

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m., Monday, April 9, 2001
Public Safety Building

PRESENT: Dick Meyer, Howard McDonald, Doris Brandt, Don Matthews, Terry Mayfield, Bob Andrews, Jack Stephens, Becky Simpson, Everett Clarkson

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Russ Thomas, Sgt. Tim Weaver, and Cindy Young-Bolek

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

A) Review and approve February 12, 2001 minutes

Motion: McDonald/Brandt to approve minutes as written. Motion passed.

2. OLD BUSINESS: None.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

A) Request for school zone and/or elevated crosswalk across College at Foothills Drive.
McDonald: Who would pay for it?

Thomas: City of Newberg would pay as ODOT would most likely not. It is not warranted due to foot traffic at this time and would be very costly to place an elevated crosswalk.

Mayfield: What about school children walking to school?

Thomas: Suggested the school work to add an additional bus stop and ODOT would have to approve any changes to this area which would not be likely due to speed and road alignment/lack of vision. Cannot be declared a school zone, but could introduce crosswalk signage.

Andrews: Could we extend school zone?

Thomas: Any speed changes which school zone would require to be 20mph, must be approved by ODOT.

Andrews: According to the Sternberg letter, her son has to walk to school. Would this be an area where students could be picked up or would it be out of the exclusion area according to the bus transportation service?

Brandt: This would probably be a school district issue. Would they establish crossing guards?

Thomas: To establish a crossing you would need a crossing. Proper signage is not at this

location and ODOT would have to erect and determine to be a crosswalk.

Meyer: A copy of this letter went to the Newberg School District.

Simpson: A stop light?

Thomas: Cost would be approximately \$150K with an approval by ODOT. ODOT would be receptive to information and with the elementary school, volume of traffic and speeds, they may be willing to do something. Suggested talking with school district and bus service to determine if they are doing anything based on the letter also being sent to the school district.

Discussion regarding distance of bus service for this age group as well as legal issues surrounding jurisdiction and school/speed zones.

Motion: Clarkson/Brandt: Table issue and contact the school district regarding the letter and bus service.

Andrews: Requested clarification of the motion.

Clarkson: All inclusive; plans regarding bus, current activities surrounding the issue and school administration response to the letter - input regarding the issue.

Brandt: Agreed to follow up with Dr. Paula Radich.

Meyers: (comment) Did the school district use to pick up Springbrook kids?

Andrews called for the question and the vote was held. Motion Carried, with all in Favor and no one opposing.

4. STAFF REPORTS:

A) Chief of Police: No report

B) Engineering: Russ Thomas reporting.

Mountainview Couplet: This project is proceeding on schedule. The Villa Road to North College St. is 90% design-phase complete. Estimate start of construction to be July 1st. This will include installation of traffic signal at College Street and Mountainview Drive.

Second part of the Project: Villa Road will become a secondary route during the Portland Road construction. Detour signage will be placed at 99/Villa Road to Mountainview to College.

Andrews: If it is proposed to use Villa during construction, has there been any discussion regarding turn lanes at Villa Road at Haworth Avenue? One concern to address is that it will be nearly impossible to turn left with additional traffic on Villa Rd. Storage of vehicles an issue as well as safety.

Thomas: Changing of stop bars will be completed and the turn lane is to be staggered. There has been some discussion regarding some kind of traffic control but it is still in the discussion phase.

Andrews: I would like to be kept apprized of status of this project - - Stevens agreed.

Thomas: There is also anticipated reduction of southbound couplet.

McDonald: Will no parking sign be replaced at/near the Chevron Station. Visibility is an issue near the Newell Road interchange with Highway 99W.

Thomas: There have been no parking signs in this area. However, some may have been removed by the relocation of utilities. It should be replaced.

C) Traffic Safety Committee Sub-Committees:

1. Community Relations: Meyers attended Dundee transportation meeting briefly. Traffic was tied up as usual and no new information was obtained. This is a continuing project.

2. Pedestrian Safety: Simpson asked for explanation of the rules regarding tree limbs and broken curbs?

Thomas: Tree limbs should be cut 14' above curb and 8' above sidewalk. Sidewalks are the responsibility of the homeowner. Since Code Enforcement was cut, complaints should be forwarded to Community Development. Homeowners are notified to correct tree limbs issues. If they do not comply, Public Works will trim the tree limbs. Thomas will bring a copy of the ordinance and vision clearance diagram to the next meeting.

