

GOVERNING BODY WORKSHOP MINUTES
Roeland Park City Hall
4600 W 51st Street, Roeland Park, KS 66205
Monday, August 21, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| ○ Michael Poppa, Mayor | ○ Tom Madigan, Council Member | ○ Keith Moody, City Administrator |
| ○ Trisha Brauer, Council Member | ○ Castagna-Herrera, Council Member | ○ Jennifer Jones-Lacy, Asst. Admin. |
| ○ Benjamin Dickens, Council Member | ○ Kate Raglow, Council Member | ○ Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk |
| ○ Jan Faidley, Council Member | ○ Michael Rebne, Council Member | ○ John Morris, Police Chief |
| ○ Jennifer Hill, Council Member | | ○ Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director |

Admin

Raglow
Dickens

Finance

Rebne
Hill

Safety

Castagna-Herrera
Madigan

Public Works

Brauer
Faidley

(Governing Body Workshop Called to Order at 7:09 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

CMBR Hill called the meeting to order. CMBRS Dickens and Brauer were absent. All other Governing Body members were present.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Governing Body Workshop Committee July 24, 2023

The minutes were approved as presented.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Review and Discuss Traffic Calming Along Buena Vista

Public Comment

Linda Gardner (5220 Clark) Ms. Gardner said she supported the 2020 study hoping to prove the need for safety in the area of Buena Vista. She was disheartened by the results of the study because it did not accurately reflect what they actually see with respect to the speed and number of cars. She also noted that the study was done during COVID and did not account for the schools being closed and lower traffic in general. She said the crosswalk and better signage, along with the street post are good steps, but the vast majority of cars have not slowed down. She said that her daughter was struck by a motorist recently while she was up on the sidewalk. Ms. Gardner also asked the Governing Body to please find a way to make road travel slower and for it to no longer be a cut-thru. She suggested a proactive approach with speed tables and reduced speeds so another child is not hurt.

Michelle Daugharthy (Roeland Park resident) Ms. Daugharthy said speeding continues to be a problem on Buena Vista. While she is thankful for the additional signage, it is not effective. She also noted that there is no buffer between the sidewalks and the street. Ms. Daugharthy recommended looking at their Complete Streets plan and asked for speed humps. She said they are an active outside community and asked the Governing Body to take into consideration the number of children who walk to Roseland along Buena Vista. She said they need to take care of each other and do something.

Travis Daniel (5136 Catalina) Mr. Daniel expressed his support of traffic reduction measures. He said their next steps would affect the Buena Vista traffic. He added that he appreciated the efforts of the 2020 study as well as the City's responsiveness, and he would like to see that continue.

Nadia Schroeder (Catalina St.) Ms. Schroeder recommended that they think creatively and recommended speed bumps or even rerouting the actual traffic. She said the issue is not just speed of vehicles, but also the volume of vehicles and distracted drivers.

Jim Constant (51st & Buena Vista) Mr. Constant said the people treat the installed traffic signs as if they do not exist. He has had vehicles up on his sidewalk and even into his house causing damage. He said an officer does sit in his driveway and tries to slow the traffic down, but it is not doing any good. He also suggested speed tables and possibly making Buena Vista a one-way street. He said they need to do something.

Ruth Feldblum (5148 Catalina) Ms. Feldblum supports the efforts to make Buena Vista safer in finding better ways to manage the traffic. She said this is an opportunity to be able to take care of each other. She said the traffic and speeds are dangerous and would like to see her tax dollars going towards improving that.

Lauren Wortham (Buena Vista) Ms. Wortham also encouraged safety measures to ensure their children are growing up on a safe street as a community and not just being relegated to the back yard. She noticed that speeders get pulled over frequently, but she would like to see proactive measures taken. She said it is important for the City to be working with the schools as they have a lot of children walking and they need to know that they are safe going to and from school.

