



# TRANSPORTATION & PARKING COMMISSION

## MEETING AGENDA

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**Date:** February 21, 2024  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Council Chambers – Village Hall  
801 Burlington Avenue

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- I. Call To Order
  - II. Roll Call
  - III. Approval of November 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes
  - IV. Public Comments – General Topics or Issues NOT on Tonight’s Agenda
  - V. New Business
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### 1. 2024 Comprehensive Plan and Related Projects – Initiation Workshop

**Action Requested:** Discussion

**Description:** The Village’s consultant, Houseal Lavigne will conduct a project initiation meeting with TaP to set the foundation for the planning process for the Comprehensive Plan and Enhanced Bicycle Pedestrian Plan. This will be the first chance for TaP to communicate and discuss issues, concerns, and strengths and assets of the Village with the consultant team in an interactive workshop exercise.

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- VI. Old Business
  - VII. Communications
  - VIII. Adjourn
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*This is a tentative regular meeting agenda that is subject to change.*

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**TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMISSION**  
**Minutes – November 8, 2023**  
**Council Chambers – Village Hall**  
**801 Burlington Avenue, Downers Grove**

Commissioner Novak called the November 8, 2023 meeting of the Transportation and Parking Commission to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Chairperson Novak, Commissioners Gasiel, McKenzie, Lincoln, McDonough, Shiliga

**Absent:** Commissioner O'Malley

**Staff:** Engineering Director Scott Vasko, Transportation Manager Mike Tuman, Michael Worthman of KOA, and CSO Supervisor Jim Hartleb

**Visitor Roster:** Michael Szela, Beth Szela, Dave Hodgson, Kat Richied, Gerald Gutshall, Bill Schultheis, Donald Fiore, Michael Balsamo, Don Turlek, Deborah Cassier, Jason Fugitt, Peter Tamosaitis, Jack Gallan, Sarah Haeberle, Robert Dunlop, Cliff Grammich, Scott Cimo, Robert Blessman, Rosemary Blessman, Robert Jurish, Nanci Gasiel, Jeanie Balsavich

A quorum was established.

Chairperson Novak reviewed the procedures to be followed for the meeting, explaining that the Commission will forward a recommendation to the Village Council for approval.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 14, 2023 MINUTES**

**COMMISSIONER SHILIGA MOVED TO ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES AS IS.  
COMMISSIONER MCDONOUGH SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS SHILIGA, MCDONOUGH,**

**ABSTAINED: COMMISSIONERS GASIEL, MCKENZIE**

**NOT IN FAVOR:**

**THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE 4:0**

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

No public comment on non-agenda items.

**File #6-23 Neighborhood Traffic Study #9**

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Public Works Transportation Manager Mike Tuman presented this item opening with an explanation about why the Village does these types of projects.

Michael Worthman from KOLA presented this agenda item providing guidance and clarification of the staff report that was published on the village website.

### Report Recommendations/Options:

- Intersection traffic control: Currently there are 3 intersections under yield sign control and 30 intersections with no control at all. Village policy is to have a traffic signal or stop sign control at every intersection within a neighborhood. Recommend putting some form of intersection traffic control at every location within the neighborhood.
- Number of intersections under traffic control is proposed to remain the same at signalized intersections along 59th at Fairview and Main St.
- Number of intersections under all way stop control is proposed to increase from 4 to 8.
  - All way stop control at: 59th St & Blodgett; 61st St & Blodgett; 61st St & Grand; 62nd St & Lyman Ave.
- Additional speed limit signage and modifications:
  - Reduce posted speed limit on 59th St from 30 mph to 25 mph.
  - Install a 20 mph school speed limit sign on Fairmount Ave north of 59th St.
  - Add a number of speed limit signs within the neighborhood and add yellow borders to existing speed limit signs to highlight.
- Bicycle enhancements:
  - Consider adding sharrow pavement markings or bike lanes on both sides of 59th St and Fairmount Ave between 55th St and 59th St. Multiple options for both of these streets.
  - Install additional bike route signs on designated bike routes.
  - Per the bike and pedestrian plan conducted several years ago, consider designating Dearborn Pkwy between Patriot's Park and 59th St as a neighborhood bike route with appropriate signage.
- Traffic Calming recommendations:
  - Add a double yellow centerline on Fairmount Ave between 55th St & 59th St.
  - Consider installing edge lines or bike lanes along both sides of 59th St & Fairmount Ave.
  - Recommend use of speed monitors and enforcement in this neighborhood.
- 59th Street designated bike route recommendations:
  - Alternative A: Provide shared vehicle and bike lanes along both sides of road, with sharrows in road and edge lines indicating where parking lanes are.
  - Alternative B: Same as A, and also eliminates left turn lanes on 59th St at Fairview Ave to extend parking lanes through the area.
  - Alternative C: Remove the parking lanes and put in buffered bike lanes. Instead of shared lanes, there would be a dedicated vehicle lane and dedicated bike lane.
  - Alternative D: Same as C and also eliminates left turn lanes at Fairmount Ave.
- Fairmount Ave between 55th St and 59th St designated bike route recommendations (All of the following alternatives add a centerline to the street):

