


MEMORANDUM

December 11, 2012

TO: Board of Mayor and Aldermen

FROM: Eric Stuckey, City Administrator 
David Parker, City Engineer/CIP Executive
Paul Holzen, Director of Engineering
Carl Baughman, Traffic/Transportation Engineer

SUBJECT: Fair Street Traffic Calming Issue

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to present to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA) and Capital Investment Committee a petition from residents requesting the removal of the traffic chokers at three locations on Fair Street between 7th Avenue and 11th Avenue.

Background

The City's Traffic Calming Design Criteria and Policy is outlined in the Street Specifications and generally applies to local and residential streets. On November 26, 2012 staff received a request and petition from a property owner on Fair Street to remove three traffic chokers located between 7th Avenue and 11th Avenue that functions as a traffic calming device. The chokers were installed about seven years ago by the Streets Department in response to neighborhood concerns about speeding on Fair Street. The petition zone consisting of property owners along Fair Street and has forty-two (42) occupied properties. Twenty-four (24) current and valid property owners signed the petition for a 57% representation in favor of the removals.

The City's Traffic Calming Design Criteria and Policy as outlined in the Street Specifications states the following:

(3) Modification or Removal of a Traffic Calming Device

(a) Process

If the City Engineer determines that a traffic calming device should be modified or removed due to public health/safety reasons, then the City Engineer, with assistance from the Street Department, shall modify or remove the device. If the neighborhood association/group wishes to remove or significantly alter a traffic calming device, then the neighborhood must conduct the same petitioning process outlined in Step 2. If the petition supporting the removal/modification is successful, then the neighborhood must pay for the costs that area associated with the removal/modification. A traffic calming device will not be removed until all payment agreements have been finalized. If the removal/modification is initiated by the neighborhood association/group, then the neighborhood will be ineligible to participate in the NTCP for a period of five years.



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TENNESSEE

MEMORANDUM

The Engineering Department considers the petition as a sufficient basis for the removal of the traffic chokers. It should be noted that there were no before-installation speed and accident studies conducted on Fair Street, so there is no basis for comparing the after-installation experience. This work can be completed at no cost to the residents as part of the resurfacing work on Fair Street that is scheduled for Spring of 2013. The petition and accompanying email messages are attached for your information.

Financial Impact

No Financial Impact. The resurfacing of Fair Street is a planned City's paving program for Spring of 2013.

Recommendation

Based on the resident petition and consistent with policy, there is sufficient justification to warrant the removal of the three chokers between 7th Avenue and 11th Avenue. The Board has the opportunity to consider this information and provide further guidance on this request.

RESOLUTION 2012-72

A RESOLUTION TO REMOVE ALL TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES ON FAIR STREET BETWEEN 7TH AVENUE AND 11TH AVENUE

WHEREAS, the City of Franklin Transportation & Street Technical Standards defines the City’s policy associated with neighborhood traffic calming methods; and

WHEREAS, the modification or removal of a traffic calming device requires a petition that represents a minimum fifty-one (51) percent of the petition area supporting the request as outlined in the City of Franklin Transportation & Street Technical Standards; and

WHEREAS, on November 26th, 2012 City staff received a request and petition from property owners located on Fair Street to remove three traffic calming devices located between 7th avenue and 11th Avenue that were installed as traffic calming devices; and

WHEREAS, the petition area, as defined by the City Engineer, included forty-two (42) properties of which twenty-four (24) current and valid property owners signed the petition for a fifty seven (57%) present in favor of the removal of the traffic calming devices located on Fair Street.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Franklin, Tennessee, that all traffic calming devices on Fair Street shall be removed between 7th Avenue and 11th Avenue.

IT IS SO RESOLVED AND DONE on this 8th day of January, 2013

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, TENNESSE

By: _____

ERIC S. STUCKEY
City Administrator

By: _____

Dr. Ken Moore
Mayor

Approved as to Form

By: _____

Shauna R. Billingsley
City Attorney

FAIR STREET TRAFFIC CALMING ISSUE

City of Franklin BOMA and staff,

Please accept the attached petition from 26 (65%) of the property owners of Fair Street concerning the removal of the round out curb chokers that are on Fair Street. The major concern for removal is the safety hazard that these curb outs present to pedestrians and vehicles and that these rounded out curbs do not slow the speed of cars.

Of those not signing were:

3 – unable to contact property owners that are not residents of Fair St.

