

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
May 19, 2025

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Service-Safety Director Rob Martin, City Engineer Jeremy Kalb, Fire Chief Josh Eberle, Police Chief James Mathias.

STAFF PRESENT: Law Director Rob Feighner, Kathy Launder.

GUESTS PRESENT: none

OLD BUSINESS

1. Request of David Ray for a study to change the first alley west of S. Main Street between W. Crawford Street and W. Sandusky St. to a two-way alley.

10/21/2024

David Ray stated that it is difficult to see to pull out of alley onto Sandusky Street no matter which direction. He suggested bubble mirrors or the potential to change the alley to two-way. Director Martin stated that in discussing this with City Engineer Jeremy Kalb, there are a couple issues. The alley is pretty narrow to be able to make it two-way. People are creatures of habit the alley has been one-way for a number of years and people may not realize they can utilize it as two-way. Also, the direction of the one-way alleys/streets change from south to north as you head west. Ray stated that motorists speed excessively from Main Street to Cory Street. Does not want to remove any parking spaces. Honsel stated that there are no locations available to install bubble mirrors. Director Martin stated that we can only eliminate so many risks because of the travelling public. The vehicular traffic needs to take ownership and responsibility to travel safely. Director Martin stated that there isn't an easy solution. Director Martin stated that a bubble mirror may not be effective. Director Martin stated that he is willing to give a trial run of making the alley two-way. Honsel stated that additional signage would be needed for traffic coming off the alley onto Crawford to make sure they don't go the wrong way on the one-way street. Director Martin stated that he would be more willing to trial a two-way rather than change the direction of travel on a one-way.

Motion to table request until communication can be sent to abutting property owners that have parking availability notifying of a traffic study regarding changing the first alley west of S. Main Street between W. Crawford Street and W. Sandusky St. to a two-way alley, by Chief Eberle, second by Director Martin. Motion passed 4-0.

4/21/2025

Item remains tabled. Engineering will send out notification to properties along alley.

5/19/2025

Item remains tabled.

2. Request of Jake Kelley, Traffic Signal Department, to review the intersection of Fostoria Avenue and Tiffin Avenue.

1/21/2025

Motion to table request until Traffic Signal Department is in attendance to discuss, by Chief Eberle, second by Director Martin. Motion passed 4-0.

4/21/2025

Item remains tabled.

5/19/2025

Motion to lift item from table, by Chief Mathias, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 3-0.

Kelley stated that he is looking for a solution to the left turn from westbound Fostoria Avenue onto eastbound Tiffin Avenue. He stated that currently if someone wants to turn left, they have to wait several seconds for the left turn arrow to activate which stops all Tiffin Avenue traffic. There is the concern that while they are waiting, a motorist could rear end them if they are not paying attention. The other option is to stop Tiffin Avenue traffic every time Fostoria Avenue has the green light. This option backs up Tiffin Avenue significantly which is not favorable. Chief Eberle suggested adding signage that states left turn needs to wait for left turn arrow.

Motion to reach out to Ohio Department of Transportation for suggestions, by Chief Eberle, second by Director Martin. Motion passed 3-0.

Motion to postpone to next meeting scheduled for June 16, 2023, until hear back from Ohio Department of Transportation with suggestions, by Chief Eberle, second by Director Martin. Motion passed 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Police Chief James Mathias for a temporary street closure of the 300 block of S. Cory St. between W. Crawford St. and W. Main Cross St. to vehicular traffic for public safety; except for Police, Fire, EMS, trash and delivery vehicles and bicycles. This is for testing purposes only at this time, but potentially lead towards a permanent road closure of this listed area to the public in the future with additional Capital improvements that would be needed for public safety for the multiple governmental facilities in this same area.

Chief Mathias stated that vehicle traffic traveling on S. Cory St. between the Municipal Building (where police cars are parked) and the Hancock County Sheriff's office has been a public safety issue for years. Now with the new judicial center being built, it is a larger public safety issue with personnel traveling between the buildings across S. Cory Street. Chief Mathias suggests a temporary closure now, and plan for a gate for a permanent closure of the road to thru traffic in the capital budget for 2026. His suggestion is a pull up gate rather than button or badge activated due to the number of personnel from City and County that will be permitted to use the street. Chief Mathias would like to begin the temporary closure the first part of June if approved. He is requesting a 90 day trial. Signage would state for first responders and local deliveries only. Place road closed sign in curb lawn. Kalb stated that he has to maintain a five foot bike lane in each direction until 2028 per the terms of the grant agreement per Ohio Department of Transportation funding.

Motion to approve a 90 day trial of closing S. Cory Street from W. Crawford Street to W. Main Cross St. to thru vehicular traffic, by Director Martin, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Request of Police Chief James Mathias to post No Turn On Red traffic signs on W. Main Cross St. at S. Cory St. for northbound traffic only on the traffic light pole, due to poor visibility of both eastbound lanes of traffic on W. Main Cross St. with the opening of the Alan Davis Judicial Center facility and public parking in front of the this governmental facility. These signs were removed after the construction of this facility was completed, but there are still concerns for public safety and crashes at this intersection.

Chief Mathias stated that since the opening of the judicial center there has been a significant increase in the amount of vehicles parked along W. Main Cross Street obstructing the line of sight for a motorist turning right on red from S. Cory Street onto W. Main Cross Street.

Motion to approve posting No Turn on Red sign on S. Cory Street at W. Main Cross Street for northbound traffic, by Kalb, second by Director Martin. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Request of Officer Joe Smith to make Bishop Lane No Parking Any Time on east side of the street.

Chief Eberle stated that this road is narrow and should be parking on one side of the street only. Chief Mathias stated that there have been accidents on this street due to motorists not able to travel two ways at once with vehicles parked on both sides of the street.

Motion to make Bishop Lane No Parking Any Time on the east side of the street, by Chief Eberle, second by Chief Mathias. Motion passed 4-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Traffic Commission will be held on June 16, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk

WORK ORDERS

Minutes approved by Council 6/3/2025

Motion to approve a 90 day trial of closing S. Cory Street from W. Crawford Street to W. Main Cross St. to thru vehicular traffic, by Director Martin, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

Place barricade with signage that road is closed to thru traffic, first responders and local deliveries only.

Motion to approve posting No Turn on Red sign on S. Cory Street at W. Main Cross Street for northbound traffic, by Kalb, second by Director Martin. Motion passed 4-0.

Install No Turn on Red sign on northbound S. Cory Street at W. Main Cross Street.

Motion to make Bishop Lane No Parking Any Time on the east side of the street, by Chief Eberle, second by Chief Mathias. Motion passed 4-0.

Install No Parking Any Time signs on the east side of the street on Bishop Lane.

ADMINISTRATION ACTION

ACTION.