



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order. Present at this meeting were Chairman Rees, Commissioner Gillis, Commissioner Hoyt, Commissioner Jayaraman, Commissioner Karrow & Commissioner Osga.

Chairman Rees asks if there are any comments on the minutes from November 20, 2024.

Chairman Rees requests a **MOTION to approve the Minutes. Minutes were approved and all were in favor.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nobody present for Public Comment.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Chairman Rees refers to items on the last agenda and that Staff has done a great job with using the tools to explain to the citizens the data collection we have been doing including the work on Lake Street.

These minutes reflect that in our last meeting we voted to deny the request for a four-way stop at Iowa & Monroe on the grounds that it wasn't supported by the traffic standards. We did approve the motion to install the speed limit sign which has been added along with striping.

Bill Koclanis, Civil Engineering Technician, confirms that the sign has been added along with additional traffic counts conducted during the school year. There has been no change. We will add continental crosswalk striping on Iowa this fall as it is a safe route to school.

Commissioner Hoyt confirms the new counts at being a total of 39 points verses 37 1/2.

Bill Koclanis verifies that it is correct.

Chairman Rees indicates that there was a resident that requested a four-way stop sign at Greenfield & Jackson. Jack Bielak visited with the resident and explained the data and the tools. Asks Bill to confirm that the resident wasn't convinced.

Bill replies no, and we explained that the point total was 34 and how we conducted traffic inquiries. She was ok with it and didn't want to press it any further.

Chairman Rees asks Bill to provide a summary on the review of the professional engineer report.

Bill explains that there are some intersections along Lake Street which had issues with residents in the past.

The main one was at William with pedestrian accidents occurring there which were confirmed by the report. We are recommending installing a median for pedestrian safety. At Franklin and Lake Street we suggest adding a flashing pedestrian beacon as it is by a school crossing. There is also one further down on Edgewood which had a couple accidents which are indicated in the report.

We submitted bids for engineering and received bids back. We went with a well-known engineering firm that conducts a lot of work here in the Village. We have not gone to the Board yet for the approval of this contract. This will take close to a year as we are required to go through IDOT for the permit. Therefore, it will be built around next spring.

Commissioner Gillis asks where the median will be placed.

Bill indicates it will be a curb extension to slow down traffic. There would be a pedestrian median in the middle at William and Lake that will have a curb around it. There is a striped median there now which you are not allowed to cross the double yellow line. We will be making it so someone can safely cross and discuss the locations of curb extensions, pedestrian beacons, bollards and medians with Commissioners.

Commissioner Hoyt asks what the quote covers.

Bill indicates it covers all the engineering fees but not the construction. Construction will be separate contract. Once we receive our permit from IDOT then we can go to construction.

Commissioner Hoyt asks how much of the \$48,000 would we have to pay if the permit is denied.

Bill indicates at least half. If there were a chance that this wouldn't go through, we wouldn't do it. This would be the same process we did at Greenfield and Harlem and Le Moyne and Harlem. We had to get IDOT's approval which took about 6 months for the medians.

Commissioner Hoyt inquires about the accident data which indicated a few pedestrian accidents.

Bill indicates that on the last page it indicates that two out of thirteen incidents were bicyclists. They consider it pedestrians as they were crossing. I don't know how Chief Greenwood comes up with that.

Commissioner Hoyt suggests that before we go to the Board, we should have the actual number of accidents.

Commissioners discuss where the flashing pedestrian beacons are located which took two years to obtain from IDOT.

Bill suggests taking a vote before it goes to the Board for approval.

Chairman Rees indicated we are all in favor and discusses the difference between the bollards which are solid and delineators that reroute traffic are seasonal.

Bill indicated that there are temporary/seasonal due to plowing.

Chairman Rees indicates he had a discussion with a neighbor that raised concerns regarding the intersection of Washington and Gale where there have been several accidents. Washington has been subject to a plan where we are planning to move forward with a proposal for raised intersection and bump outs which is an ongoing study.

Bill indicated that we would find the study results most likely in July when the grant is awarded.

Commissioner Gillis indicated that Chairman Rees was bringing up was at Gale and Washington because it is a racetrack from Keystone to Thatcher and Thatcher to Keystone as we do not have delineators there.

Bill confirms that the delineators were installed in April.

Chairman Rees indicates that there are some risks there as one neighbor was advocating for a stop sign and I talked to another neighbor on the same corner who is opposed to the stop sign. It makes sense to table a discussion for a stop sign there given that we have a traffic study underway. We do have a four-way sign at Thatcher and Keystone. There will be some requirements for more calming devices.

Commissioner Hoyt asks what is the best-case scenario timing wise for Washington?

Bill indicates that engineering will be completed next year, and grant funding will be another year or two for construction.

We have two vocal residents at that corner who are asking for stop signs. One who I have been talking to for over a year. I advised her that it is required to make a petition as we are not going to allow it at Gale. To date, no petition has been received.

Commissioner Hoyt asks if there is accident data?

Bill indicates there is but doesn't have the information in front of him right now. This resident works from home and reports near misses where we do not report these.

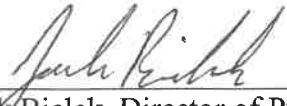
Commissioner Osga indicates that this would be an interesting study if we were to place a stop sign there as they would be consecutive. The accident data would go up as this would make it worse.

Commissioners weigh in on their thoughts regarding this issue.

Chairman Rees asks if there if anyone has any other comments and makes motion to adjourn.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All Commissioners voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:



Jack Bielak, Director of Public Works
& Engineering



Doug Rees, Chairman
Traffic & Safety Commission

Date: 11-19-25