4 – Want to know another plan for traffic before curb outs removed, made remarks about chokers not working

2 – Tried to contact, but were not able to do so

2- Neutral on the issue

2- Not interested in signing petitions

1 – Against petition and wants to keep the curb out in front of their house and maintain it.

I have tried to represent all opinions and remarks made by the citizens on Fair Street.

Thanks for your consideration,

Ann Little

NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PETITION FORM

Name of neighborhood and requesting organization: Fair Street

Contact person: Ann Little Telephone No 794-2084 or 429-8712

Street to have chokers removed - Fair Street from 7th Ave to 11th Ave.

Request Statement: We the undersigned request that the traffic chokers that jut out into Fair Street be removed for the following reasons:

- Traffic hazard – There have been numerous accidents that have occurred causing tires to be blown out and damages to cars. On one occasion, a woman and granddaughter were walking down the street and barely escaped being hit by a car after it hit one of these chokers. People are not aware of chokers due to low visibility. Light reflectors have been installed this summer and they have already been damaged as well as the concrete has been cracked and plants run over.
- Not traffic calming - People only slow their speed when meeting cars approaching from the opposite direction. Then they will go increase their speed, especially when they have passed 9th Avenue going west.
- Drivers (even police) cross double yellow line because of these narrow areas.
- Landscaping not maintained - Dead trees and bushes left for long periods of time. Vines not kept trimmed off of sidewalk and street.

SIGNATURES:

No.	Property Owner Name	Address	Telephone
✓ 1	<u>Ann Little</u>	<u>916 Fair St</u>	<u>794-2084</u>
2	Ann Little	<u>900 Fair St</u>	<u>794-5602</u>
✓ 2	<u>Dora S. Palmer</u> Dora S. Palmer		

3 4. ^{POA} Haylen Williams 921 Fair St 615-594-1544
 4 5. By Sharon Williams
 4 6. Wanda Luma 1010 Fair St 794-7058
 7.5 7. Roger H Hutchfield 1012 Fair St 791-1474
 6 8. Migi Lann 1013 Fair St. 794-6026
 9. Dianna Maher 1014 Fair St. 330-4015
Dianna Maha

Property Owner Name Address Telephone No.

✓ 8 10. Reverly Masely 1004 Fair 792-5853
 ✓ 9 11. LYNN DEAL 800 FAIR 714-3876
 ✓ 10 12. Jim & Randy Seymour 802 Fair 336-0189
 ✓ 11 13. Yamie Purson 728 Fair 256-509-0759
 12 14. Paula (McLain) 805 Fair 615-599-3742
 ✓ 13 15. Ellen DiLorenzo 936 Fair 595-2868
 ✓ 14 16. Deis Alvander 1008 Fair 791-1512
 ✓ 15 17. Julie A. Hunter 1005 Fair 615-414-2200
 16 18. Barbara C. Linder 915 Fair St 591-9886
 17 19. Frank R. Ruffin 1002 FAIR ST. 456-6057
 18 20. James H. Doughton 1003 FAIR ST. 794-3159
 19 21. Mike 905 Fair St 771-9566
 20 22. Tom Landon 1009 Fair St. 794-5281
 ✓ 21 23. Ken & Millard Smith 1011 FAIR 794-1664
 ✓ 22 24. Sarah Hathaway 906 Fair St 591-1706

- ✓ 23 45. Jance Swartz 807 Fair St. 794-0050
- ✓ 24 46. Catherine Harbath 904 Fair St. 794-1904
- ✓ 25 47. Allyson Moore Kirkpatrick 935 Fair See email attached
- ✓ 26 48. Marcia E Williams (Corner of 7th + Fair) 525-7258

49. _____

50. _____

51. _____

52. _____

53. _____

No.	Property Owner Name	Address	Telephone
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54. _____

55. _____

56. _____

57. _____

58. _____

59. _____

60. _____

Tue, November 13, 2012 12:57:35 PM

Re: Fair Street issue

From: AllysonKirkpatrick
<ALLYSONKIRK@COMCAST.NET>

To: Granny Annie <littleann@bellsouth.net>

Hi Ann,

I'm with you. We have some in Huntsville and they call them "traffic calmers" when in actuality they are "traffic stressers"!! I support your effort to remove them.

Best,

Allyson

Owner

935 Fair Street

On Nov 13, 2012, at 9:25 AM, Granny Annie wrote:

Allyson,

I wanted you to know about a petition that is being circulated on Fair Street to have the curb jut outs, that are supposed to slow traffic, removed and the straight curbs put back. I have attached the petition for your consideration. We would like to have as many property owners sign as possible. I think you can sign it electronically or you can reply with an email with you support or opposition and I will submit it to the city with the petition.

