

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
Monday, November 14, 2005
Newberg Public Safety Building
401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR

Members

Present: Chair Michael Simpson Tamara Wimmer Ron Sult
Dick Meyer Joyce Vergets Doris Brandt

Members

Absent: Vice-Chair Becky Simpson

Staff

Present: Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant
Bob Knorr, Engineering
Mary Newell, Support Services Manager.
Kathleen Bochart, Recording Secretary

Others

Present: Leonard Attrell, Stanley Kern, Mike Douglas, Curtis Walker, Jim Morrison, Lois Thompson, Laura Hyland, Robert Soppe, John Hayes, Mike Pender.

CHAIR MICHAEL SIMPSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:03PM

Minutes from the October 10, 2005 meeting were approved with amended corrections.

MOTION: Vergets/Brandt to approve minutes from October 10, 2005 meeting. (Unanimous) Motion carried.
--

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR:

None.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- A) **Public Hearing to consider a limited traffic decision about the placement of a 140 ft. temporary traffic median along Villa Road just north of the Hwy 99W.**

Leonard Attrell, stated that he wrote a letter and in it, he stated that he believes that it is unnecessary to put in a 140 ft temporary traffic median on Villa. To his knowledge there has been no accidents and from his observations, people have been kind and considerate in letting people in and out of the driveways. Because of this he doesn't see a reason for the median.

Stanley Kern, MD stated that he has the medical clinic on Villa, just at the end of the 140 ft proposed median. There are a couple of concerns with the. The first is the safety in regard of the flow of traffic and the second is to assist in the flow of traffic to the businesses. Because of being at the end of the proposed median I probably have a different take on this. At Dr. Kerns office there are two driveways, and the parking lot is generally full. People are often using the offices parking lot for a turn around to get back to the highway. Dr. Kern has seen a truck and trailer try and turn around in the clinic parking lot. Dr. Kern stated that he has considered putting in no u-turn or no turn around signs in his parking lot, but because of the lack of accidents he has not had to do so. Dr. Kern believes that if the committee continues with the placement of the median then it would cause more traffic problems.

Mike Douglas stated that when the road improvements were first completed there were more cars going through the area than there is today. Mr. Douglas stated that most people don't like going through there because of the amount of traffic. Something that was supposed to solve this issue was that you could make u-turns on HWY 99. Mr. Douglas stated that he believes that restricting the driveways with a median would be a problem. Mr. Douglas stated that when the city was doing the traffic count, he did not see one person who cut through the left lane to get into the driveway. Currently Mr. Douglas doesn't see that there is anymore danger on Villa Rd than there is on HWY 99. Mr. Douglas offered a suggestion for the future: to widen the road and construct a turn lane.

Chair Michael Simpson asked Mr. Douglas If he believes that people are not making left turns into this store.

Mr. Douglas stated that most people go in the back way.

Curtis Walker stated that his wife owns Newberg Realty. Mr. Walker stated that having a median on Villa Rd would cause problems getting in and out of parking lots and is opposed to the median.

Chair Mike Simpson closed public hearing.

Bob Knorr presented staff recommendations.

Chair Mike Simpson stated that he can see that there needs to be more analysis needs to be done. The meeting today was so the public could get express their concerns to the committee.

Bob Knorr recommended that the committee follow the items stated by the consultant.

MOTION: Brandt/Wimmer to table the decision about the placement of a 140 ft temporary traffic median along Villa Road just north of the HWY 99W. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A) Newberg High School Vicinity Speeding Concerns, Project TSC-05-009.

Bob Knorr presented staff report and recommendations. Engineering did a traffic count in August and one in September. The engineering consultant recommends that the Engineering department construct a traffic calming program.

Glen Post stated that he was on the school board 14 years and this is something that has been repeatedly brought up to the school board. A suggestion is to paint a stripe in the middle of that road. When there is a barrier in a road like a line then people tend to slow down.

Bob Knorr stated that he would bring this to the public works director and then let the committee know of his comments at the January meeting.

Joyce Vergets asked if the city or the county does the painting.

Chair Mike Simpson stated that he believes the engineering department contacts the county and set up a date for the painting.

Bob Knorr stated that Marion county does the painting.

Dick Meyer asked if closed campus at Newberg High School has made a difference during the day.

Chair Mike Simpson stated that it has quieted it significantly during school but hasn't help with the traffic before or after school.

Chair Mike Simpson called for a 5 minute break at 7:55.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Presentation on photo red light.

Glen Post presented power point presentation and explained how the Redflex system works.

Doris Brandt asked when the system will go in.

Glen Post stated that as soon as ODOT gives the City the permit, Redflex can have the hardware in three days and then have the system operational in two weeks. The goal is to have it operational by Christmas.

B) Consider limited decision on Sheridan Street request for No Parking 700/800 block.

