

AGENDA: TSC 12/1/14

ITEM NO. 4: Consider constructing a PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON on 19th Street at Alabama Street.

Staff Report:

1. 19th Street is classified as a "minor arterial" street, paved approximately 30 feet wide and a posted speed limit of 30mph.
2. The most recent traffic count on 19th Street shows approximately 13,000 vehicles per day.
3. Based on the posted speed limit of 30mph, the width of the street and a walking speed of 3.5 feet/second (typical for an elementary school student), there would need to be a gap in traffic of approximately 510 feet both east and west of the intersection (shown on the attached map) for a pedestrian to safely cross the street.
4. The nearest controlled crossings on 19th Street are at Louisiana Street, 1,365 feet east of the intersection, and Naismith Drive, 1,200 feet west of the intersection.

MINUTES: TSC 12/1/14

ITEM NO. 4:

Consider request to construct a PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON on 19th Street at Alabama Street.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comments:

Emily Sharp, 902 W. 20th Terrace: It is an inconvenience to get across 19th Street; I have to get into 19th Street with my stroller and my dog, particularly during rush hour; often I have to go all the way to Louisiana to cross; can't go to Naismith to cross because there is not a sidewalk on the north side of 19th Street; my mother watches my daughters and has a disability and would never have enough time to cross the street if she needed to; I have to dart out into traffic when I'm alone, but, I'm not comfortable when I have my kids.

Erika Kirkland, 1908 Alabama Street: Any families on the north side of the 19th Street would have to cross at Alabama in order for the children to use the wide sidewalk along the south side of the street.

Tom Harper, 2152 Owens Lane: This is the easiest of the three (3) requests; just hang-out at 19th and Alabama at five o'clock, it's really tight, there is a lot of traffic, and people stand on both sides of the street trying to cross; I want a button on each side with lights.

Daniel Zimney, 2009 Alabama Street: There is quite a bit of KU traffic and KU students, particularly on game nights; the same is true at Lawrence High School when there is a football game; that kind of traffic may not have been caught during the study in October.

Commission Comments:

Commissioner Rothrock: I was in school and walked through that intersection at least once a day for two (2) semesters and it is frightening, and as a single able-bodied adult trying to get across that anytime from 3pm-6pm, it's seriously taking your life into your own hands; as a driver, I have been afraid to stop and let someone cross, afraid I would get hit from behind; I would be a strong supporter of putting a crosswalk in there.

Commissioner Koprince: I used to live not far from here, we used to walk our children around in strollers, and I would second those comments.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROTHROCK, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, TO RECOMMEND CONSTRUCTING A PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON ON 19TH STREET AT ALABAMA STREET, THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Laura Zimney
2009 Alabama St.
Lawrence, KS 66046-2855

September 30, 2014

Subject: Request for Traffic-Calming Devices on the 1900-2000 block of Alabama Street, 20 MPH Speed Limit Signs posted on Alabama Street, and a Pedestrian Crosswalk-Light at 19th Street and Alabama Street intersection

Dear City of Lawrence Traffic Safety Commission:

The 1900-2000 block of Alabama runs along the west side of Lawrence High School. The residents of this street experience both high volume and high speed traffic. Many small children live on this residential street, including my own, whom I feel uncomfortable with playing in our front yard due to the dangerous traffic. The majority of motorists using this street are non-residential and it is used as a 'cut-through' street where vehicles accelerate quickly from 19th to 21st and vice versa.

1. Traffic-Calming Devices

Traffic-Calming Devices along the 1900-2000 block of Alabama would greatly reduce the high-speed traffic.

2. 20 MPH Speed Limit Signs

We further request that 20 MPH Speed Limit Signs be installed along the 1900-2000 block of Alabama.

3. Pedestrian Crosswalk-Light

Finally, we request the installation of a Pedestrian Crosswalk-Light at the intersection of 19th and Alabama Streets. In my opinion this is the optimum location for a Pedestrian Crosswalk-Light, but since this will affect both the University Place Neighborhood and the Centennial Neighborhood, whichever intersection those Neighborhood Associations agree upon is acceptable, so long as it is located between Louisiana Street and Naismith Street along 19th Street.

