

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES

**Monday, March 14, 2005, 7pm
Newberg Public Safety Building
401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR**

Present: Michael Simpson, Chair; Becky Simpson, Vice-Chair; Doris Brandt, Everett Clarkson, Bob Ehmann, Ronald Sult, Joyce Vergets, Tamera Wimmer

Excused: Dick Meyer

Staff Present: Dan Danicic, PE, Public Works Director/Engineering; Tim Weaver, Police

Chair Michael Simpson called the meeting to order at 705pm.

Minutes from the February 14, 2005 meeting were approved with the following corrections:

1. Staff Reports: Engineering: Paragraph one regarding the red light program, should read: The rules were changed, corrections made and resubmitted to ODOT.
2. Paragraph two: Chief Tardiff and Engineering will be working with a vendor to place video cameras at intersections for monitoring and enforcement. Three companies have submitted proposals for bids and review.

Motion: J. Vergets:

Second: B. Ehmann

Passed

Communications from the Floor:

Lynn Mutrie, Coordinator, ACTS of Oregon

405 West Arlington, Gladstone, OR 97027

1. Commented on pedestrian safety and the needs for more safety and awareness of statutes in our community as well as across the state.
2. Ms. Mutrie offered to the committee a summary of the changes in the current Legislature, including pedestrian safety and school zone speeds.

One concern was the speed zones were changed without citizen input and some communities were concerned the speed zones changed unnecessarily and perhaps inappropriately.

3. Pedestrian laws have changed to requiring the motor vehicle to stop for the pedestrian until completely across the street. No longer may drivers proceed once the pedestrian is past the vehicle.
4. Making motorists aware of the fact crosswalks are in place if the crosswalk is marked or not. Crosswalks are an extension of the sidewalk. There is a lot of debate in the Legislature about appearing to place too much emphasis on painting crosswalks and not reminding drivers and pedestrians the crosswalk exists whether marked or not.
5. ODOT Safety Conference, Monday-Wednesday, September 19-21 at Salishan. Cost: \$95.
6. Mini-grants will be out May-June, deadline for end of the year.

Public Hearing:

Consideration to establish a crosswalk across Villa Road in the vicinity of E. Sherman Street.

D. Danicic presented the options for a crosswalk to cross Villa to help pedestrians cross the busy street safely. One option was to place a crosswalk on the south side of the intersection, the other for the north side of the intersection, or run sidewalks north to the existing crosswalk at the main driveway/entrance to the hospital.

Issue: making a safe crosswalk to meet ADA requirements to provide pedestrians a safe sidewalk to approach the crosswalk and a landing on the other side of the street.

One concern was voiced to why to make the improvements required since the hospital will be moving within 14 months.

Issue: the local property owners were not polled for their input as to agreeing to participate in the construction of sidewalks along the east curb.

Dorene Simpson, 1106 N. Sitka, Newberg.

Ms. Simpson works at a clinic at the Villa Medical Center. She said she crosses the street to the hospital at least a half dozen times per day. She outlined some of the safety concerns, particularly due to cars not stopping for the pedestrians or cars signaling a turn, but actually turning into a driveway several feet north. She said despite

seeing a vehicle's turn signal, she must wait for a driver to commit to the turn into a driveway before beginning to cross the street. She said there would likely be more crashes if pedestrians didn't follow that practice.

Ms. Simpson said the painted crosswalk would be safer regardless if the statute reads the crosswalk exists whether it is painted or not.

She said the north crosswalk into the main entrance driveway is actually quite hazardous as the painted sidewalk and the crosswalk are part of the main entrance/driveway into the hospital. Vehicles and pedestrians must share the same space, hence, the hazard for pedestrians.

Ms. Simpson said there are patients in addition to the employees of the clinics required to walk from clinics to the hospital. Most of the employees are aware of the pedestrian hazards but the safety risk is indeed present with patients (some obviously ill), must go to the hospital for treatment or tests.

Maida Cummings, co-owner of property and a medical office, 506 N. Villa Road, Newberg.

Ms. Cummings voiced a concern about liabilities about having a sidewalk on their property, particularly if someone tripped and fell on the sidewalk. Also, costs a property owner would face if a sidewalk were required. D. Danicic gave an estimate of about \$1500-3000.

She asked about the Villa Road expansion and its timetable.

D. Danicic said it would take about 5-10 years.

D. Danicic/Engineering outlined: ADA would require compliance with their requirements. Painting a set of lines across the street would not be legal. For example, grades would have to be changed and access would be made for all.

