



#### **COMMISSIONERS**

Dennis Richmond, Brett Weddell, David Gibbs,  
Mario Mora, Mike Happer, Nick Kieffer, Alan  
Metcalf, Evan Bontrager

Chair Josh Corwin

## **TRAFFIC COMMISSION AGENDA**

Regular Meeting

March 18, 2021 – 4:30 p.m.

City Annex Conference Room, 204 E. Jefferson Street & Zoom

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 18, 2021

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Railroad Signs
2. Downtown Parking Signs
3. Purl – Tenth Street Stop Sign

V. OTHER BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

VI. ADJOURN

Next regular meeting is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 4:30 pm.



## **COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Chair Josh Corwin  
Dennis Richmond, Brett Weddell, David Gibbs,  
Mario Mora, Mike Happer, Nick Kieffer, Alan  
Metcalf, Evan Bontrager

## **TRAFFIC COMMISSION MINUTES**

### **Regular Meeting February 18, 2021 – 4:30 p.m.**

The October 18, 2020, Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission was called to order by Chair Corwin at 4:30 pm in the City Annex Conference room.

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chair Josh Corwin, Brett Weddell, David Gibbs, Mike Happer, Nick Kieffer, Evan Bontrager

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dennis Richmond, Mario Mora, Alan Metcalf

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Dustin Sailor, Director of Public Works  
Tara Hetler, Engineering Department  
Matt Shultz, Goshen Police Department

#### **PUBLIC PRESENT**

#### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Action:* Motion by member Weddell, second by member Bontrager to approve the February 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **1. Bridge Street**

*Action:* Motion by member Weddell, second by member Gibbs to approve No Parkings signs to be installed along the south side of Bridge Street and to remove the No Parking signs along part of the east side of 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **V. OTHER BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Next regular meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.



**Engineering Department  
CITY OF GOSHEN**

204 East Jefferson Street, Suite I • Goshen, IN 46528-3405

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engineering@goshencity.com • www.goshenindiana.org

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Traffic Commission

FROM: Engineering Department

RE: **“REPORT BLOCKED RAILROAD CROSSING” SIGNS**

DATE: March 16, 2021

Over the last few months, the City has received numerous complaints regarding stopped trains blocking crossings for extended periods of time. Unfortunately, we have had to pass along to the residents that there is little that the City of Goshen can do to prevent these occurrences. Until 2018, Indiana law authorized local police to issue fines of up to \$200 to rail companies whose trains blocked street crossings for longer than 10 minutes. At that time however, the Indiana Supreme Court struck down the State’s Blocked Crossing Statute, which had been on the books since 1865. The Court determined that the law was preempted by a 1995 federal deregulation statute prohibiting states from enacting any law or rule that has the effect of “managing” or “governing” rail transportation. Since that time, both the frequency and duration of these occurrences has increased significantly.

It is now up to the federal government to pass a law similar to what the State had on the books to prevent lengthy blockages of the crossings. Currently Mayor Stutsman is working with the Elkhart County Commissioners and the Elkhart County Sheriff’s Office to pen a letter to the Norfolk Southern Board of Directors conveying our community’s concerns. It is the intent to also copy the U.S. Transportation Secretary, Congresswoman Walorski, Senator Young, and Senator Braun on this correspondence. Among the concerns conveyed in the letter are “The increase in grade crossing blockages ultimately prevents bus routes from running which impacts our children and education systems; ambulances and firetrucks from responding to emergency calls which negatively impacts medical needs and fire suppression efforts; law enforcement officers who are often tasked with expeditiously getting to crashes, crimes in progress and helping those in need and in harms’ way” and the fact that the railroad “is allowed to negatively impact, or halt, interstate commerce in the form of over the road semis, recreational vehicle manufacturers and transporters, and modular home manufacturers and transporters, all large parts of our local community and economy”.

In response to numerous communities across the county having similar issues, the Federal Railroad Administration has created a website where blocked crossings can be logged in an attempt to identify areas where chronic problems exist. However, it currently appears that this database is significantly underutilized primarily as a result of a lack of awareness of its existence. In an effort to increase community awareness of this tool, the Engineering Department is proposing the placement of signs at the railroad crossing to notify motorists and members of the community. A mock up of the sign is attached.

Currently, there are 21 crossings within the limits of the City of Goshen. We are proposing placing the signs at 11 of the crossings with higher traffic levels. The crossings included on the Chicago Line are Ferndale, Peddlers Village, Greene, Indiana, Main, Lincoln, and Monroe. The crossings included on the Marion Line are Madison, Plymouth, College, and Kercher.