Jim Morrison stated that he had a short video to show the committee. Mr. Morrison stated that all of the streets in downtown Newberg have no parking signs on at least one side of the street. In the 700 and 800 blocks of Sheridan Street people actually park on the grassy islands off the road. The area has had a couple of incidents of sideswiping and a couple broken off mirrors but nothing else. Mr. Morrison believes that the problem comes from that category of narrow streets. The city has a standard that roads be 34 feet wide. The fire code states that if the roads are less than 28 feet wide, they need to have no parking on either side. Mr. Morrison stated that his concern is that the city needs to be consistent with street codes and the fire department codes.

Chair Mike Simpson asked if all the other blocks of Sheridan Street have no parking signs.

Mr. Morrison stated that the only blocks on Sheridan Street that don't have "no parking" signs is the 700/800 block.

Lois Thompson stated that the people who live in college have to park on Sheridan Street. Many people have to carry their groceries two or three blocks. Ms. Thompson stated that her son and herself are handicapped and can not carry groceries that far. Ms. Thompson stated that she does not know what she would do if there were no parking on Sheridan Street.

Laura Hyland stated that when Hancock was widened many people lost their driveway and road parking. The city told the residents that they could park up on Sheridan street because there was plenty of room up there. Ms. Hyland stated that her husband is handicapped and she also has a 3 year old and a 5 year old and has a hard enough time bringing in groceries with having to park on Sheridan street. Ms. Hyland stated that she is opposed to putting to parking signs on Sheridan Street.

Robert Soppe stated that he is a council member and is not at the meeting on behalf of the City Council. The main issue that the committee needs to think of is safety. How safe are narrow streets. When people see a narrow road they slow down. Mr. Soppe stated that narrows streets are a good thing from a pedestrian point of view. One of the things that council has done is directed staff to do is to look into narrow street standards. From the emergency standpoint, having no parking or wider streets would be an advantage. Mr. Soppe stated that something that would be good to do is to look at a map and high-light where there is no parking and look at the available parking area. Mr. Soppe agrees with Mr. Morrison, if the committee decides to eliminate parking then it should be from the south side. Mr. Soppe's recommendation is to leave the parking as is, keeping safety in mind, and secondly, if you must remove parking consider removing it from the south side of the road.

John Hayes stated that one thing he would like to point out is that on Edwards, in the 800 block there is no parking, Mr. Hayes stated that he does not have a garage or driveway and has already had a part of his parking removed because it makes the intersection safer. In regards to safety, Mr. Hayes understands how narrow streets would slow people down but because it is between college and meridian, people will go down Meridian and then onto Sheridan Street to avoid the

light. If there was less cars on the road then people would be going faster. Mr. Hayes stated that he proposes the city to widen the street.

Chair Mike Simpson asked Mr. Hayes if he would be willing to pay to widen the road.

Mr. Hayes stated that he would be willing if the other property owners would also be willing to pay.

Chair Mike Simpson closed public testimony.

Bob Knorr stated that the committee reviewed this manner 5 or 6 years ago. The Public Works Director and the City Council has asked us to review this again as a fresh manner with no historical background.

Chair Mike Simpson stated that there is no way to make a good decision on this with the information from the report. Chair Simpson stated that he would like to have some expert testimony from the Newberg Fire Department on their street widths and their take on this issue.

Bob Knorr stated that at this time the engineering department does not have a recommendation at this time.

MOTION: Brandt/Wimmer to table the item until the January 2006 meeting. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Police Sergeant Tim Weaver stated that there was about 100 calls for service since the last meeting. 13 DUII arrests for the week. The new recruit will be graduated from the academy this Friday. Currently there are 4 officers in their probationary period. The radar trailer has been going to places of concern from the meetings. It was on North Main and Illinois. It was on Wyooski in the school zone and for the first time in a long time it was on 1st and Center Street. We have had speeders up to 55 mph during daylight hours. There was a couple of big crashes. There was one on Hancock and Washington, a car hit a pedestrian. The person was life flighted to the hospital. That same day was the piper crash on HWY 219 and 2nd Street. Another crash on Hancock and Blaine, A semi-truck hit a young boy on a bicycle. The boy was eventually driven to OHSU with injuries. Crashes are on the rise because of the weather.

Bob Knorr, Engineering stated that the Hwy219/Wilsonville intersection design is still ongoing. The Sherman street crosswalk: The business owner was in last week with her associates and are working on their building permits. You received a hand out from James and Patricia about speeding along Fernwood road. They wanted to know why the city changed the speed to 25 MPH.

Chair Mike Simpson stated that the 2 hour workshop was very informative and would like to do it again in the spring when we can get more people involved.

Doris Brandt stated that the December meeting will be a non business meeting. We will be meeting at Calamity Jane's at 6:00 and you pay for your own dinner.

Mary Newell stated that we have 3 applicants for Everett Clarkson's vacancy. Also there are some members who's terms are about to expire. Ms. Newell stated that she will let the committee know who that is at the next meeting.

MOTION: Sult/Wimmer to adjourn at 10:05PM (Unanimous) Motion carried.
--



Kathleen Bochart
Recording Secretary



Mary Newell
Support Safety Services Manager