

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor & City Council

FROM: Mike Fischer, Community Development Director

DATE: March 13, 2019

SUBJECT: March Traffic & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

On Wednesday, March 13, 2019 the Traffic & Safety Committee met to consider one item of business. Committee members present: Community Member Bill Borchardt, Council Liaison Jim Whitlock, Police Chief, Ross Gullickson, Public Works Director Nate Host and Community Development Director Mike Fischer.

The following is a summary of the meeting:

1. Request to review pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Lookout Drive and Lee Boulevard.

Steve Hatkin from the Mankato Clinic was present and summarized the timing of the opening of the new Mankato Clinic on Lookout Drive and some of the parking challenges associated with the opening of the new building and demolition of the existing building. Mr. Hatkin indicated that SCC is allowing Mankato Clinic employees to park in their lot during the transition period but there is concern for pedestrian safety when crossing Lookout Drive at the Lee Boulevard intersection. Mr. Hatkin stated that an existing access to Pleasant View Drive will be eliminated to accommodate off-street parking and storm water retention requirements and the only access to the Clinic will be from Lookout Drive. The Committee held discussions regarding the removal of the Pleasant View Drive access, turning movements to and from Lookout Drive, traffic speeds, past accidents, future traffic and future study of the Lookout/Lee intersection. The Committee also review the information and recommendation provided by the City Engineer. Staff asked Mr. Hatkin for consideration of an access to and from Pleasant View Drive in the future.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that Mankato Clinic staff park on Pleasant View Drive during the transition period and that area traffic conditions be monitored after the Clinic opens to determine if either short or long term changes are warranted.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Traffic & Safety Committee

FROM: Mike Fischer, Community Development Director

DATE: March 4, 2019

SUBJECT: March Traffic & Safety Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Traffic & Safety Committee has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room.

AGENDA

1. Request to review pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Lookout Drive and Lee Boulevard. A request from the Mankato Clinic.

1. Request to Review Pedestrian Crossing at the Intersection of Lookout Drive and Lee Boulevard

Attached is a request from the Mankato Clinic for a temporary pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Lookout Drive and Lee Boulevard. Mankato Clinic is completing construction of a new clinic on Lookout Drive with the expectation to open on May 6th. Once the new clinic is open, the existing clinic on the property will be demolished. According to the Clinic, this overlap will create some employee parking issues. In an attempt to address the employee parking issue, the Clinic is considering having their employee's park at South Central College and walk to the clinic for a period of 8 to 10 weeks. However, due the high level a traffic on Lookout Drive, the clinic is concerned for the safety of their employees crossing Lookout Drive and requesting consideration of some form of temporary pedestrian crossing at this intersection.

Attached is a letter from Bolton & Menk in response to the request from Mankato Clinic.

Michael Fischer

From: Hatkin Steve <SteveH@mankato-clinic.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 1:30 PM
To: 'Michael Fischer'
Subject: Request to Traffic & Safety Committee
Attachments: image001.gif; image004.jpg

Mike,

Please forward this request on to the Traffic & Safety Committee for consideration.

Mankato Clinic will be completing phase one of our construction of the new clinic on Lookout drive in April and begin seeing patients on May 6, 2019. During phase two, which will last approximately eight to ten weeks, we will be limited to only twenty-two parking stalls. Approximately thirty Mankato Clinic employees will be parking either in residential on street parking along Pleasant View Dr. or across Lookout Drive in South Central Community College (SCC) parking lots.

As you are aware, Lookout Drive is a busy street, especially during the start and end of a typical work day. This would be the same times when clinic employees would need to safely cross the street from SCC. As you can see from the picture below, this is one of three designated pedestrian cross walks on Lookout. However, this is the only one of the three that is not controlled with a Traffic Light. I am requesting that the City consider, on a temporary basis, some sort of controlled pedestrian crossing (Stop Light with Pedestrian triggered button, flashing yellow traffic light, Flashing stop sign, etc.).

Additionally, our clinic has grown significantly and we anticipated future growth. In 2018, we had approximately 17,000 patient visits. As a Family Practice Clinic we see patients of all ages, however we do serve a high percentage of senior citizens. When our new clinic opens on May 6th we will no longer have two entrances our campus, as the entrance on Pleasantview drive will be permanently eliminated. Our sole entrance to our campus will be the one on Lookout directly aligned with Lee blvd. We would like to request a traffic and safety study to determine if it warrants a permanent four-way traffic light at this intersection.

I appreciate your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Steve



Steve Hatkin
Chief Financial Officer
Mankato Clinic

Work 507-389-8500
Mobile 763-548-4913



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March 8, 2019

Mr. Michael Fischer
Community Development Director
City of North Mankato
1001 Belgrade Avenue
North Mankato, MN 56003

RE: Request by Mankato Clinic for Temporary Pedestrian Crossing
City of North Mankato, Minnesota
Project No.: M18.118094