Residents and students; University of Kansas students, Lawrence High School students and children walking to Cordley Elementary School from this neighborhood wait long periods of time attempting to cross here. And when they do cross they often have to run because the traffic on 19th is fast, continuous and unyielding. A Pedestrian Crosswalk-Light like the ones on 12th and 18th and Kentucky will improve our safety.

Alabama Street experiences higher than usual traffic volume, especially due to its proximity to KU and LHS. This neighborhood needs improved walkability for students, seniors and families and these three improvements increase both safety and walkability.

Thank you for considering our requests. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Kindly,

Laura Zimney

cc University Place Neighborhood Association and Centennial Neighborhood Association

David Woosley

From: Joan Stevenson <js702014@att.net>
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 10:21 AM
To: David Woosley
Subject: Traffic safety Dec. 1, 2014

I am writing to encourage the city to consider a traffic calming device or 20 MPH speed limit on Alabama between 19th and 21st.

Was very surprised to note that when the traffic was checked that there was very little over speeding! Seems as tho they go by my house as if they are on the turnpike! Between 4 and 6 Pm the traffic is heaviest. As a matter of fact many come thru the area to avoid the light on Naismith. When the traffic on 19th is bogged down almost to Louisiana waiting for the light at 19th and Naismith, then you see many of the cars, instead of waiting for the light make a quick turn down Alabama to 21st then back west.

For years I have thought we need some type of traffic slowing, since a young child or even an adult could certainly be hit with the speeding traffic. Much of the traffic is coming down 20th from the west and then onto Alabama and then on south. Perhaps the KU traffic? I don't know but they zoom in from the west and then on to Alabama. I have resided on Alabama for 50 + years and the traffic has increased. When the high school day is finished many of them speed by here and many are coming from the south off 21st. The complaints of traffic will probably be small to you, since the majority of our street is now rentals and seriously doubt the tenants will complain, and the landlords don't care.

Thank you,
Joan Stevenson
2014 Alabama
Lawrence Ks.



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David Woosley

From: Alderson, Betty J. [<mailto:adkab@ku.edu>]
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 4:38 PM
To: City Hall email
Cc: cgjacob@sunflower.com
Subject: RE: December 2014 Traffic Safety Commission Meeting

David,

I whole-heartedly support the request for traffic calming on Alabama from 19th to 21st streets. I am surprised that the traffic study did not reflect the high speeds that are frequently observed along that stretch of road. 20th street does go west from Alabama to Naismith and it brings with it a lot of 'cut-through' traffic that turns north onto Alabama to avoid the signal lights at 19th and Naismith. Having lived at 1920 Maine for more than 50 years I am well aware of the traffic situation in the area, and of the difficulty of crossing 19th at Alabama. With the increased number of young children who are now living in the area south of 19th street, and with the closing of Centennial school, have to cross 19th to get to Cordley there is an additional challenge. I had once suggested that a crosswalk be added at that intersection, I believe it was after 19th was widened and reconfigured to the east, stopping at that intersection at Alabama.

Of course there is and has been for years a lot of congestion along 19th street all the way from Massachusetts to Iowa, especially at times that the various schools are experiencing additional traffic in the morning and afternoon. This includes traffic to KU, Lawrence High School, and Cordley.

Even though the criteria used might not indicate a solution is needed in the area, I strongly urge the commission to consider all or parts of this request. In addition to the conditions mentioned in the letter you received from the newer resident in the area, there is the additional one of a large number of student rentals in the area with too many drivers who are not attuned, at times, to young children playing in the area or crossing the streets.

Thanks for sharing my concerns with the members of the commission.

