

**MINUTES
BLOOMINGTON TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
109 EAST OLIVE STREET
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Angela Ballantini, Mr. Rob Ballantini, Ms. Jill Blair (@4:05 pm), Ms. Maureen (Reenie) Bradley, Ms. Katherine Browne, Mr. Michael Gorman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Elizabeth Kooba

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. George Boyle, City Attorney; Assistant Chief Greg Scott, Police Department; Mr. Kevin Kothe, City Engineer; Mr. Philip Allyn, City Traffic Engineer; and members of the public.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Gorman called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

2. ROLL CALL: Mr. Allyn called the roll. With six members in attendance, a quorum was established.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

4. MINUTES: Reviewed and approved the minutes of the February 19, 2019 regular meeting of the Bloomington Transportation Commission. Mr. Rob Ballantini motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Angela Ballantini seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the Transportation Commission unanimously via voice vote.

5. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Information: Proposed 2019 Construction Season Resurfacing Program Public Information

Mr. Allyn indicated that he clarified and added some additional details to the information from last month. The intent is to have the information relating to the resurfacing decision process on either the Public Works website or the new website set up for Bloomington Streets. He indicated that this packet includes information as to why certain streets were selected for resurfacing in 2019, such as pavement ratings. He also reiterated that it would not be feasible to detail why all other specific streets were not chosen but anyone is welcomed to contact the Public Works Department with specific questions and they will do their best to answer them.

Ms. Bradley asked if this was the final list and if there would be any changes to it. Mr. Allyn indicated that the bids came in higher than expected so there will be no additions and they are trying to figure out how to get all streets on current list completed, indicating that new money from Local Motor Tax Fund may be used cover gap. Ms. Bradley asked if they have a concern about why a street is not on the list, should they go to the city website and submit a question. Mr. Allyn said yes, or if they have a question about specific street, they could call Public Works and they will work to get appropriate answers.

Mr. Gorman referred to last month's meeting about transparency and acknowledged that not all information in the internal GIS has been added to the public GIS, specifically the year until a street will be resurfaced. Mr. Allyn explained that this information is very fluid because conditions change for different streets so there is a concern that the public would believe this schedule was more definitive than it is. Mr. Gorman referenced IDOT's Multi-Year Program that is also fluid and changes every year but it gives Illinois residents a general idea of when a street will be repaired. Mr. Allyn said that staff will look into publishing a more general list of streets that are planned for resurfacing sometime within a 2-5 year

window. Mr. Gorman indicated it is hard to have conversations with citizens about how the City is using funds without a general idea of how much it costs to repair city roads. It would also be easier for the public to support additional taxes such as the recently increased Local Motor Fuel Tax if they know when their street will be paved and how the additional tax will decrease the wait. There doesn't seem to be a tangible connection between the taxes they pay and the pavement quality on their street.

Ms. Bradley commented that transparency is important and she understands there are variables that impact when a street needs to be paved and it's important that residents have the opportunity to report damage to their street. She asked for clarification about how much money we have to repair streets. Mr. Allyn indicated with the new LMTF added to the previous LMFT and a portion of the city sales tax, we have about \$7 million each year to use on streets, sidewalks, and pavement preservation. The council is exploring creating an enterprise fund to control the spending of these funds and will define the eligibility criteria for projects. Ms. Bradley commented that the LMFT increase was done too quickly and there was not enough time for Council members to adequately discuss with their constituents prior to voting. Mr. Allyn indicated that the Council asked potential sources of revenue, the City Manager mentioned this as a possibility, and the Council opted to move forward with it as part of the budget.

Mr. Rob Ballantini asked if sidewalks would be repaired when the streets are resurfaced. Mr. Allyn indicated that all non-complaint ADA ramps are required to be fixed when streets are resurfaced. However, we try to view the sidewalk work independently and repair the worst areas first. We have ratings for all the sidewalk in the City broken down by property parcel. We do try to coordinate work, such as on Front St. where we replaced damaged sidewalks at the same time as we resurfaced the road. However, if sidewalk along a resurfacing project is still serviceable, it will likely not be replaced with a pavement resurfacing until the failed sidewalk in other parts of the City is all replaced. Mr. Rob Ballantini then asked about a specific location along Main St. Mr. Allyn indicated that we are just getting started on the year's sidewalk work and this section should be included, but he isn't sure where it falls in the schedule for the year. Mr. Gorman asked Mr. Allyn about the responsibility for sidewalks along a State road. Mr. Allyn explained that the City is generally responsible for the sidewalks with the exceptions being ADA ramps that cross the State roads and locations where the sidewalk and curb and poured together.

Mr. Gorman asked for an update on the city's Sidewalk Master Plan and how sidewalks differ from streets as far as longevity. Mr. Allyn indicated that most sidewalks last longer than streets, but it depends on how well it was constructed (most sidewalk in newer parts of town was constructed by developers or home owners), what material was used, when it was made, and whether there are trees that will lift up panels as they grow. The Master Plan is progressing as we are in year 3 or 4 of the plan that would get us to a good state within 10 years. We have been increasing funding and making good progress, but he can not speak specifically on whether we are ahead or behind of where the Plan indicated we should be.

Mrs. Blair indicated the information on each of the streets to be resurfaced was helpful, especially the photos. It really helps explain why those streets are in need of repair. Mr. Allyn explained that they are working to add this information and pictures to the BloomingtonStreets.com website, along with progress update info and time-lapse videos. Mrs. Bradley asked what type of rollout the city is planning to get information out about the new website and suggested that we need to celebrate the work that is being done rather than focusing on what isn't being done.

B. Information: April 2019 Citizen Comments/Complaints Summary

Ms. Bradley asked about the Irving School Crossing Guard warrant, (#40). Mr. Allyn indicated that the data gathering is underway, but has not yet been completed.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Ms. Bradley asked for an update with the Post Office move. Mr. Allyn indicated that we have been gathering crash and traffic data but believes there is a noticeable drop in accidents once the post office moved away and we hope that will lead to the cul-de-sac option. Ms. Bradley ask for a timeline on the move and Mr. Allyn said there is nothing specific from them beyond the late summer move they indicated when they first announced it last year. We have not yet received any site plans for approval. Mr. Gorman asked if the City could install a cul-de-sac, even if the Post Office does not want it. Mr. Allyn indicated that we could without the Post Office. We would need to get approval from IDOT as it is in their Right-of-Way, but they understand there is a problem and would likely welcome that change. There are other considerations beyond that including if that money would be better spent elsewhere in the city. We will watch and if problems develop after the move, we will address them as efficiently as possible. Mr. Ballantini mentioned that he had heard from employees they were looking at moving in June.

Mr. Gorman asked if the Post Office was still considering using the west side parking lot as a customer entrance. Mr. Allyn indicated that there have been no more discussions since last November or December but that at that time they had some safety concerns about mixing the operations aspects (loading and unloading) with customer operations in that park lot.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. None

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

- A. Ms. Blair commented that this would be her last meeting as she took another job out of town and she has appreciated serving on the Commission.
- B. Mr. Boyle shared on behalf of Staff a thank you to all the Commissioners that are leaving and for the ones staying.
- C. Mr. Gorman also commented that this would be his last meeting as he was moving to Chicago for graduate school.

9. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm unanimously by voice vote; motioned by Ms. Blair and seconded by Mr. Rob Ballantini.

Respectfully,

Philip Allyn
City Traffic Engineer