

TIME: 7:00 a.m.
PLACE: The Dalles Public Works Department
Conference Room
1215 W 1st Street
The Dalles OR 97058

AGENDA
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
JUNE 21, 2017

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 17th, 2017
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A) Visibility Problem on Scenic Drive near Lincoln Way - Kilkenny
 - B) Speed Limit & School Zone Signage near Wahtonka School - Ashmore
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - A) Planners Conference Update - Bybee
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
June 21, 2017

COMMISSION PRESENT: Frank Pyles, Fred Davis, Mike Kilkenny and Michael Holloran

ABSENT MEMBERS: Donna Lawrence (excused), Brent Bybee and vacant position

STAFF PRESENT: Dale McCabe – City Engineer, Russ Brown – Council Representative, Steve Baska – City Police, Dawn Marie Hert – Senior Planner and Cindy Keever – Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT: Teresa Peters

Mike Kilkenny made a motion to approve the May minutes. Michael Holloran seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

See New Business

OLD BUSINESS:

A) Clear Vision Triangle Results on West 10th Street near Sun Ray Apartments

Dale McCabe reported he had done a Clear Vision Triangle Study and the area has plenty of visibility clearance, 6' bike lane, 8' travel lane and speed is 25 mph in the area. No further action needed at this time.

B) Speed Signs near Wahtonka School

Cindy Keever read Chief Ashmore's email regarding his thoughts about the current signs in the vicinity of the Wahtonka campus. Discussion was held regarding the need for 20 mph signs vs 25 mph speed signs.

C) D#21 Plans for Improving Dry Hollow School's Pedestrian & Parking Congestion

Teresa Peters, Principal at the Dry Hollow Elementary School passed out the Dry Hollow Drop-Off/Pick-Up Work Group Information handout outlining their plan to handle the flow of children arriving and departing the school, parents dropping off and picking up their children and the public who use the adjacent streets. Teresa talked about the volume of students they handle during afternoon dismissal time (540) and the steps D21 is implementing to help correct the current issues and talked to the group about their Master Plan which would include a new parking lot on the southwest side of the property. D21 will present a bond proposal and part of that proposal is to construct the parking lot. Dawn Marie Hert asked if Teresa would also present the information to the August Planning meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Miscellaneous Items

A) Fred Davis asked if the City still has a Codes Enforcement Officer. Short discussion followed regarding responsibilities. Fred wanted it noted the trees on the east side of 10th & Union need attention.

B) Russ Brown said the shrubs near the SW corner of 14th & Thompson Streets need trimmed again (a yearly process) and asked about the process for removing the shrubs/trees so that trimming won't have to be done every year. Short discussion followed.

C) Russ also noted the catch basin near 15th & Thompson Street is full of rocks and needs to be cleaned out.

D) Dawn Marie Hert updated the Commission on various projects around town.

E) Frank Pyles said he has been hearing complaints again about speeders east of Thompson on both 10th and 12th Streets. Frank requested the speed trailer be set up in the area to remind people of their speeds.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mike moved to adjourn. Fred Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Cindy Keever
Administrative Secretary
City of The Dalles Public Works

Final approval


Frank Pyles

Dry Hollow Drop-Off/Pick-Up Work Group Information

In the spring a work group was formed to look at ways we can improve the drop-off and pick-up procedures at Dry Hollow. This group included parents, teachers, a staff member who does crossing guard duty, the transportation and maintenance directors, and the principal. Using a Google aerial map we were able to look at the challenges faced by not only 19th Street in front of the school, but also the intersection for 16th Place, 19th Street and Dry Hollow Road. This group was formed not only because of safety concerns due to congestion, but also because we have experienced an increase in aggressive drivers entering the crosswalks while staff and students were present.

Some things to consider include the current student enrollment of 545, and the staff size of 62. Also it is important to note that in the mornings we have students and staff arriving over a 45 minute period of time, however at the end of the day we have all 545 students leaving at once. Another challenge is that once on 19th Street heading east there is no longer a way for traffic to get back to Dry Hollow Road until Nevada Street.

The following is a list of things we are or will be doing to mitigate these challenges.

- The help of The Dalles City Police was enlisted to provide more of a presence during drop off and pick up times. This did help to curtail some of the aggressive drivers.
- Continue to partner with the health department to encourage students to walk to and from school through monthly Step It Up, Walk to School events.
- Other plans include purchasing updated school zone signs for the streets near the school as another visual reminder to drivers. Our maintenance staff will work with the public works department on installation.
- A 'drop and go' zone will be marked down on 19th Street for parents to drop their students off in the morning. This, along with designated 'park and walk in' zones should help with the morning flow.
- Once supervision staff has arrived we will open the east gate on 19th Street so students can be dropped off and go directly to the playground.
- We dismiss our kindergarten students about 10 minutes before the rest of the students. This allows parents that are most likely to be picking their students up, due to their age, to get their child and go.

-We have all of our walkers and pick up kiddos go next so they can get on their way before the busses leave the parking lot. We try to have some of the congestion gone before the busses head down the Dry Hollow driveway.

-Next year we will recommend that for parents that are picking their children up, they will meet them in specific areas- the fourth and fifth graders in the gravel lot, the first graders on 19th Street in a specific area, the second graders in a specific area and the third graders in a specific area. We will try and post signs for these areas at the beginning of the year.

-We will recommend that parents of older students consider parking on Dry Hollow Rd (the side with the sidewalk) and have their children meet them there. This will keep some traffic out of the congestion on 19th Street.

-We will work on training our crossing guards to better coordinate the flow of students and traffic, especially at dismissal time. There is some good information on the Oregon Department of Education website regarding this. Public works staff has also offered to assist with this.

-We will send information on the drop/off and pick/up expectations to parents with the August registration letter. This information will also be shared with parents on a monthly basis, and handed out at evening events such as the fall Open House and conferences.