John Christensen (5151 Buena Vista) Mr. Christiansen said he was terrified to have his kids out front when they were young, noting that Buena Vista has always been scary. He would like to see a reduction in traffic and that it not be used as a main thoroughfare. He noted the traffic has increased since the Mission Gateway shut the onramp down and now traffic diverts through Buena Vista. He said they need to create safety for their children, but speed is not the only issue; it's also the traffic flow, distracted driving, and the resulting property damage.

Reece Hale (5205 Buena Vista) Ms. Hale said it is terrifying out on the sidewalk and she does not let her children ride there. She has also witnessed the speeding and would like to see speed tables or a turnabout. The area has a lot of children who are all playing and have community, but this makes them targets for distracted drivers.

Cameron Bond (Buena Vista) Mr. Bond said there are quite a few children in the neighborhood. He also said that the issue is as much as speed as it is flow. He said he was shocked to see in the study from 2020 that there were 4,000 a day when traffic was reduced. He has had several cars that were hit on Buena Vista and would welcome speed tables or anything to ease the traffic.

Lisa Brunner (Roeland Park resident) Ms. Brunner said she would like to see a line of speed tables and stands in support of increasing the same of Buena Vista.

Before opening it up to Governing Body discuss, CMBR Hill said that Buena Vista is an ongoing investigation, and they need to be cautious of what they say and may not be able to publicly answer some questions. She also thanked everyone for coming out, sharing their stories and opinions.

City Administrator Moody introduced Janelle Clayton from Merge Midwest, the City's traffic engineer. Ms. Clayton reviewed the 2020 study and said they will do another traffic count now that numbers have returned to normal. In the original study, she said it was most concerning that in the 85th percentile of traffic the speed was 36 miles per hour in a 25 mph zone. She said that normally they see a +/- 5 difference.

CMBR Hill asked if those speeds were collected with a trailer or tubes. Ms. Clayton said it was an actual counter not a trailer as they tend to skew the actual speed rates if people see them.

CMBR Rebne asked for an explanation of what constituted the 85th percentile. Ms. Clayton said that would be 85 percent of people not obeying the speed.

Ms. Clayton also noted another main concern is that people are not yielding to pedestrians and would suggest that they look into further traffic calming measures.

CMBR Madigan asked about the times of day when they counted cars. Ms. Clayton said the City policy is to get a full week's worth of data. She said they can include information on night versus daytime traffic. She said the study scored high for a need for traffic calming and would recommend addressing that through engineering, education, and enforcement. She said that social media blasts and educating residents is key as well as increasing enforcement.

Their next steps would be to do a traffic study and look at alternatives that make sense for Buena Vista. The cost of the study will be \$12,364.80 and take about two months to complete. Her report will include the cost of the measures the Governing Body could opt for. She would like to work with the residents and their neighborhood representative. Ms. Clayton added that they do not have the volume to warrant a stop sign and they are also not an effective device for traffic calming.

Appropriate traffic calming options from the City's traffic calming policy would be speed tables, raised crosswalks, a traffic circle, chokers, and narrowing the roadway. Ms. Clayton reviewed the pros and cons of each option.

CMBR Faidley said if they move forward with speed tables, residents need to realize they will lose some of their on-street parking, and they need to recognize there will be some pushback on that.

Ms. Clayton's initial recommendation would be six speed tables from Elledge Drive to West 53rd Street with a total cost ranging from \$120,000 to \$360,000.

CMBR Faidley said that is a wide range and asked what factors played into that. Ms. Clayton replied it has to do with area drainage, geometric considerations, location, and sidewalk tie-ins. She said they will know more with the results of the study.

CMBR Rebne said the speed table on Johnson Drive doesn't feel like it has a deterring impact. Public Works Director Scharff said that is a raised plate because the traffic signal was removed and is not designed to slow down traffic.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera asked if they could add a recommended speed of 15 mph as shown in one of the photo examples. Ms. Clayton said they could take that under advisement. The area is designed to be driven at 25 mph, but they could put the advisory speed on a sign.

