

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
January 20, 2026

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

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

STAFF PRESENT: Dave Honse, Public Works Superintendent; Jason Rayle, Traffic Signal Supervisor; Rob Feighner, Law Director; Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

GUESTS PRESENT: Ashley Donaldson; Council members Brad Wagner, Rodney Phillips, Danny Delong.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update of temporary closure of S. Cory Street between W. Crawford Street and W. Main Cross Street.

Director Martin reported that the City continues to evaluate a temporary restriction of vehicular access on S. Cory Street. The intent is not to vacate or permanently close the roadway, but to limit general public vehicle access in order to improve safety and operational efficiency for nearby public safety and government facilities, including law enforcement, courts, the jail, and EMS/fire services. Pedestrian and bicycle access would remain available, including use of the adjacent bike path funded by grant dollars.

Director Martin and Chief Mathias emphasized that the area experiences sensitive activity related to prisoner transport, emergency response, and judicial operations. Reducing through traffic is intended to minimize conflicts between civilian vehicles and emergency responders, improve response times for police, and reduce safety risks to officers, judges, staff, and the public during law enforcement and court-related operations. Law Director Feighner stated that the City is not proposing to vacate or close S. Cory Street rather just restrict access.

Chief Mathias reported receipt of two formal letters of support: one joint letter from the three County Commissioners and one letter from elected officials, including judges and Hancock County Sheriff.

Some public concern has been expressed regarding access and inconvenience. Director Martin noted that the restriction would primarily require motorists to detour approximately one block, and that safety considerations outweigh the minor inconvenience.

Discussion included the adjacent alley between the U.S. Postal Service and Judicial Center and Sheriff's Office, which is affected by the proposed access changes. The Chief Mathias reported coordination with the U.S. Postal Service regarding potential relocation of mailboxes to County property. The Postal Service indicated that such a move is a district-level decision and has not yet been approved.

Councilman Delong stated that the current signage reads "Road Closed." Members discussed that this sign on a barricade reflects a temporary restriction similar to closures used for water main breaks or flooded roads.

This will be further discussed at the Traffic Commission meeting scheduled for February 17, 2026. If supported, the matter will be referred to City Council's Street, Sidewalk, and Parking Committee for further review and legislative consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Ashley Donaldson, 1805 Blaine Street, for a No Outlet sign at the corner of Blaine Street and Lima Avenue and at Blaine Street and Bliss Avenue.

Ms. Donaldson reported that Blaine Street dead-ends into her driveway and that vehicles frequently drive into her yard while attempting to turn around, particularly during snowy conditions. She requested "No Outlet" or "Dead End" signage at Blaine Street and Lima Avenue, and at Blaine Street and Bliss Avenue, similar to signage on nearby Elyria Street. Engineer Kalb agreed that additional signage was warranted to improve driver awareness and safety. Sign placement challenges were noted at Blaine and Lima due to limited right-of-way and obstructions.

Motion to install "Dead End" signs at the corners of Blaine Street and Bliss Avenue and Elyria Street and Bliss Avenue; and to install a "No Outlet" sign at Blaine Street and Lima Avenue, contingent upon feasible and compliant placement, by Engineer Kalb, second by Director Martin. Motion passed 3-0.

2. Request of Ryan Eley, American Plastics, 814 W. Lima Street, for a solution for safer crossing by employees from employee parking lot across W. Lima Street into the facility.

In his letter, Mr. Eley requested discussion on improving pedestrian safety for employees crossing West Lima Street between the facility and the employee parking lot. The Commission discussed traffic volume, existing speed bumps, and sight distance. Members noted that the crossing serves a private facility and parking area and discussed that infrastructure costs should be borne by the requesting party. Potential improvements included painted crosswalks, pedestrian warning signage, and curb ramps.

Motion to direct American Plastics to work with the Engineering Department and Public Works Department for a solution for employee crossing, contingent upon American Plastics funding the required infrastructure, by Engineer Kalb, second by Director Martin. Motion passed 3-0.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Traffic Commission will be held on February 17, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk