) from 40 mph to 35 mph; requested by CM Tonya Hancock

d) CD 4: Authorize speed limit reduction on Cottonport Drive from Cloverland Drive to dead end from 30 mph to 25 mph; requested by resident

Mandatory Referrals

e) CD 19: 2020M-010AB-001 - A request for the abandonment of a portion of Union Street and Rosa L. Parks Avenue right-of-way and easement at the northeast corner of Union Street and Rosa L. Parks Avenue (see sketch and legal description for details); requested by Barge Cauthen and Associates, applicant.

f) CD 21: 2020M-009AB-001 - Request for the abandonment of right-of-way and easements along an unnumbered alley from Alley # 540 eastward to 14th Avenue North, approximately 140 feet north of Buchanan Street (see sketch for details); requested by Centric Architecture, applicant; Buchanan Partners LLC and Buchanan Properties II, owners.

g) CD 11: 2020M-008AB-001 - A request for the abandonment of right-of-way and easement for a portion of an unnumbered alley located off of Center Street, northward approximately 125 feet along the southeast property line of parcel 05605003300 (see sketch for details); requested by Margie Russell, owner.

Chairperson Green read the revised consent agenda. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Woods; seconded by Council Member O'Connell. No opposition.

Chairperson Green revisited item (a). Ms. Marshall provided information regarding the item. The proposed zone is located on the west side of Music Sq West and would be a 24/7 zone. Commissioner Woods pointed out that we have a valet update discussion later within the agenda and asked if we should wait to act. Council Member O'Connell confirmed the need for the proposed valet but expressed concern for the continued issues and questions

surrounding valet approvals, fees, and operations. Council Member O’Connell asked the Chair if we could delay taking action on this item until later in the meeting. It was agreed to delay action at this time.

Chairperson Green revisited item (b). Ms. Marshall provided information regarding the item by stating that the removal of the meters is based on the need for site circulation and for the addition of a south bound left turn lane at the intersection with Division Street. The request is to remove (5) parking meters on the east side of Overton Street on the north side of Division Street and to remove (1) parking meters on the west side of Overton Street on the north side of Division Street. Commissioner Woods asked how much revenue would be lost with the removal. Ms. Marshall estimated \$1000 annually. Council Member O’Connell asked Ms. Costonis if Metro Code has provisions for lost revenue for meter removal within the application process for development and valet. Ms. Costonis stated that she is unaware of a Code provision to address lost revenue from meter removal. Commissioner Woods expressed an interest in continuing the conversation regarding lost revenue. Council Member O’Connell continued by saying that future applications might could have varied fees based on the type and location.

Tiffany Giordano, representing Ragan Smith, joined the conversation by further explaining the proposed meter removal. Ms. Giordano stated that the primary need for the removal (5 meters on east side) is based on having two driveways, which would provide better on-site circulation, as opposed to circulating on public right of way. The secondary need is a result of a condition placed by Metro Public Works to have a left turn lane at Division Street. This condition introduced the need for an additional meter to be removed from the west side of Overton Street.

Council Member O’Connell reiterated that he would like the “bigger picture” be considered, but he agrees with this item to move forward.

Motion for approval by Council Member O’Connell; seconded by Commissioner Kern. Motion passed with no opposition.

Other Items

1) Update on valet operations

Ms. Costonis expressed that there possibly could be a larger update on smart parking, valet, and curbside usage at the next meeting. She would like to reserve the discussion for the larger, upcoming topic. Chairperson Green asked if this is expected to be an action item. Ms. Costonis did not expect any action item. Ms. Ikard added that there is a proposed pilot project, with Coord, that is based on a pay to play framework for specified loading areas. The pilot would collect data using a smart loading zone concept. Part of the proposed pilot would include an Ordinance granting the Traffic and Parking Commission the ability to set various fees associated with high demand loading areas. This would be an action item at a future meeting as it will be a recommendation to Council for a proposed change in the Metro Code.

Commissioner Woods asked if the Commission would receive an update on the curbside usage study along with the presentation that Ms. Ikard refers to. Mr. Knauf stated that the previously discussed valet study quickly grew and became a part of a larger, overall parking analysis that would include numerous stake holders and the Mayor’s Office. He continued that, at the August meeting, the Commission will get a presentation regarding the proposed pilot program.

Commissioner Woods asked about deferring consent item (a) for one month pending more information regarding the parking program. Ms. Marshall stated that they are currently operating under a temporary permit and deferring one month would not interfere with the current operations. Commissioner Woods made a motion to defer consent item (a) for one month; seconded by Commissioner Williams. There was no opposition.

2) Update on county wide speed limit reduction

Mr. Knauf explained that the presentation for the traffic calming program will also include an update on county wide speed limit reduction.

Chairperson Green introduced Derek Hagerty

3) Update on the traffic calming program

Mr. Hagerty presented an update on the speed limit reduction legislation. The update included that Metro Public Works is currently collecting information related to sign inventory via image collection and recognition. He stated that speed limit sign changes would, most likely, be done in geographic sections over a month or so. Commissioner Kern asked where this project is as far as Council and Traffic and Parking approval. Mr. Knauf added that the current process of gathering sign replacement data is part of the information to be presented for the proposed change in Metro Code to Council and the Traffic and Parking Commission and that it has not been introduced for action for either body.

Mr. Hagerty continued by giving an update on the traffic calming program. (see presentation information)

Discussion item

Vanderbilt University Distancing Project

Mr. Alfred Degrafinreid introduced the program concept and continued to introduce Ms. Erin Hafkenschiel. Ms. Hafkenschiel detailed the program by saying that the goal of the program is to provide social distancing measures for campus users in areas that experience limited walking space availability. She continued by introducing Mr. Michael Briggs for further details.

Mr. Briggs presented slides showing proposed street modifications to allow distancing for pedestrians. He showed Edgehill Avenue which would be modified with a reduction in travel lanes to add width for walking and cycling. This is proposed to be done using traffic cones or other temporary measures. The second area of concern is Terrace Place. The proposed change would impact 3 parking meters to give additional walking space in the closed parking and travel lane area. The proposed meter closure would be for the duration of the distancing program. The third area is Jess Neely Drive near the football stadium and on Highland Avenue. The modification on Jess Neely Drive would result in the closure of the metered parking area. The modification on Highland Avenue would result in a reduction in travel and turn lanes.

Commissioner Woods asked if the closed meters would be permanent. Ms. Hafkenschiel replied that the closure is planned to be temporary and any permanent closure would require Traffic and Parking Commission action. She added that they will investigate other parking meter possibilities to help offset any lost revenue.

Chairperson Green asked if there was action needed by the Commission at this point. Mr. Knauf stated that, because, at this point, this will be a temporary condition, this presentation was for Commission information purposes and further permissions would be granted by applying for the necessary temporary permits.

Council Member O'Connell added that he was very familiar with this area and the capacity concerns, especially for cyclist. He expressed his approval of the project.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Lieutenant Gilliland moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Woods. The motion was approved by voice vote with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m. on the 13th day of July 2020.

Traffic and Parking Commission Resolution No. 20-07 authorized by Chapter 9 Of the Charter of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee as amended

BE IT RESOLVED by the Traffic and Parking Commission of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee as follows:
SECTION I: That Chapter 12 of said Metropolitan Code, said Chapter being entitled 'Vehicles and Traffic' is amended as follows:

APPROVED: July 13, 2020 EFFECTIVE: July 18, 2020

The above-mentioned Resolution items were previously approved under the Consent Agenda or other action items.

Chairperson, Traffic and Parking Commission

Metro staff designee of the Traffic and Parking Commission