CMBR Faidley asked about the streets included in the study. Ms. Clayton said all of the nearby streets would be included as well.

Mayor Poppa said someone had a question on Zoom whether 53rd was part of Fairway. He said that the west side of Buena Vista is in Roeland Park up to Shawnee Mission Parkway. Past 53rd, everything east is in Fairway. Mayor Poppa said he fully supports speed tables if that's what the new traffic study will find. He expressed his support to move forward with the traffic study and looking at speed tables.

There was agreement to move forward with traffic study.

City Administrator Moody said they would like to identify a point of contact for their process, and everyone agreed on Michelle Daugharthy as their resident contact.

2. Discussion Option of Re-itemizing Solid Waste Services on 2024 Property Tax Bill

City Administrator Moody opened the discussion on whether they should itemize the solid waste assessment on county taxes or leave it as one. The three components include their contracted waste service with GFL for garbage, recycling, and yard waste, their leaf collection program, and the Ripple Glass recycling.

CMBR Madigan said he brought forward this request as people have asked what is included in the assessment. He said he was also surprised to see the breakdown and how much they are paying in administrative fees, and why residents should be charged for work that a City employee already does.

City Administrator Moody said the administrative figure amounts to \$1.53 per year per single-family residence, and is reflective of time spent administering the program versus working on other duties. He discussed when they first were breaking out the leaf collection program and not wanting to add employee time spent on that as they are already working for Public Works. He said it is not included in the program, but it does make the transparency murky.

Mayor Poppa said it is not an additional charge to the residents, they are only showing the transfer of funds or what department those hours are being charged to. He said he sees them running into more problems with itemization of the solid waste fee.

CMBR Faidley said if the leaf and glass do not include administrative, then it clouds the discussion. If they itemize it, she can see people arguing about paying for services they may not use. Also, she said it will make the already difficult statement to read much denser.

CMBR Hill also said that every time a rate is changed, it will make it seem they are triple charged as it will be three bills going up versus one.

CMBR Raglow said she likes transparency but understands not sharing it as it can be confusing. She proposed they could do some education around the solid waste cost to better help residents understand what goes into it.

CMBR Hill suggested a piece in the newsletter and that Mayor Poppa do a video explanation.

Mayor Poppa said he would do a joint video with CMBR Madigan.

CMBR Madigan said he is in favor of itemizing, and as the prices go up, citizens are better able to see what they're paying for.

CMBR Rebne said it still does not make it clear to itemize because of mixed funds paying for different services and the City subsidizing those out of one fund.

CMBR Hill said they all build off of each other.

Mayor Poppa said they can refer people back to the City website for further information on how the assessment breaks down.

CMBR Hill said there was not majority support for itemizing, but everyone wanted to see a focus on education, videos, and what other options there might be.

CMBR Madigan asked how soon staff needed direction since two Councilmembers were absent. City Administrator Moody need to file special assessments this week. He added he can't justify doing or not doing something because someone might complain because they see the cost.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera said she thinks of people on a fixed income, and they need to know where small amounts are going, which is why she agrees with itemization. She said it is not the worst thing to tell people.

City Administrator Moody said they will include information to direct people to the web page that includes detail of the assessment.

CMBR Raglow said as they release more information, people ask more questions, which in turn increases administrative costs by staff answering more phone calls and such, and that cost is then spread out to residents.

CMBR Hill said they have agreed they want to educate and be transparent, but they are just disagreeing on where to share information.

3. Appoint Task Group to Work on 2024 Service Agreement for Project Rise

Mayor Poppa said he spoke with CMBRS Castagna-Herrera, Brauer, and Madigan to form a task group that will work with Ms. Jones-Lacy who is the staff representative to Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce. From there they will determine their expectations, deliverables and tangibles.

III. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

No items were presented.

IV. ADJOURN

CMBR Hill adjourned the meeting.

(Roeland Park Governing Body Workshop Adjourned at 8:22 p.m.)