# REPORT BLOCKED CROSSING AT

[www.fra.dot.gov/blockedcrossings](http://www.fra.dot.gov/blockedcrossings)



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Traffic Commission

FROM: Engineering Department

RE: **DOWNTOWN PARKING SIGNS**

DATE: March 17, 2021

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The Engineering Department has recently received several requests regarding the “2-hour parking” signs on West Washington:

- Matt Norment, owner of the Energy Well, located at 121 W. Washington on the corner of Washington and 3<sup>rd</sup>, has expressed concern about the limited on-street parking in front of his business. He has noted that he has been notified by customers that they don’t stop at the business because of a lack of parking. He feels that “tenants of apartments upstairs and business owners are parking permanently on the street even though it is only 2-hour parking from 9 AM until 6 PM when in fact they should be using public parking lots because while they are permanently parked their customers cannot park there”. He shared that they experienced a 65% drop in business at one point this winter as a result of the parking issues compounded by the snow piles. He is requesting that the existing “2-hour parking” signs be modified to change the enforcement hours from the current “9 AM to 6 PM” to be a continual 24-hour parking restriction. He also requested that the City notify all business owners/tenants to park in a public lot or at the rear of the building.
- Michael Schmucker, owner of 121 W. Washington contacted the City requesting that the “2-hour parking” signs be removed. He noted that these were the only signs of this nature in the downtown and would like to ensure that the tenants of the two residential units won’t be ticketed for parking along the street. He also noted that if the signs were there as a result of a public safety concern, then he understands their placement. Otherwise, he would like to see them removed.

It is the understanding of the Engineering Department that some time ago, per request of the businesses downtown, the level of enforcement was reduced to where the standard practice is if someone calls and complains about a vehicle, the Police Department will then observe the vehicle to see if it remains in the space for an additional two hours, and only then write a ticket; The signs mainly just serve as a deterrent.

Per request of Dustin Sailor and Mayor Stutsman, we took inventory of all restricted parking signs in the downtown area, including the “Customer and Visitor Parking Only” signs. The results of the inventory did show that the “2-hour parking” signs along W. Washington were, in fact, the only signs of that nature in the downtown. The majority of the remaining east-west corridors have the “Customer and Visitor Parking Only” signs. It is noted that these signs are virtually unenforceable and only serve as a deterrent. The Engineering Department would like to present the following options to the Traffic Commission for discussion and recommendations:

1. Increase enforcement of signs – primarily “2-hour parking” signs
2. Remove one or both types of signs
3. Leave the current signs and continue with limited enforcement practices

As there is little widely-accepted standard guidance on this topic, Engineering currently has no recommendation to the Commission. Engineering did notify and seek comment from Mario Mora, Councilman Brett Weddell, and Jonathon Wieand representing the EID. As of the writing of this memo, Engineering has not yet received response from Mario and Jonathon. The Councilman shared that in the absence of any other 2-hour parking stipulations downtown, he has a hard time supporting the signs along Washington. He was also in agreement with the current level of enforcement of waiting for a complaint rather than actively looking for parking violations.