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- Alternative A: Take current 14 ft lanes, and put 4 ft edge lines on either side of the road to narrow lanes to 10 ft. Put sharrows on the road for shared vehicle bike lanes extending the entire length of roadway.
- Alternative B: Same as A, and adds a landscaped median in the middle of the road along a small section of frontage at Patriot's Park.
- Alternative C: Put 4 ft bike lanes on each side of the road and eliminate parking on both sides of the road.
- Alternative D: Provide a dedicated 7-8 ft wide parking lane on one side of the road with two 10 ft shared lanes on both sides of the road.

Mike Tuman spoke about feedback for those who could not attend the TaP meeting. Staff mailed 1099 meeting notification letters to residents of affected properties in the study. Staff received 11 responses back, which are given the same weight as those in attendance at the meeting.

- Comments related to DuPage County boundary roads: access to Patriot's Park when crossing 55th St; request for pedestrian signals at 63rd and Fairview Ave; requests for a new traffic signal at 63rd and Fairmount and revised signal timings at the new intersection of 63rd & Main. Comments will be forwarded to the County.
- Several residents want no changes to Deer Creek and Clyde Estates.
- A request for U-turn signs on 59th St in front of O'Neill similar to what is on Dunham in front of Hillcrest. Not currently in the recommendation.
- Comments about confusion at intersection of 59th: trying to get away from and reduce number of lanes and turning movements with the left turn lane. No crashes at that location in the past 5 years. People perceive intersection as confusing.
- Comments requesting bike accommodations on both 59th St and Fairmount. Preference of buffered bike lanes on 59th St.
- Comment from a cyclist preferred the shared lane alternatives on Fairmount Ave rather than protected bike lanes due to impacts to on street parking.
- Support for removal of yield signs and increased stop signs throughout the study areas, especially in the 62nd area south of 61st Clyde Estates through 63rd.
- Email of opposition to all new signs, any speed limit reduction, or any bike accommodation. In favor of an all way stop at 62nd & Lyman. Request to consider putting one at 62nd and Fairmount. Not in favor of pavement markings.
- Many requests for speed enforcement: speed feedback signs, enhanced police presence and enhanced enforcement.
- Request for 62nd and Fairmount stop signs.
- Recommendation for a stop sign at 59th & Blodgett where crossing guard is, led to a request to consider putting another at 59th & Washington.
- Request and complete support for lowering speed limit on 59th St between Main St & Fairview Ave to match the east and west sections.
- Requests for speed tables and humps: one on 62nd St, one on Lyman near 55th.

## **CHAIRPERSON NOVAK OPENED UP THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON FILE #6-23**

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Don Turlek of 5729 Fairmount Ave

- In favor of double yellow lines, more enforcement, better signage, school zone extension, median plantings by park.

DJ Fiore of 5808 Bunning Dr

- In favor of: 4-way stop at 59th & Blodgett; speed reduction on 59th St and any speed reduction in neighborhood under 30 mph; alternative D with bike lanes for 59th St; either C or D with preference towards D with bike lanes on Fairmount; designating Dearborn Pkwy a bike route; anything that makes street safer for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Eldon & Grand/59th: asked if any controls are considered for that area. 59th St: asked if any alternatives exist that combine a bike lane with on street parking.
- County roads: connecting across neighborhoods in boundaries of study area need to be considered.

