

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2025  
MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
VILLAGE HALL 6101 CAPULINA, MORTON GROVE, IL 60053**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**1. Call to Order**

Pursuant to proper notice in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the regular meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Shah.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairperson Shah led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Roll Call**

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Bradley Alper  
Commissioner Robert Campanella  
Commissioner Ninous Chalabi  
Commissioner Jeff Dahlberg  
Commissioner Chris Sheehan  
Commissioner Frank Wang  
Chairperson Amit Shah

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Mike Dibra (with notice)

Village Staff Present:

Chris Tomich, Village Engineer  
Brandon Nolin, Community Development Administrator  
Keith White, Village Trustee  
Rita Minx, Village Trustee  
Justin Jurasz, Police Department Liaison  
Rick Dobrowski, Fire Department Liaison

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Shah sought approval of the October 2, 2025, meeting minutes. With no changes or alterations made to the minutes, Commissioner Dahlberg moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Alper seconded the motion. A roll call voice vote ensued. The motion passed with Commissioner Chalabi abstaining.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**STAFF REPORT**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. PC 25-12 – Hynes School Expansion (9000 Belleforte Avenue)**

**Applicant:** Jae Yoo; DLA Architects, Ltd

Brandon Nolin, Community Development Administrator, introduced the case. For PC25-12, the applicant, DLA Architects, Ltd on behalf of Golf School District 67, is requesting approval of a Special Use Permit to allow the expansion and modification of an existing school, Hynes Elementary, at 9000 Belleforte Avenue. The school expansion will include a new administration office at the west end of the school which will also create a new primary entrance for the school. A second addition will create a media center within an existing inner courtyard. Temporary classrooms west of the school will be demolished and removed as part of this project. The south drop-off lane will be reconfigured to one-way traffic, the southwest parking area will be reconfigured to accommodate bus traffic, and a parking area will be added west of the school. The project will net an additional ten parking spaces as a result of the reconfiguration. In summary, the east entrance from Belleforte Avenue will be one-way traffic westbound, whereas the west entrance on Marion Avenue will allow two-way traffic.

Ms. Tina Ewanio, Director of Business Services for Golf School District 67, addressed the Commission. Ms. Ewanio stated that she was happy for the addition of space as well as the design improvements for site circulation which should provide a safe and more efficient traffic flow during arrival and departure times including improved pedestrian crosswalks. The applicant's architect, DLA Architects, Ltd, has a representative present to answer Commissioners' questions.

Chairperson Shah asked if there were any questions from the Commissioners at this time.

Commissioner Dahlberg asked whether school staff would be present outside to direct traffic during arrival and departure times. Ms. Ewanio responded they do. She further explained that their custodians help outside to direct traffic. The south, east-west drive is blocked to force one-way travel through the existing circle drive which can currently accommodate approximately five vehicles, whereas the new design should accommodate up to ten vehicles. Buses will be separated from car traffic with the new design. Commissioner Dahlberg also confirmed that school staff directing traffic do wear high-visibility safety vests, including teachers and teacher's aides who assist.

Commissioner Dahlberg noted he lives near Park View School which prompts concern based on his observations. He has noted people parking south of the school and then

walking their kids the rest of the way to avoid the traffic congestion near the school building. This creates more pedestrian traffic near the drop-off areas. He asked if this would be a concern for Hynes School staff which might prompt additional school staff supervision in the area south of the school. Ms. Ewanio responded that more students have been riding the buses since she began working there, and National Avenue provides a situation for parents to park and drop students off. The school does block off their parking spaces to prevent pedestrian traffic from all directions and create a more orderly process.

Commissioner Alper inquired about which parking spaces are blocked off during arrival and departure times. Ms. Ewanio explained that is a current process, but no spaces will need to be blocked with the new design. Commissioner Alper asked about after school activities and traffic control. Ms. Ewanio explained this is a Pre-school through 4<sup>th</sup> grade school campus which has after-school clubs and band. All sports are held at another campus for middle-school students.

Commissioner Chalabi asked to clarify where the buses enter and exit. Mrs. Ewanio explained the buses arrive via Marion Avenue, then circle counter-clockwise around the west parking area, and then depart along Marion Avenue. This separates the bus traffic from the car traffic on Belleforte Avenue. Currently buses arrive via Belleforte Avenue and need to negotiate the lines of parents arriving the same way. The southern, east-west drive aisle which is blocked off to prevent car traffic then needs to be opened by staff to allow bus passage. Commissioner Chalabi asked whether this might cause congestion due to parked vehicles on Marion Avenue or if school staff anticipates parents parking on Marion Avenue for any reason. Ms. Ewanio responded no.

