

# City council will study traffic patterns

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

A professional firm will review traffic patterns throughout Farmington, according to action taken by the city council Monday.

Approval of the traffic study was prompted by a local homeowners group concerned about traffic congestion and speeds near the city's downtown.

The Farmington council agreed to hire the engineering firm of Goodall Grivas Associates to conduct a traffic study and analyze suggestions

made by the Old Village Association, and give additional recommendations and suggestions. The study will cost approximately \$4,500, and will be completed in 60-90 days, according to city officials.

"We're not looking tonight for any specific solutions to the problems... we're just presenting them to you for your consideration," Frank Reid, president of the Old Village Association, told the city council Monday.

The association represents homeowners in the city's residential historic district located just north of

downtown. Reid and the group's traffic committee chairman, Ken Chiara, presented eight major concerns to the council.

"We want people to stay on Grand River and Farmington Road at posted speeds, so our law enforcement officers can better control traffic," Chiara added. "We're looking for a low cost, perhaps immediate, solution to the traffic problems."

**INCLUDING RESIDENTS,** downtown businesspeople, interested Farmington public safety employees and others, about 40 people attended

the traffic presentation.

In making the recommendation for the traffic study, city manager Robert Deadman said any changes made in traffic patterns downtown could affect other streets in the community. "To adequately review, it is necessary to have traffic engineers take the suggestions and perhaps add others," he said.

He also suggested city planners work in conjunction with engineers to coordinate with renovation efforts currently under way in the downtown business district.

"If we're going to do this study, we

might as well find out how this would impact other areas of the city," Mayor Richard Tupper added.

The Old Village residents group recommended lower speed limits along Grand River, additional traffic signals, "no parking" areas, a variety of other traffic signs and additional entrance and exit ramps on M-102, the city's bypass road. They also recommended the hiring of additional public safety officers to monitor traffic.

The city's Downtown Development Authority voted last week to reserve judgment on the overall proposal until the traffic study is completed, but were firm in their request that no parking changes be made downtown. There is already a parking shortage in some downtown areas, according to merchants.

**DURING HIS** presentation, Chiara said he would like to see traffic "flowing easily through downtown," discouraging drivers from taking residential shortcuts through the his-

torical neighborhood. The group's presentation Monday was low key and informational in nature, and the group readily accepted the city's traffic study plan.

"We are not traffic engineers," said Chiara. "We are only neighbors and residents concerned with the safety of our citizens."

The residents group spent "a lot of hours looking at surveys" before formulating their recommendations, Chiara said. "You can tell the time that has gone into this," councilwoman Shirley Richardson added.

Some of the group's concerns centered around the safety of residents because of traffic speeds and volume. Director of public safety Frank Lauboff assured residents the city's traffic safety record is actually improving.

Accidents have actually decreased this year, he said, and the city has not had a fatality since 1981. Between 1985 and 1981, there were 16 fatal accidents in the city of Farmington, he said.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

This is a view down eastbound Shilawassee at the intersection of Farmington Road, visible at the right.

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