Nanci Gasiel of 831 Oxford

- In favor of: a stop sign at 62nd & Fairmount; sharrows on 59th St; option A on 59th St with left turn lane; option D creating designated parking on Fairmount; something at intersection of Fairmount between the YMCA and O'Neill where it connects with pedestrian path and vehicles exit parking lot;
- Not in favor of: bike lanes on 59th St; option B on Fairmount with landscaped island impacting animal traffic;

Bob Jurish of 5737 Fairmount Ave

- In favor of speed control on 55th St.
- Wall on SW corner of 55th & Fairmount is an issue when heading north.

Sarah Haeberle of 6220 Fairmount Ave

- In favor of: 4-way stop at 62nd & Fairmount; speed control on Fairmount Ave and anything that slows traffic.

Robert Dunlop of 5740 Fairmount Ave

- Fairmount Ave between 59th St & 55th St
  - In favor of: speed control; plastic pylons to force vehicles to go between them in intervals down the street to slow traffic.
  - Not in favor of: eliminating parking

Mike Balsamo of 5747 Lyman Ave

- In favor of: speed humps on Fairmount Ave; 4-way stops in high pedestrian traffic areas.
- Not in favor of: traffic control and speed limitation throughout the neighborhood.

Dave Hodgson of 217 56th St

- In favor of: bike safety improvements for adults; slowing traffic around schools; safer ways for children to bike in neighborhoods that don't involve shared bike lanes.
- Not in favor of: traffic changes in Deer Creek neighborhood; additional stop signs; shared bike lanes for kids;

Gerry Gutshall of 248 55th Pl

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- Not in favor of: additional traffic control measures in Deer Creek neighborhood.

Mike Szela of 6034 Osage Ave

- In favor of: Blodgett stop signs; lowered speed limit on 59th St; rules for electronic bikes.
- Not in favor of: bicyclists that don't follow rules of the road.

Jason Fugitt of 146 56th St

- In favor of: solution at 56th St going onto Fairview to make it easier for vehicles pulling out; working with District 58 on bus pull up and turn around on 59th St for pickup and drop off.

Jack Gallan of 6227 Grand

- In favor of: safety and speeding concerns being addressed on Grand Ave between 63rd and 61st St; some type of traffic slow down method at 62nd St.

Kat Richied of 630 59th St

- In favor of: stop sign on Blodgett; O'Neill bus stop solutions - move from front of school to back of school; slowing traffic on 59th St.
- Not in favor of: bike lanes.

Jeanie Balsavich of 672 62nd St

- In favor of: replacing yield signs with stop signs.

**CHAIRPERSON NOVAK CLOSED THE PUBLIC COMMENT**

**CHAIRPERSON NOVAK OPENED DISCUSSION AMONGST THE COMMISSION**

Transportation Manager Mike Tuman: Regarding District 58 and bus concerns: Dist 58 presented a bus plan to Village Council which was approved 8:0. Plan includes a drop off and connection from Blodgett on the south side for all bus traffic. Will be used during the morning and low time. The only time expanded bus parking will occur is at the end of the school day when a large number of kids come out of the school. At that time there will be buses on the south and the north, but it will only be concentrated at dismissal time. Dist 58 has agreed to do active management of bus traffic after school and during less congested times, and created expanded parking on the south side to include a bus loading and drop off zone.

Regarding the concern about the area between O'Neill and the YMCA: It is labeled in Google maps as Fairmount Ave, it is not, it is a private driveway between the YMCA and O'Neill. Staff will speak with Dist 58 and the YMCA regarding the issue at this location. Village cannot address the concern with signage because it is not a jurisdictional roadway.

Discussion ensued regarding the presentation, recommendations and alternatives. Questions and concerns amongst the Commissioners were addressed by staff. Following are opinions of Commissioners regarding the recommendations.

Commissioner Gasiel

- In favor of: recommendations for intersections; other areas including 62nd should be added; sharrows on 59th & Fairmount.

