



Citizens Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2022

A regular meeting of the Royal Oak Citizens Traffic Committee was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, in the commission chambers at City Hall, 203 S. Troy Street, Royal Oak.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Godek at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call:**

Present

Dan Godek, Chairperson  
Sean Dunlop  
Andrew Kowalkowski  
Thomas Allen  
Amanda Morris-Smith  
Samantha Grant

Also Present

Holly J. Donoghue, City Engineer  
Stephen Pernal, Engineer II  
Jennifer Caudill, Municipal Clerk III  
Lt. Jacob Theisen, Police

Absent

Corey Reiser

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**3. Approval of Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2021**

Moved by: Sean Dunlop

Supported by: Samantha Grant

Motion adopted unanimously

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**4. Public Comment**

None

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**5. Rescheduled Items/Old Business**

**5.A Results of November Traffic Committee Recommendations to city commission**

City Engineer, Holly J. Donoghue, updated the committee on the city commission resolutions from the previous traffic committee meeting's recommendations.

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## 6. Agenda Items

### 6.A Proposal to install roundabout at Greenfield and Normandy and option to close Beverly Court at Greenfield Road

The city has been working with the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) to evaluate the potential for a roundabout at the intersection of Greenfield Road and Normandy Road to help with traffic calming (speeding) on Greenfield Road. As part of the design project, staff is considering the closure of Beverly Court at Greenfield Road (both north and south entrances).

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly Donoghue, P.E. She also noted that staff received an email from Stacy and Dan Martin of 4403 Beverly Court (south side) who stated they were in favor of closing the road at Greenfield if a roundabout is installed.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue.

- Greg LaVoy of 4307 Beverly Court (south side) spoke in favor of both the roundabout and the closure of Beverly Court at Greenfield. He stated that Beverly Court already deals with cut-thru traffic from motorists avoiding the Normandy & Greenfield intersection.
- Carol Kelly of 4406 Beverly Court (north side) also spoke in favor of closing Beverly Court. She stated she has spoken to all four neighbors on her side, and everyone is in favor of both the roundabout and the berms/closure. She noted they would like to close the road even if a roundabout is not installed.
- Mark Goedtel of 4311 Beverly Court (south side) spoke in support of the roundabout and the closure. He is in favor of the landscaped berms.
- Wally Andersen of 404 Mount Vernon Boulevard spoke in favor of the roundabout. She stated it is a wonderful idea and this will help with traffic calming and making it easier and faster for motorists to turn onto Greenfield Road from Normandy Road.

**The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends adopting the staff recommendation to move forward with construction of a roundabout at Greenfield Road and Normandy Road, and to close Beverly Court at Greenfield Road.**

Moved by: Amanda Morris-Smith

Supported by: Thomas Allen

Motion adopted unanimously

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### 6.B Request to install stop signs at the intersection of Judson Avenue and Prairie Avenue

A request was received from Chris Walus of 3302 Prairie to install stop signs on Judson Avenue at Prairie Avenue. He states there is excessive speeding and cut-thru traffic using Judson Avenue to get to and from Beaumont Hospital. He spoke about his truck getting hit by another speeding vehicle when it was parked on Judson Avenue recently. His concerns are for his children and others in the neighborhood and someone's house getting damaged due to speeding and reckless motorists.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly Donoghue, P.E.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue. No one came forward.

**The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends adopting the staff recommendation to deny the request to install stop signs on Judson Avenue at Prairie Avenue.**

Moved by: Thomas Allen

Supported by: Andrew Kowalkowski

Motion adopted unanimously

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### **6.C Request to install Stop signs at the intersection of Hawthorne Avenue and Fairgrove Avenue**

A request was received from an anonymous citizen who was concerned that there are no stop signs at the intersection of Hawthorne Avenue and Fairgrove Avenue. They stated this makes it a dangerous intersection since everyone has the right-of-way.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly Donoghue, P.E.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue. No one came forward.

Mr. Godek noted that he would prefer for staff to continue bringing these types of requests to the traffic committee rather than administratively approving them.

**The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends adopting the staff recommendation to install one stop sign (R1-1) for northbound Fairgrove Avenue at Hawthorne Avenue.**

Moved by: Amanda Morris-Smith

Supported by: Lt. Jacob Thiesen

Motion adopted unanimously

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### **6.D Traffic Study Results – Rochester Road**

The city received authorization to conduct traffic studies of the Rochester Road and 11 Mile Road corridors at the October 11, 2021 commission meeting. Fleis and VandenBrink (F&V) was awarded the engineering work and has completed the traffic study for Rochester Road (the 11 Mile Road study will be presented at a future date). Staff wishes to present the study results to the traffic committee and city commission for consideration.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly Donoghue, P.E.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue.

- Tom Regan of 3126 Glenview spoke in favor of the road diet and urges adding bike lanes.

- Paul Vial of 2408 Galpin spoke in favor of the road diet, without bike lanes, and adding more greenspace. He thought the bike lanes would not be used much and that green space would add to property values.
- Sue Fabian of 316 Midland spoke against the road diet, and asked why the city performed the study. She is concerned that it will create back-ups and lock residents into the neighborhood. She questioned if big money politicians were pushing for the road diet.
- Claire Treasko of 1860 Rochester spoke against the road diet, stating this would cause problems for the fire department and that the city should survey residents via mail or petition before deciding.
- Mark Nelson of 354 Detroit spoke against the road diet, stating it would cause traffic backups and make it even more difficult to exit the side streets, which is already difficult for him. He noted that cell phones are the primary safety concern, not the lane setup. He noted that no one uses the Main Street bike paths.
- Wally Andersen of 404 Mount Vernon spoke against the road diet, stating that the Main Street road diet has caused long backs up and cut thru traffic into the neighborhood west of Main and north of 13 Mile, and that it is difficult exiting the side streets. She said a road diet on Rochester will have an adverse effect on the neighborhood and that more vehicles take Rochester Road now because of the Main Street road diet.
- Bill Harrison of 2729 Trafford spoke against the road diet, stating that he would rather take the risk and being rear-ended and that the money to implement the road diet would be better spent on sewer improvements. He asked if the city discussed this with City of Clawson. He noted that he believes refuge islands are dangerous and a bad idea, and would not support the installation of bike lanes. He thinks all bicyclists should be required to have lighting in the front and back of the bike.
- Phyllis Salter of 1028 N Lafayette spoke against the road diet, stating there is constant tailgating on Main Street now due to motorists being in a rush, and the same will happen on Rochester. She does not think a road diet will improve property values.
- Andre Abbate of 1310 Bauman spoke against the road diet, but said if it was going to happen, he would prefer the no bike lanes option, more greenspace.
- Gail Agacinski of 1103 Pinehurst spoke against the road diet, stating it will be harder to access the downtown and city services like the library and middle school, and that cut thru traffic will increase. She also thinks more consequential metrics need to be provided to make an informed decision such as how much volume is diverted into the neighborhoods and how long the backups will be.
- Ashley Ambati of 608 Montrose spoke in favor of the road diet with no bike lanes and more greenspace. She said it will be easier to cross Rochester Road and feel safer for pedestrians with having more distance between the sidewalk and roadway. She noted that waiting to turn left from Rochester Road is scary and she worries about being rear-ended. She spoke about choosing safety of residents over the convenience of motorists.

Mr. Godek closed the public comment and noted that he was concerned with the impact this will have on the community. The roll of the committee is to make a recommendation that benefits the community as a whole.

Mr. Allen asked if the road diet on N. Main Street had been studied after it was installed. Ms. Donoghue noted that a formal study has not be performed, primarily because there have not been complaints raised about the traffic flow with the exception of one intersection near 13 Mile Road brought to the committee previously. Observationally, the N. Main Street road diet appears to function well and she has not observed regular traffic back-ups or congestion.

**Member Thomas Allen motioned tabling the vote until a traffic study is done to analyze the results of the road diet on N. Main Street.**

Moved by: Thomas Allen

Supported by: Sean Dunlop

Motion fails; (5) NAYS – Andrew Kowalkowski, Amanda Morris-Smith, Lt. Jacob Theisen, Dan Godek, Samantha Grant

**Member Andrew Kowalkowski motioned to approve staff recommendation. There was no support. Motion fails.**

Ms. Morris-Smith noted that she was not convinced that the benefits of the road diet outweighed the concerns presented by the public and felt this was a very difficult decision.

Mr. Godek noted that if a road diet is implemented, the city should leave the curbs where they are so that the option to return back to a 4-lane configuration would be possible.

Mr. Dunlop questioned how the committee would vote if the public opinion was reversed and the majority of respondents were in favor of a road diet. He noted that the public opinion seems to be a major consideration for the committee members.

**The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends denying the staff recommendation and not installing a 3-lane road diet on Rochester Road from N. Main Street to 14 Mile Road.**

Moved by: Amanda Morris-Smith

Supported by: Thomas Allen

Motion adopted; (1) NAY – Andrew Kowalkowski

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## 7. Information Only Items

### 7.A I-75 Southbound Ramp at 11 Mile Road

The city has had further discussion with MDOT regarding the 11 Mile on-ramp to southbound I-75. In order to meet the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) recommended weave distance for cars to safely weave between lanes to I-696, the on-ramp will be moved approximately 600 feet north of its current location. This will eliminate the E. Fourth Street access to I-75.

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## 8. Adjourn

Upon the motion of Thomas Allen, seconded by Samantha Grant, and adopted unanimously, the regular meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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**Cc:** Traffic Committee Members, Inc. Ex-Officio Members:  
Shelly Kamp, Chamber of Commerce  
Mary Beth Fitzpatrick, Royal Oak School Superintendent  
Candi Drouillard, PTA Council President  
Corrigan O'Donoghue, Police Chief  
Dave Cummins, Fire Chief  
Tim Thwing, Director of Community Development

Aaron Filipski, Director of Recreation and Public Services