

City Manager Woodruff welcomed everyone present and explained that traffic calming was an issue that affected communities nationwide. A copy of the Traffic Calming 7th Avenue North Report was compiled by staff and distributed to Council. (A copy of the Traffic Calming Report is contained in the meeting packet filed in the City Clerk's Office for review.)

The staff had addressed the issue of traffic on Seventh Street North approximately a year ago, said Dr. Woodruff, whereby, creating a manual on traffic calming by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). It was noted that an essential part to traffic calming was holding public meetings so that citizens affected by the transformation could voice their concerns and offer input. City Council would then at a later date make a decision that would best handle the traffic needs of that community.

Engineering Manager Dick Gatti gave a presentation on traffic calming with reference to a step-by-step approach to the Traffic Calming 7th Avenue North Report. Mr. Gatti reported on the various options for traffic calming:

- stop signs
- speed humps
- street narrowing
- roundabouts

Mr. Gatti then elaborated on the word "eliminate" and its association to traffic studies and that it use was misleading and that the word "redistribute" was more appropriate, indicating that traffic was actually distributed to other streets.

Council Member Van Arsdale quarrried as to the funding of the project and Dr. Woodruff indicated that impact fees specifically limited activities relating to the increase in traffic and recommended using funds for the roundabouts on 7th Avenue from the roadway fund. However, in some areas of the community, roundabouts may be eligible for the impact fees if accommodating excessive traffic.

Dr. Woodruff then explained that streets in the Comprehensive Plan were classified as collector, local, and arterial streets. He noted that staff would be holding public meetings throughout the month of May to review every part of the Comprehensive Plan as presently adopted. The new Comprehensive Plan would be adopted in 1997. The plan, stated Dr. Woodruff, is to change 7th Avenue from a local street to a collector street and that the City Council would make that final decision. An unrealistic option for 7th Avenue North would be to do nothing, whereas, traffic would increase to over 17,000 vehicles a day.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT 6:55 p.m.**

##### **Betsy Jones, 1075 7th Avenue North**

Mrs. Jones gave City Council a petition in support of constructing roundabouts or speed humps at 10th Street, 11th Street, and 12th Street on 7th Avenue North from residents of 7th Avenue North. (Attachment A) She reported that her neighborhood was very excited and supportive for something to be done in the area.

##### **Penny Taylor, 13th Street North**

Mrs. Taylor expressed the fact that there had been much change since the traffic study on 7th Avenue with regards to the new bridge. Mrs. Taylor also indicated that the affects of the new bridge would cause homes in her neighborhood to deteriorate.

**Virginia Clement, 1020 13th Street North**

Mrs. Clement commented that vehicles traverse the neighborhood by way of getting past the post office. Mrs. Clement ask that the City Council consider the effect that the location of the new bridge would have on her neighborhood.

**Paul Rich, 340 Central Avenue**

Mr. Rich expressed his concerns on the proposed bridge alignment and the additional traffic that would accompany that bridge on 7th Avenue west. Mr. Rich indicated that he and his wife had performed a traffic study at 7th Avenue west and that within two hours of the study over 500 vehicles had been counted. Mr. Rich indicated that traffic moving east and west were equipped with several stop signs and traffic lights that intercepted that flow, whereas, 7th Avenue and Central had but one stop sign thus attracting more traffic.

**Kim Case, 380 Central Avenue**

Mrs. Case stated that from listening to public comments she got the distinct indication that the community was being ripped apart. She indicated that collectors streets must be looked at as a whole and not used to work against each other.

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED: 7:15 P.M.**

Mayor Muenzer asked the Council if they had any comments to add at this time. He then announced that the issue on traffic calming for 7th Avenue North was for discussion only and that there would be no action taken.

Council Member Van Arsdale pointed out that predicting traffic counts was a main part of traffic calming. He then preceded to explain that the problem, as he saw it, was between U. S. 41 and Goodlette which lack easterly/westerly passage ways in which most streets posses. The residential area of 7th Avenue north, 10th Street, and Goodlette Road has only one east/west collector street. Mr. Van Arsdale then asked that Council make a decision on 7th Avenue north.

Mayor Muenzer reiterated that the meeting was only to take input and that Council had not planned to take action at this meeting, and that additional information was distributed at the meeting that required review. The Mayor also indicated that the funding portion of the project had not been established and that there were other overall questions that needed to be addressed. The Mayor informed the Council that the advertisement for traffic calming at the meeting was for discussion only. A major concern people have on the roundabout at 10th Street and 7th Avenue are the school children that would be affected. Mayor Muenzer recommended to the Council that a premature act would not be in the best interest for that neighborhood nor in the content stated for the advertisement so stated.

Council Member Tarrant then made the comment that the options presented for traffic calming were very interesting, however, the impact will still affect the neighborhood regardless of slowing traffic down in certain areas. Mr. Tarrant agreed with respect to neighborhood traffic, however, traffic calming should not be the forefront of conversation when the new Gordon River Bridge would be increasing traffic by 30,000 vehicles.

Council Member Pennington indicated that traffic in the City would not increase with the new bridge but that the bridge location would determine how traffic would be distributed without manufacturing more traffic. Mr. Pennington indicated that when the existing Gordon River Bridge goes under construction for widening the alternative route to the downtown area would decrease in traffic. There had been much discussion on the issue and that at one point Council was prepared to take action and move forward on the roundabouts. Mr. Pennington stated that he preferred using the roundabouts as a temporary structure and monitor their usefulness before making a decision, however, Council should move forward.

Mayor Muenzer then reiterated that funding was an issue at this point and that other projects would feel the effects of possible substitution or deletions. Several commitments and promises have been made for the dollars that are available, said Mayor Muenzer.

Vice Mayor Korest commented that he was very impressed with the staff report he had received and the opportunity to listen to public input on the traffic calming issue. However, Mr. Korest indicated that he was not present for the last meeting on traffic calming and therefore was not prepared to make a response at this time.

Council Member Sullivan concurred with Vice Mayor Korest and the Mayor with regard to the advertisement on 7th Avenue North.

Council Member Prolman also agreed and she indicated that she would like to review the additional information received at the meeting and have another workshop. Mrs. Prolman indicated that she was in favor of roundabouts in the 7th Avenue North area, however, the bridge has changed the whole picture.

Council Member Tarrant indicated that people are feeling the ill effects of traffic moving very swiftly within their neighborhoods and the anticipation of the new bridge. Mr. Tarrant concurred with Mayor Muenzer and Vice Mayor Korest that there had not been enough time to examine the funding issue.

Mayor Muenzer then asked that Dr. Woodruff have staff perform three objectives prior to the meeting with City Council.

- 1) To make a presentation to the PTO as to Lake Park and Gulf View; to make it known that the possibility of installing a light at 7th Avenue and 10th Street and roundabouts;
- 2) To contact the rental managers at River Park and George Washington Carver; Mayor Muenzer indicated that he had the contact names in his office;
- 3) Setup an evening meeting at the recreation center for late May to meet with River Park and George Washington Carver as one meeting and another meeting with the Gulf View PTO.

It was noted that if the month of May was not a sufficient time to meet that early June would be acceptable. Mayor Muenzer emphasized the importance of these meeting prior to the subject matter coming before Council.

Adjourned: 7:35 p.m.





*City of Naples*

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**City Council Regular Meeting**

**XXXX, 199X**

Convened 0:00 am / Adjourned 0:00 pm

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