Dear Mike,

This letter is in response to your request to evaluate options to accommodate pedestrian traffic associated with the new Mankato Clinic facility that is currently under construction on the west side of Lookout Drive at Lee Boulevard. In order to maintain clinic services at this location, the existing building is being utilized until the new building is completed and operational. After the new building is operational, the existing building will be demolished and new parking will be constructed in that area. As such, the facility will have limited parking availability until the new parking lot is completed. It is our understanding that there will be some parking immediately available with the opening of the new building, and that Mankato Clinic feels that there will be adequate parking to accommodate patients and visitors, but not employees. Mankato Clinic estimates that approximately 20 employee parking stalls will need to be secured off-site until all of the parking areas planned with the project are completed. Mankato Clinic estimates that it will take approximately 8 weeks for the existing building to be demolished and the new parking lot to be constructed, so the temporary off-site parking would be required during that time. Mankato Clinic has indicated that they are considering approaching South Central College (SCC) about the possibility of utilizing their parking lots for the temporary employee parking for the approximately 8-week period. This would require employees to cross Lookout Drive at Lee Boulevard in the mornings between approximately 7:30 am to 8:00 am, which is a peak traffic period on Lookout Drive, as well as other times during the day. Mankato Clinic requested that the City evaluate options that would improve pedestrian safety at this location if the SCC parking lots were used for temporary employee parking.

Several options could be considered to improve safety for pedestrians crossing Lookout Drive at Lee Boulevard if the SCC parking lots are used for temporary employee parking.

Temporary options

- Install Temporary Traffic Control to temporarily reduce Lookout Drive from 5 lanes to 3 lanes in the area of the pedestrian crossing, and provide Pedestrian Crossing Flags. Temporary traffic control would narrow the roadway and flags would be placed on each side of Lookout Drive and pedestrians would use the flag when crossing. This options cost could range from \$5,000-\$10,000.
 - Advantages:
 - Vehicles speed would likely slow
 - Flags provide higher vehicle stop rate compared to no improvements
 - Low cost

- Disadvantages:
 - Traffic control needs maintained
 - Needs to be enough flags for every user and flags would need to be redistributed to make sure there are flags on both side for use
 - Probable impacts to vehicular traffic and backups due to eliminating one lane of traffic in each direction
- Install a temporary traffic signal with pedestrian pushbuttons during the 8 weeks the parking is needed. The signal would control traffic on Lookout Drive and Lee Boulevard and need detection to operate properly. A signal would still need to meet Traffic Signal Warrants. This options cost could range from \$25,000.00-\$50,000.00 for an intersection.
 - Advantages:
 - Signal is temporary so negative impacts to traffic is eliminated when it is removed
 - Provides for safe pedestrian crossing since vehicular traffic is stopped when signal is activated
 - Disadvantages:
 - Impacts to vehicular traffic and backups due to addition of stop condition on Lookout Drive corridor when pedestrians are crossing
 - Impact to vehicular traffic with new or different traffic control than is expected at this location. The signal would control traffic on Lookout Drive and Lee Boulevard and need detection to operate properly. A signal would still need to meet Traffic Signal Warrants.

Permanent Options

- Install W11-2 sign (Pedestrian) with W16-7P sign (Downward Diagonal Arrow plaque) on each side of the road at the crossing location and W11-2 signs with W16-9P (Ahead plaque) in advance of the crossing location. This option would typically cost between \$1,000.00-\$2,500.00 to be installed by a contractor, or something the city staff could easily install.
 - Advantages:
 - Highlights an already existing pedestrian crossing location
 - Low cost
 - Installation time is short.
 - Disadvantages:
 - Signs only provide a small improvement of driver stop rate when compared to the existing condition
- Install an overhead mounted Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) or Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon. They need to meet Warrants for installation. This options cost could range from \$75,000.00-\$100,000.00 to be installed by a contractor.
 - Advantages:
 - Signals are dark until activated, then light up to draw attention from drivers
 - Flashers are also over the lanes to better highlight the crossing
 - High compliance rates for awareness of pedestrians crossing the street
 - Disadvantages:
 - Very costly
 - Require power run to them
 - Poles with mast arms needed have long lead times and would likely not be available at the time the Mankato Clinic construction schedule requires

Michael Fischer
March 8, 2019
Page 3

In our opinion, a much safer and less expensive option would be to designate Pleasant View Drive as the temporary employee parking area. Parking is currently allowed on both sides of Pleasant View Drive from Lookout Drive to Restless Court. This area would provide more than enough parking for employees and would be considerably closer than the SCC parking lots. More importantly, it would eliminate the need for the employees to cross Lookout Drive. If Pleasant View Drive is utilized for temporary employee parking, the property owners and residents on Pleasant View Drive should be informed that the on-street parking is temporary and that employees will be required to park on-site once all planned parking areas are completed.

We recommend that the City of North Mankato direct Mankato Clinic to utilize Pleasant View Drive for the temporary parking rather than the SCC lots and that City staff assist with notification of the property owners and residents on the segment Pleasant View Drive that would be impacted.

Mankato Clinic also inquired about the possibility of installing permanent traffic signals or permanent pedestrian crossing improvements at the intersection of Lookout Drive and Lee Boulevard. Based on our cursory evaluation, it is our opinion that this intersection will not meet warrants required for permanent traffic signals improvements. If requested by the City, we can conduct a more detailed and comprehensive analysis of the traffic movements and warrants.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you require any additional information relative to this issue.

Sincerely,

Bolton & Menk, Inc.



Daniel R. Sarff, P.E.
North Mankato City Engineer