Motion: B. Ehmann: Direct Public Works to work with the homeowner at 400 N. Villa to work with Public Works to construct a sidewalk extension, ADA approved, to aid in making a crosswalk across the north side of N. Villa at E. Sherman.

Second: T. Wimmer

Passed

Engineering will write a letter to the property owner to construct the sidewalk in front of their property. The property owner will have 14 days to respond with any objections.

New Business:

None

Old Business:

- A) Clarification of decision on Halstead Cabinets the Traffic Safety Commission approved a 35-foot no parking zone adjacent to the southeast portion of the N. Howard and E. Franklin Streets intersection.

The Notice was sent to local property owners with one resident calling for clarification on the location of the restricted parking zone.

Motion: B. Ehmann: Table the issue to next meeting, pending the clarification.

Second: R. Sult

Passed

- B) Tabled without action; related to A), above.

- C) Ratify Limited Decision to designate a handicapped parking space on S. Howard adjacent to the VFW building providing no appeal filed by March 18, 2005.

Motion: B. Ehmann: Recommend the north space instead of the south space be designated a handicapped parking space, provided no appeal is filed by the March 18, deadline.

Second: T. Wimmer

Passed

D) Ratify Limited Decision to deny stop sign(s) at E. Fifth and S. Meridian Streets, providing no appeal is filed by March 18, 2005.

Motion: E. Clarkson

Second: D. Brandt.

Passed

Staff Reports:

Engineering: A problem surfaced with the changes made in the signal at E. First/River Streets. ODOT placed a dedicated right turn signal light for northbound S. River to eastbound E. First Street. The green arrow allows the right turn traffic when the left turn light for westbound E. First to southbound S. River changed to green. Some drivers with the left turn lane green arrow made a U-turn at the intersection. This caused a conflict with drivers making the right turn from S. River to E. First.

The placement of a sign prohibiting the U-turn has been temporarily placed. ODOT will review the benefit of the sign after an undetermined time period.

Transportation System Plan: approved by the Planning Commission last week. A March 21 workshop will be held before the City Council. The Council will have a Public Hearing, April 4, before a vote on the Plan.

The No Parking/Bike Lane signs are along the south side of Hayes Street near Astor House. Education will be important in enforcement. Other signs are planned in the area as the neighborhood develops.

Mountainview Drive/Crater Lane, moving along very quickly. Curbs will be poured Tuesday, March 15. The paving may be done this week.

There will be a four-way stop at N. Main/Mountainview with painted crosswalks around the intersection.

M. Simpson asked if Foothills Drive/Crater will have crosswalks painted across Foothills, since the intersection is important for the two

schools along Foothills. D. Danicic said there are no plans for this to be done. As development continues the need may arise.

B. Simpson asked about public education regarding the crosswalk laws and safety. A response is in the Police Report.

J. Vergets commented about the large number of trucks on N. Main due to construction. Engineering responded as projects are completed, the volume will decrease.

Police:

One project underway is to have a series of stories prepared for the local media pertaining to traffic safety. Topics will include pedestrian safety, proper turns in the downtown area (particularly left turns from two-way to one way streets on red lights) and proper use of the U-Turns at traffic signals.

The Department has received a grant from the Willamette Pedestrian Coalition for \$2525.57 for pedestrian enforcement. The original request was for \$5000, but reductions had to be made by the committee due to the large volume of grant requests. Most of the overtime monies will be spent in the downtown business area.

A review of the DUII arrests for the first two months of 2005 was made. Last year, 16 arrests were made. This year, arrests have increased to 25. One motor officer, working primarily daylight hours, has made five of those arrests.

A summary of a car/pedestrian crash on February 22, was reported. The 16-year old boy was seriously injured when hit by a car, eastbound on Portland Road. He was running northbound across the west side of the intersection. The impact knocked the boy about 90 feet across the intersection after the impact. He is recovering in a Portland hospital.

Committee Reports:

R. Sult commented on the good responses from the painting of "Stop" onto the pavement in the left turn lanes, N. Springbrook/Haworth.

B. Simpson requested all to arrange a ride along with police officers sometime this year. Members may call Sgt. Weaver for arrangements.

B. Simpson reported D. Meyer won a door prize worthy of all committee members to gently rib him.

E. Clarkson requested more information on the Villa Road/Portland Road traffic problems, particularly at Mike's Medical Pharmacy. Engineering said they are diligently working with ODOT to verify what level of improvements may be acceptable.

Motion: D. Brandt: adjourn to the next meeting, Monday, April 11, 2005, 7pm.

Second: E. Clarkson

Passed

The meeting was adjourned at 820pm.