Betty Alderson



W 19th St

W 19th Ter

Maine St

W 20th St

Mitchell Rd

W 20th Ter

Naismith Dr

W 21st St

Virginia St

LAWRENCE

SNOIT

Carl Knox Natatorium

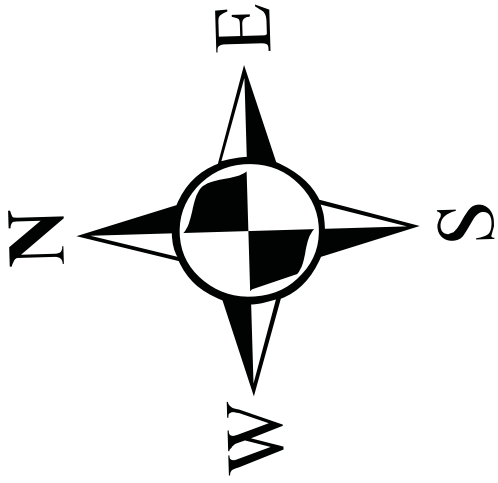




TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY

Resolution No. 6602, August 23, 2005

1. TRAFFIC-CALMING DEVICES may include but are not limited to Traffic-Calming Circles, Speed Humps and Speed Cushions, Speed Tables, Partial Diverters, Full Diverters, Center Island Narrowing, Chokers, and Road Closures; however, roundabouts are traffic management devices and are not subject to this policy.
2. TRAFFIC-CALMING DEVICES may be permitted on "local" streets as designated by the City's Major Thoroughfares Map, and under any one of the following conditions:
 - A. The 85th percentile speed of traffic is 5 mph or greater over the speed limit, or
 - B. The 24-hour two-way traffic volume is greater than 1000, or
 - C. Cut-through traffic comprises more than 50% of the traffic during the peak hour of the day, or
 - D. Where no single condition is satisfied, but where any two of A, B or C above are satisfied to the extent of 80 percent or more of the stated values.
3. TRAFFIC-CALMING DEVICES (except SPEED HUMPS) may be permitted on "collector" streets as designated by the City's Major Thoroughfares Map, under any one of the following conditions:
 - A. The 85th percentile speed of traffic is 5 mph or greater over the speed limit, or
 - B. The 24-hour two-way traffic volume is greater than 3000, or
 - C. Cut-through traffic comprises more than 50% of the traffic during the peak hour of the day, or
 - D. More than 50% of the frontage of the roadway consists of residential lots with the houses facing the roadway in question, or
 - E. Where no single condition is satisfied, but where any two of A, B, C or D above are satisfied to the extent of 80 percent or more of the stated values.
4. Traffic data will be collected with city personnel using city equipment only. In the event that a requested location does not meet the minimum requirements as stated in 2 or 3 above, subsequent requests will not be considered for a minimum of one year.
5. The Lawrence-Douglas County Fire & Medical Department, the Police Department, the Public Works Department and the Traffic Safety Commission must review all requests for TRAFFIC-CALMING DEVICES before being presented to the City Commission.
6. If a project is approved by the City Commission, the City Commission will determine financing of the construction. The City Commission may require 0-100% of the costs to be paid by the group or neighborhood making the request.
7. After a project is approved and funded by the City Commission, TRAFFIC-CALMING DEVICES will only be constructed at a location if 70% or more of the property owners within 300 feet measured along the centerline of the street in each direction approve of the installation or if directed by the City Commission. The individual, group or neighborhood making the request shall be responsible for obtaining the property owners' and residents' approval in writing and submitting it to the city.
8. Once installed, TRAFFIC-CALMING DEVICES may only be removed at a location if more than 70% of the property owners and residents within 300 feet measured along the centerline of the street in each direction approve of the removal or if directed by the City Commission. The individual, group or neighborhood making the request shall be responsible for obtaining the property owners' and residents' approval in writing and submitting it to the city.
9. TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES may initially be landscaped (if appropriate) by the city, provided that the group or neighborhood making the request agrees in writing to maintain the landscaping or pursuant to the payment of a landscape maintenance fee. No privately installed landscaping is permitted unless approved by the city in writing.



Overall October 28-29, 2014:
700 vehicles @ 33.2mph

NB: 180 vehicles
@ 32.9mph

NB: 225 vehicles
@ 33.6mph

SB: 490 vehicles
@ 32.5mph

SB: 505 vehicles
@ 33.9mph



Illinois St

Alabama St

Maine St

Maine St

W 19th Ter

W 20th St

W 20th Ter

Carolina St

W 21st St

Owens Ln

W 19th St

Alabama St

University of Kansas



Ward Center Dr

Naismith Dr

W 18th St

Arkansas St

Missouri St

Alabama St

Illinois St

W 18th St

Mississippi St

Indiana St

W 18th St

Louisiana St

Gap in traffic needed to safely cross 19th Street



W 19th St

1,200 feet

1,365 feet

W 19th Ter

Maine St

LAWRENCE

LIONS

Carl Knox Natatorium

Louisiana St

W 20th St

Naismith Dr

W 20th St

Mitchell Rd

Alabama St