

# **Bent Creek Neighborhood Meeting**

## **Sparrow Road Traffic Concerns**

**Tuesday, August 4, 2009**

**7:00 p.m.**

Below is a summary of the neighborhood meeting that was held on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at 1161 Sparrow Road with approximately 30 residents; the Waconia City Council; Kreg Schmidt, City Engineer; and Susan Arntz, City Administrator.

Kreg Schmidt started the meeting with an overview of the concept of what a collector street is, see Exhibit A. Sparrow Road is classified as a minor collector street.

### Questions:

A question was asked about how Sparrow Road could be determined to be a collector when it is only 34' wide and the ordinance states that collector street are to be 41'. When the Bent Creek subdivision was approved, the street was approved as a 34' wide street with parking on one side. As follow up from the meeting, a review of the ordinance provides that minor collector streets may be 34' wide, with no parking on either side.

Kreg next reviewed the City of Waconia Transportation Plan. This plan is shown on Exhibit B.

### Questions:

A question was asked about the timing of 102<sup>nd</sup> Street. During the meeting it was stated that this is on the County's funding program and is not currently funded until post 2020.

Kreg next reviewed other areas in the community that have Average Daily Traffic (ADT) Volumes over 2,000. Sparrow Road is different than most of these locations as many of those locations are 40' to 44' and have fewer private access/driveways. Sparrow Road currently has approximately 1,600 ADT.

Kreg next reviewed the speed study that was completed in April 2009. Copies of the handout are shown as Exhibit C.

### Questions:

Questions were asked about the methodology and margin of error of the speed study. The study was conducted using tube counters in April 2009. Kreg Schmidt reported that there may be a slight margin of error on the tube counters.

A question was asked about why Sparrow Road doesn't meet our standards for a collector street. Discussion was had about how the Bent Creek Subdivision was approved with the 34' wide streets, with parking on one side of the street.

Discussion occurred about whether wider roads cause higher speeds, whether parking on the street causes traffic to slow down, and parking on one side. Several neighbors reported that they were concerned that by limiting parking on the street that the road would appear to be wider, which may cause traffic to travel faster. Several neighbors reported that they intentionally park on the street to cause drivers to slow down in the neighborhood. There was significant discussion about restricting parking.

A question was asked about the City's ability to reduce speed to 25 MPH. Kreg Schmidt clarified that under state statute, cities are not able to reduce the speed limit on residential streets below 30 MPH. Cities can reduce speed in school zones.

Comments were made about a desire to see Sparrow Road barricaded, adding artificial barriers to the neighborhood. The City commented that this is not a likely outcome.

A question was asked about what the weight limit of the road is. Sparrow Road is rated for 7 tons. A couple of residents asked if the City would consider posting the roads in the neighborhood, the City will review this topic.

Kreg Schmidt reviewed the long term improvement and proposed interim improvements, as shown on Exhibit D. The long term improvements striping and intersection control, consideration of parking on one side of street, hard curb bump outs, and hard landscaping of bump out areas. This option would provide the most long term solution to the area, but comes with a \$100,000 price tag. Given the cost, the City had developed a series of proposed interim improvements, listed on Exhibit E, including:

- All-Way Stop at Wood Duck and Sparrow Road
- All-Way Stop at Wood Duck and Goldfinch Drive
- Center line striping on Sparrow Road from Highway 284 to Oak Avenue
- Fog line striping at 11 feet from center line stripe on Sparrow Road from Highway 284 to Oak Avenue
- Additional crosswalk striping/pedestrian crosswalk signage
- Installation of additional "Children at Play" signage at east entrance to neighborhood on Sparrow Road (COMPLETED)
- Crosswalk Striping and Centerline Signage at Wood Duck and Lennox Drive (Lennox Drive signage completed)
- Maintain Parking on both sides of street
- Review of additional crosswalks to be identified
- Discussion with the bus company about change of bus stop locations
- Discussion with post office about potential relocation of mailboxes to avoid residents having to cross the street
- Review striped "Bump Outs" at various locations

After considerable discussion, there was consensus from the neighbors present that this proposed improvements should be advanced. Susan Arntz reported that these improvements can be reviewed with the City Council on August 17 at the City Council meeting. She reported that with a month before school starts, many of these items can be completed in advance of the September 8 start. Susan Arntz reported that minutes would be produced and posted to the City's website.

The meeting concluded at approximately 9 p.m.