Thank you for your time with this issue.

Sincerely,

Ann Little

916 Fair Street

Franklin, TN 37064

615-794-2084

PS: We still miss your mom and dad.

<Frassic Calming.tif>



Potential Danger on Fair St. Chicane

Beverly Moseley <bbmoseley@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 23, 2012 at 3:04 PM

To: ken.moore@franklintn.gov, margaret.martin@franklintn.gov, annpetersen@comcast.net, clyde.barnhill@franklintn.gov, brandy.blanton@franklintn.gov, bransfordpearl@aol.com

Bcc: Beverly Moseley <bbmoseley@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Mayor,
Dear Aldermen,

I live at 1004 Fair Street in Franklin, second house from one of the chicanes installed throughout downtown Franklin. During the last three days we have had an increased traffic on Fair Street due to construction by the Water and Sewer Department while working on Main. So far this week, we are aware of at least three (3) wrecks where motorists traveling westbound have hit the chicane curbing on the north side of the street. There may have been more wrecks, but we are only aware of three during this week, since we were home and heard the noise and found the vehicles parked in front of our house. Yesterday, the vehicle had to be towed.

While I appreciate the City's efforts to control the speed of vehicles on our street, it is my opinion that this particular traffic-calming device presents a very possible liability to the City of Franklin. In the years since these chicanes have been built, there have been many wrecks at this particular sight. Many of the wrecks occur during the late afternoon while the driver is facing and being almost blinded by the sun. My wife and I have offered help to the drivers on several occasions. Most of the damage caused by these wrecks require towing, tire replacement and more expensive suspension repair to the vehicles; certainly costly to the owner.

To my knowledge, no one has been hospitalized due to any of these

wrecks, but it may be just a matter of time until there is a very bad wreck, possibly even a fatality. I might also point out that this device (chicane) also presents a very obvious danger to any pedestrians that walk on the adjacent pavement (or to homeowners or even children who happen to be in their yard) due to wheel covers and suspension parts discharged on impact.

The chicane itself protrudes 72 inches into the street, which extends further than others in town. We have been very fortunate to this point that no vehicles have been coming from the opposite direction at the time the chicane is hit, but it could result in a head-on collision. Speed is not the problem since most drivers know that the street ends at 11th Avenue (one block) so are traveling at 30mph or less. If, however, two vehicles collide while traveling 30mph there is the equivalency of a 60mph wreck.

I invite you to examine the scene and investigate the number of complaints received on this issue. While the construction is underway on our street, it would present an excellent time for removal of this particular chicane.

Most people do not call the police to report an accident involving the chicanes, due to embarrassment or time involved. I make this request as a concerned citizen, and will be sending a copy of this letter to other officials representing the City of Franklin. This issue should be taken very seriously and should be investigated as a very real potential liability.

Sincerely,

Bob Moseley

794-5853

I have forwarded this to staff.

Ken

From: Beverly Moseley [mailto:bbmoseley@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2012 3:05 PM
To: Ken Moore; Margaret Martin; annpetersen@comcast.net; Clyde Barnhill; Brandy Blanton; bransfordpearl@aol.com
Subject: Potential Danger on Fair St. Chicane

[Quoted text hidden]

Margaret Martin <margaret.martin@franklintn.gov>
To: Beverly Moseley <bbmoseley@gmail.com>
Cc: Eric Stuckey <eric.stuckey@franklintn.gov>

Fri, Aug 24, 2012 at 10:48 AM

Thank you for your concerns about Fair Street, Mrs Mosley. I am sure that our traffic engineers can discuss this with you. These traffic calmers were placed there at the request, by petition, of the neighbors who were concerned about the speeding on Fair Street. It is a long street without curves or stop signs to slow traffic. It would be helpful if the neighbors would be cooperative in trying to maintain these calmers as they do in other parts of the city. They have plants that can be seen by traffic ahead of them, and we might discuss placing red markers or others means of warnings to speeders through the area.

Surely, those who travel that street regularly will be alerted to the calmers and maintain a limited speed, thus avoiding accidents.

Again, thank you for your thoughts.

Margaret Martin

From: Beverly Moseley [bbmoseley@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2012 3:04 PM
To: Ken Moore; Margaret Martin; annpetersen@comcast.net; Clyde Barnhill; Brandy Blanton; bransfordpearl@aol.com
Subject: Potential Danger on Fair St. Chicane

[Quoted text hidden]