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Traffic Commission

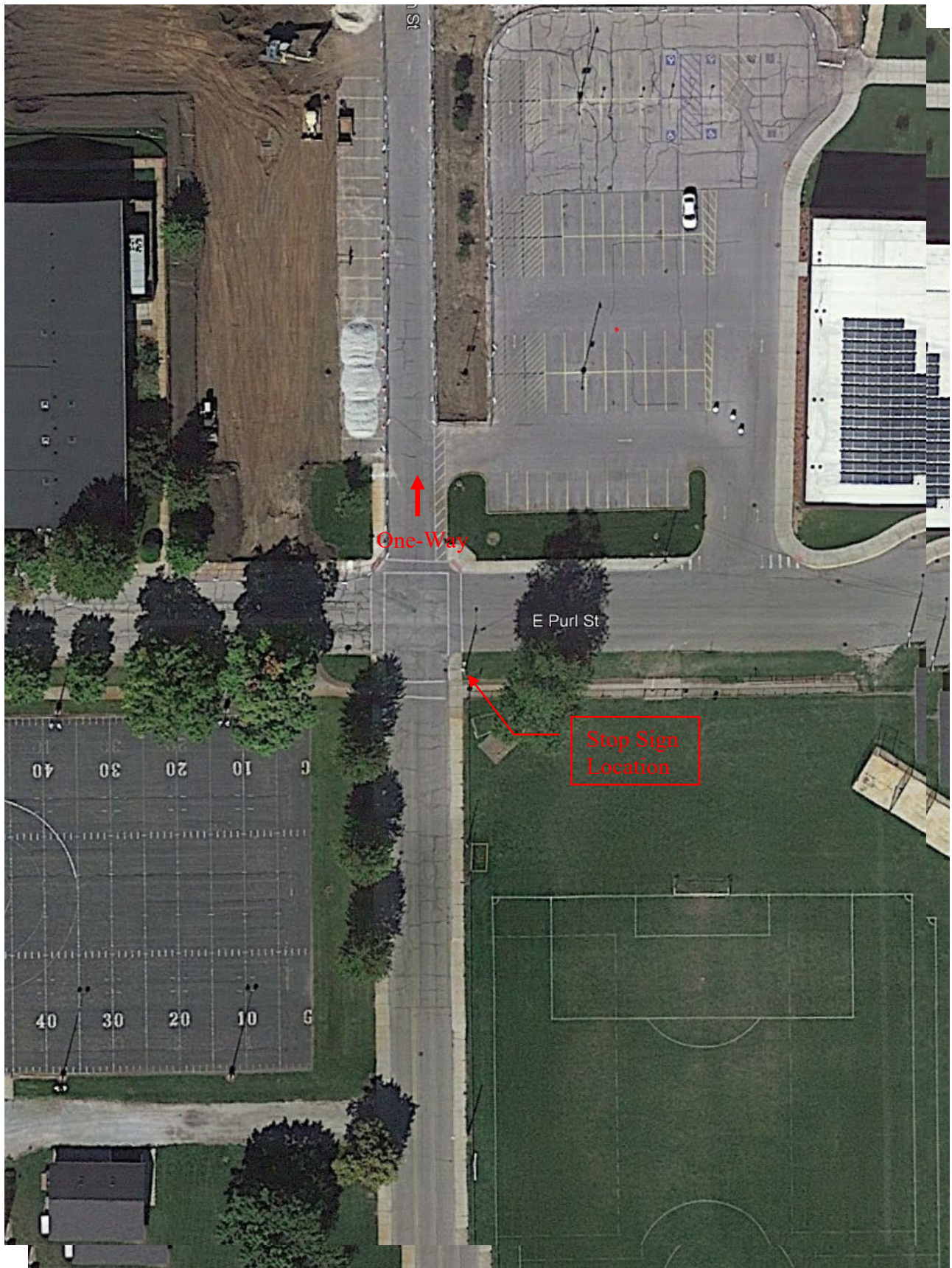
FROM: Engineering Department

RE: **INTERSECTION OF PURL AND 10TH**

DATE: March 17, 2021

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The Engineering Department has recently received a letter from Deanna Minnick requesting the placement of a “cross traffic does not stop” sign below the stop sign on the northbound approach of 10<sup>th</sup> Street to Purl Street. Her letter, including the page with additional signatories, is attached. Engineering inquired with Deanna about the potential to make the intersection an all-way stop given the location adjacent to the school. She stated that she and her colleagues felt that this would likely have a significant impact on traffic after school and they think the “cross traffic does not stop” sign would go a long way if increasing awareness of drivers. The Engineering Department would support a recommendation from the Commission to place the sign as requested.





## GOSHEN HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

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401 Lincolnway East • Goshen, IN 46526 | (574) 533-8651 | Fax (574) 534-9792 | [www.goshenschools.org](http://www.goshenschools.org)

February 23, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

A number of Goshen High School employees (see attached signatures) have become concerned about the amount of near-accidents occurring at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Purl Street. It is not uncommon for northbound traffic on 10<sup>th</sup> Street to fail to yield the right away to Purl Street traffic.

In order to raise awareness and reduce the amount of traffic hazards at this intersection, we propose that a yellow "cross traffic does not stop" sign be added below the stop sign for northbound 10<sup>th</sup> Street traffic at the Purl Street intersection.

Thank you for your consideration and prompt attention to this matter!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deanna Minnick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" and a long, sweeping "M".

Deanna Minnick  
574-309-0397  
GHS Registrar & Goshen Resident  
(on behalf of attached signees)



## GOSHEN HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

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We, the undersigned, are in support of the addition of a "cross traffic does not stop" sign for northbound traffic at 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Purl Street.

| Printed Name         | Signature           | Date     |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------|
| 1. Jesselle Schrock  | Jesselle Schrock    | 2/22/21  |
| 2. Jamie Lehn        | Jamie S. Lehn       | 2/22/21  |
| 3. Linda Dickerson   | Linda Dickerson     | 2/22/21  |
| 4. Jeremy McLaughlin | Jeremy McLaughlin   | 2/22/21  |
| 5. DAVID Post        | David Post          | 2/22/21  |
| 6. Brian O'Leary     | Brian O'Leary       | 2/22/21  |
| 7. Kyata Hartman     | Kyata Hartman       | 2/23/21  |
| 8. Katie O'Leary     | Katie O'Leary       | 2/23/21  |
| 9. Steve Snyder      | Steve Snyder        | 2/23/21  |
| 10. Monica Stutzman  | Monica Stutzman     | 2/23/21  |
| 11. Amy King         | Amy King            | 2/23/21  |
| 12. Lavonne Shetter  | Lavonne Shetter     | 2/23/21  |
| 13. Lindsey Kroening | Lindsey N. Kroening | 2/23/21  |
| 14. Lilianna Embritz | Lilianna Embritz    | 02/23/21 |
| 15.                  |                     |          |