Andrews: Is there any place where standards for sidewalk repair are documented? Thomas indicated he did not know, but agreed to check with the Building Department and provide a response at the next meeting.

Brandt: Status of draft vision clearance letter? Young-Bolek advised that Mary Newell has prepared a draft letter. However, the letter will need to be reviewed for potential legal issues.

5. REPORTS

A) Update on ODOT Brutscher-to-Main Street Project

Russ Thomas reported the following:

- Information provided on traffic flow anticipated at the curve//River and Hancock Street.
- The Newberg 7-11 convenience store was closed due to access being limited which removed viability of the property. ODOT acquired the property.
- 99W fill will be worked on to allow for light of box/Hess Creek - this should begin in May.

- Additional construction on 99/Deborah Road section and west of Main Street to Harrison. Remainder will be done spring 2002.
- Light at the Elliott Road junction will occur in 2002.
- ODOT states that their contract is complete in 2002. Project should be fast tracked to get completed on schedule.
- Pot holes are going to be an issue on 99W during the project. ODOT will do minimal work on pot holes due to fiscal expenditures. Thomas will keep in contact with local ODOT shop to keep the highway driveable.
- Temporary signals will be placed at various points of the City during the project.
- ODOT has a representative in City Hall - Ed Cantrell available to answer questions from community, handle complaints, etc. ODOT holds weekly meetings with contractors and project coordinators to minimize impact on community regarding project.
- There will also be changes on Second Street throughout the project with traffic directional changes and temporary designation changes. Maintenance and street deterioration will also be addressed on side streets.

Andrews: What are the alternatives for lost parking off of Hancock?

Thomas: ODOT has obtained some properties off Hancock Street which will be reconstructed as parking for downtown. Thomas to provide a finalized plan at the next meeting.

Lighting equipment is on-site and installation of the new fire signal light at the Station 21 should be completed this summer.

B) Transportation Task Force:

Brandt reported on the Transportation Task Force: Handouts on projected traffic projects were provided covering the next 20 years. The document provides an example of what the task force has been working on and developed plans for roads in Newberg. Any ideas or suggestions should be provided to Brandt if priorities are suggested to be changed.

Andrews: Question on footnote regarding funding resources; are all going to take voter or council approval?

Brandt: Yes.

Meyer: Are the 11-15 year fiscal figures calculated ahead or in today's dollars?

Thomas: Costs are estimated in today's dollars.

Meyers: Question regarding left turn on Highway 99W at turn signals? Can the City get ODOT to provide a sign that states left turns are allowed?

Weaver: Left turns are permissible but not required. Additionally, Thomas stated that ODOT would have to approve any signage.

Andrews: Police should be out diligently managing the traffic.

Weaver: Police are actively out downtown and notice driver's of the law. Officers can work the issue as other call volume allows. Weaver gave information that a two-way to a one-way is the most often asked traffic question to our officers.

3. Parking Safety: Parking and abandoneds are being actively followed by police and public works.

4. Traffic control and obstructions: No report.

6. Communications from the Floor: None.

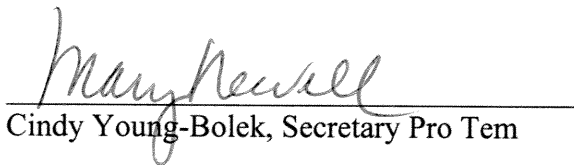
Andrews: Any discussion regarding materials from ODOT regarding traffic safety that we could put on Channel 11 and in the media? Public service on a monthly basis once a week or once a month?

Possibly check with Graphic Editor Joe Petshow to see if paper would donate space on a regular basis? Photograph caption and short narrative? Young-Bolek agreed to check with Petshow and report back.

Weaver reported that over the past weekend. Terry Mahr received a State of Oregon award recognizing his impact on prosecuting DUII's. Prevention and prosecution of DUII's is an important aspect of Traffic Safety in Oregon. Sgt. Tim Weaver nominated Mahr for this award. Mr. Mahr manages approximately 250-275 DUII cases himself - arrest through diversion or jury trial. Weaver stated that Mahr is a master trial attorney and has worked with NPD on bringing down violations at liquor establishments. Mahr's efforts in prevention and monitoring DUII's in Newberg in commendable. This is a significant award and Terry Mahr is a one-man show. Weaver stated that officers have a lot of respect for Terry and his efforts in this area of traffic enforcement.

7. Adjourn to NEXT MEETING: Next Meeting May 14, 2001

Motion to Adjourn: Brandt/McDonald.


Cindy Young-Bolek, Secretary Pro Tem