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- Not in favor of: bike lanes on 59th St and Fairmount; middle median at park area on Fairmount.

Commissioner McDonough:

- In favor of: consistency throughout the Village regarding traffic control; elimination of the left turn lane at 59th and Fairmount reducing confusion.
- Not in favor of: elimination of on street parking.

Commissioner Shiliga:

- In favor of: traffic control recommendations

Commissioner Lincoln:

- In favor of: bike lanes with regard to parking on 59th; A or B on 59th; remove turn lanes; start with sharrows and support bike lanes at a later time.
- Not in favor of: removing both sides of parking on 59th;

Commissioner McKenzie

- In favor of: bike lanes on 59th and other alternatives for parking; keeping parking lane on Fairmount; stop signs and 4-way stops in neighborhoods for safety.
- Not in favor of: sharrows; eliminating left turn lane onto 59th.

Commissioner Novak

- In favor of: sharrows; keeping parking on both side of street on Fairmount; landscaped median on Fairmount; starting small with changes and seeing how it goes;
- Not in favor of: elimination of parking anywhere in the Village;

Chairperson Novak called for a motion.

**WITH RESPECT TO FILE #6-23:**

- 1. TRAFFIC CONTROL & SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION ON 59TH ST, COMMISSIONER LINCOLN MOVED TO MAKE A MOTION FOR THE RECOMMENDATION TO VILLAGE COUNCIL. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCDONOUGH**  
**MOTION PASSED 6:0**  
**IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS NOVAK, MCKENZIE, LINCOLN, MCDONOUGH, SHILIGA, GASIEL**  
**NOT IN FAVOR:**
- 2. 59TH ST ALTERNATIVE B: ON STREET PARKING, EDGELINES, SHARED VEHICLE LANES, NO BUFFERED BIKE LANES, REMOVAL OF LEFT TURN LANE AT 59TH & FAIRMOUNT; COMMISSIONER LINCOLN MOVED TO MAKE A MOTION FOR THE RECOMMENDATION TO VILLAGE COUNCIL. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SHILIGA:**  
**MOTION PASSED 5:1**  
**IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS GASIEL, LINCOLN, MCDONOUGH, NOVAK, SHILIGA**

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**NOT IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONER MCKENZIE**

- 3. FAIRMOUNT ALTERNATIVE D AS WRITTEN IN STAFF RECOMMENDATION, COMMISSIONER SHILIGA MOVED TO MAKE A MOTION FOR THE RECOMMENDATION TO VILLAGE COUNCIL. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GASIEL**

**MOTION PASSED 4:2**

**IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS GASIEL, MCKENZIE, LINCOLN, SHILIGA**

**NOT IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS MCDONOUGH, NOVAK**

**DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS**

The Commission thanked former Commissioner Heverin for her prior service.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

No communications at this time.

**COMMISSIONER SHILIGA MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER GASIEL SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**Commissioner Novak adjourned the meeting at 9:30 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Andrea Banke  
Recording Secretary





## VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE MEMO

**To:** Transportation and Parking Commission  
**From:** Stan Popovich, AICP – Community Development Director  
Scott Vasko, PE – Director of Engineering, Public Works  
Jason Zawila, AICP – Planning Manager  
**Re:** Comprehensive Plan and Related Projects - Project Initiation Workshop  
**Date:** February 21, 2024

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The Village recently began working with our consultant, Houseal Lavigne, to complete the following projects:

- Update the Comprehensive Plan
- Develop an Environmental Sustainability Plan
- Develop a Downtown and Fairview Focus Area Streetscape Plan
- Update and Enhance the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

On February 21, 2024, Houseal Lavigne will facilitate an interactive workshop with the Transportation and Parking Commission (TaP) to introduce the project, discuss TaP's role, and set the foundation for the planning process including a review and discussion of the overall project direction and policy issues facing the Village.

This will be the first chance for TaP to communicate and discuss issues, concerns, and strengths and assets of the Village with the consultant team in an interactive workshop exercise. This initial dialogue will inform the approach to the planning process for all four projects and ensure that issues important to the Village are identified on the front end.