Mr. Kyle Sand, an engineer with TYLin which developed the traffic study for the applicant, addressed the Commission regarding this question. Mr. Sand clarified with existing conditions, the drop-off/ pickup circle drive only accommodates a single line of traffic, therefore if a car in the line delays departure, then the whole line behind is required to wait to proceed. Some parents use National Avenue for drop-off/pickup to avoid getting stuck. Some parents have been observed stopping and dropping their children off on Belleforte Avenue to avoid getting stuck in the queue. The key difference for the proposed circular drive aisle is it is longer which should reduce vehicles queuing back onto Belleforte Avenue while waiting their turn. Also, the circle drive is widened to allow a trailing vehicle to bypass a stopped vehicle. These added efficiencies should encourage parents not to park along Belleforte and walk their kids the final distance to the school building. TYLin staff does recommend posting a crossing guard in the drive aisle due to the aisle's increased capacity and width which creates a dual threat crash potential for vehicle/pedestrian conflicts.

Commissioner Chalabi asked to clarify the existing and proposed circular drive capacity. Mr. Sand clarified 5-6 vehicles with current conditions before the queue extends onto

Belleforte Avenue, and almost double that with the new design. Mr. Sand believes there might still be some initial backup onto Belleforte during pickup times just before dismissal, but he expects that to quickly dissipate once dismissal begins.

Commissioner Dahlberg asked if there will be signage directing traffic or whether it will be up to school staff to do so. Mr. Sand stated the signage that is in place directing parents into the pickup/drop-off circular drive will remain in place. Mr. Sand stated that it will be important to provide advance communication to parents explaining the desired procedure for arrival and departure times. Mr. Sand also clarified that pickup/drop-off will not be allowed from the southern, one-way aisle through the angled parking lot near the Belleforte Avenue entrance which is to be blocked off during arrival/departure times. Commissioner Campanella then asked to clarify whether the whole parking lot will be blocked off during these times. Mr. Sand clarified that only the one-way aisle would be blocked off.

Commissioner Chalabi asked about concerns regarding emergency vehicle access during peak traffic times. Rick Dobrowski, Fire Department Liaison, stated the Fire Department has a concern during arrival and departure times when parent vehicles might be queued in the east circular drive. Mr. Dobrowski showed where the fire department water connection is on the school building's south façade, north of the east circular drive and east of the school's main entrance. He explained the Fire Department would not fully approach the building but would stop the pump rig near the south entrance to the circular drive just north of the Belleforte Avenue entrance. Because the Fire Department is expected to all arrive via the Belleforte Avenue access to the school property, the trailing emergency vehicles need to be able to turn left at the entrance and proceed west along the one-way parking aisle since the circular drive would most likely be blocked by the pump rig. The Fire Department requests confirmation that their emergency apparatus will be able to make that turn. Commissioner Dahlberg asked what would need to be done to accommodate the Fire Department's request. Commissioner Chalabi further confirmed this would only be a concern during peak traffic times.

Carrie Matlock, President of DLA Architects, Ltd., addressed the Commission. Ms. Matlock stated that they can and will adjust the radius of the curb there to accommodate emergency vehicle access described by Mr. Dobrowski.

Chairperson Shah asked the applicant to clarify how many full and part-time staff are typically on site so the Commission can better analyze the appropriateness of the parking supply provided. Ms. Ewanio stated there are 50 staff regularly, but there are other staff who travel between the buildings, including staff from the Niles Township Special Education cooperative, and administration staff from Golf School, which comes to the Hynes School campus for both daytime and evening meetings.

Chairperson Shah asked the applicant to clarify how the various building entrances are used. Ms. Ewanio explained that students dropped off by parents are expected to use the new main front entrance, those students who travel by bus are expected to use the west side access door or they may use the main front entrance, pre-schoolers are expected to use the door on the pre-school side. School staff is there to guide students and parents where to go. Chairperson Shah asked if there is any signage posted to denote each entrance. Ms. Ewanio stated that the school Principal typically sends out notices which explains to the parents where they should go based on their child's student status.

Chairperson Shah asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Chairperson Shah asked the Police Department for comments. Justin Jurasz, Police Department liaison, stated the Police Department believed that if access is confirmed for the Fire Department's vehicle apparatus, then the Police Department staff know they would have adequate access for their vehicles.

With no further comments, Commissioner Dahlberg moved to approve the application with the following recommendation: expand the Belleforte Avenue south entrance curb radius to accommodate Fire Department vehicle turns thereby allowing them to proceed through the proposed angled-parking, one-way aisle. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Alper and passed unanimously by the following vote:

C. Alper	aye
C. Campanella	aye
C. Chalabi	aye
C. Dahlberg	aye
C. Sheehan	aye
C. Wang	aye
Chair. Shah	aye

#### **OTHER BUSINESS/COMMENTS**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chairperson Shah asked for a motion to adjournment. Commissioner Dahlberg made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Chalabi, and it was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Minutes By: J Garcia, Engineering Technician

Checked by: C Tomich, Village Engineer