

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005, 7:00 PM
NEWBERG PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR**

Members Present: Chair Michael Simpson Vice Chair Becky Simpson
Doris Brandt Ron Sult Joyce Vergets
Dick Meyer Bob Ehmann

Members Absent: Tameria Wimmer, Everett Clarkson

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

Others Present: Robert Soppe, Joseph Connolly, Todd Munding, Meri Munding,
Barbara Greenwood-Ristine, Jim Morrison

1. CHAIR MICHAEL SIMPSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM

Minutes from the June 13th, July 11th and the August 8th meeting were approved with amended corrections.

MOTION: Brandt/Sult to approve minutes from the June 13th, 2005 meeting (unanimous)
Motion carried.

MOTION: Meyer/Brand to approve minutes from the July 11th, 2005 meeting (unanimous)
Motion carried.

MOTION: Brandt/Simpson to approve minutes from the August 8th, 2005 meeting
(unanimous) Motion carried.

2. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A) Review for no parking along Sheridan Street 700/800 Blocks

Robert Soppe stated that at the November 8, 1999 the Traffic Safety Committee did not make a decision about parking on Sheridan Street along the 700 and 800 Blocks. In January of 2000 the committee decided to not eliminate parking and put in pull-out refuges that will be designated by

the city engineer. Mr. Soppe stated that there is no safety issue on Sheridan Street. Mr. Soppe believes that it would be a big impact on the residents if parking was taken away on the 700 and 800 blocks of Sheridan Street. Parking in the vicinity of Sheridan Street is very limited. The busses no longer go down Sheridan Street because the corners are hard to navigate, not because of narrow streets. Mr. Soppe stated that he believes the refuges that were put in have worked well. Mr. Soppe stated that if the committee decides to eliminate parking from Sheridan Street that they look at removing it from the south side as there are less parking spots to eliminate.

Jim Morrison stated that he would like to refer back to Larry Anderson's suggestion at the January 10, 2000 meeting. Mr. Anderson suggested posting a no parking area near the center of each block, 50 feet opposite of each other, which would allow vehicles a safe pull out to allow vehicles to pass one another.

Jim Morrison I would like to refer to Mr. Anderson suggested putting no parking signs 50 ft from the middle

Chair Michael Simpson asked what Mr. Morrison as requesting.

Mr. Morrison stated that he would like to see some no parking on at least one side or bring the roads up to code.

Chair Michael Simpson asked Mr. Morrison what he believes is the problem with Sheridan Street.

Mr. Morrison stated that he believes that it is dangerous. If there was a fire on Sheridan, they would have a hard time getting the equipment in and out of the area.

Chair Michael Simpson closed public hearing

Bob Knorr stated that he opened this matter by the request of Jim Morrison. At this time Mr. Knorr feels that there is no issue. Mr. Knorr stated that he wrote a letter to Jim Morrison stating that Mr. Morrison is welcome to meet with the Traffic Safety Commission and request to look at this once more.

Chair Michael Simpson stated that he believes that the committee does not have enough information to make a decision at this time. Chair Simpson asked staff for more information on the conditions of Sheridan Street.

Mr. Morrison stated that he will also take this issue to City Council.

Chair Michael Simpson tabled this item.

B) Traffic Noise on Grant St.

Joe Connolly stated that his personal knowledge only goes back 2 ½ years ago when he first moved into the area. Mr. Connolly handed out a map and some pictures. Mr. Connolly stated that semi's often use exhaust braking at all times of the day when coming into or leaving Newberg.

Mr. Connolly stated that he would like to see exhaust braking be illegal from the intersection of Main and Hwy 99 to the point where HWY 240 changed to a 40 MPH zone.

Chair Michael Simpson asked Sergeant Weaver if exhaust braking was illegal in city limits.

Sergeant Weaver stated that he did not know but would look into it.

Mr. Connolly stated that he was told by a neighbor that at one time there was a sign stating that exhaust braking was prohibited but is currently gone. Mr. Connolly also talked about speeding vehicles on Illinois. Mr. Connolly stated that he yard happens to be a popular "landing" spot for accidents. In 2 ½ years there has been 6 accidents. At one time a drunk driver removed a telephone pole from in front of Mr. Connolly's house and left it hanging by the power lines. The driver left the scene but was later found as his license plate had fallen off during the accident. This is the only accident that has been documented with the Police Department. The rest of the accidents have been hit and runs.

Chair Michael Simpson asked Mr. Connolly what he was asking the Commission for. If there is a law against exhaust braking then the commission can put up signs.

Joe Connolly stated that he believes that this is worth taking time to correct. Officer Johnson has been seen often at Grant and Illinois and has given some citations.

Barbara Green stated that at one time there was an accident in my yard and hit the tree outside of the living room. They driver ran but the police eventually got him because they knew who the driver was because he had left his car. Ms. Green stated that her husband has an illness and does not sleep much at night so he sleeps throughout night and day. When the semi's come in the area and use their brakes it wakes up Mr. Green.

Ms. Brandt asked if there are children in the area who wait for busses.

Ms. Green stated that they stand on the east corner of Grant and Illinois.

Ms. Brandt asked if there is a speed reduction sign in the area.

Ms. Green stated that there is one before the bridge.

Ms. Brandt asked if there was a school bus stop sign in the area.

Ms. Green replied that there is not.

Todd Munding stated that he would like to see a sign such as that on Springbrook prohibiting exhaust braking

Barbara Green stated that it seems that the trucks have to honk their horns at the same time that they put on their brakes.

Sergeant Weaver recited State Statue 811492.

Joe Connolly asked Chair Simpson where he should go from here.

Mr. Knorr stated that he will contact ODOT and the School District and talk to them and see if the location of the bus stop be moved. Mr. Knorr stated that he will have a report at the next meeting.

Mr. Simpson stated that it might make an impact on the truck companies if you call them and let them know what the trucks are doing and that you are unhappy.

Chair Michael Simpson called for a 5 minute break at 8:15.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Review report of traffic study at Hillsdale/Knoll Drive Intersection for request of stop signs.

Bob Knorr stated that a traffic study has been performed at the Hillsdale/Knoll Intersection. The amount of traffic does not meet the standards for stop signs, but because of the vision clearance problems the public works director stated that at this time he could put in stop signs. The public works director feels that the stop signs should be on Hillsdale. The report states that there is a potential need for further studies for placements of stop signs at additional Knoll Drive intersections.

MOITON: Vergets/Sult to accept staffs recommendations to place stop signs on the east/west intersection of Knoll and Hillsdale. (Unanimous) motion carried.

5. STAFF REPORTS

Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant, presented staff report. The radar trailer has been used a lot between Newberg and Dundee. Currently there is one in Dundee and the other is at Crestview and Meridian. The police have been doing their best to keep speeds down in school zones. The pedestrian safety grant is almost completed. There were 18 DUII's in the last month and 217 tickets. The newest Police Department hire is in Monmouth at the academy this week.

Bob Knorr, Engineering, presented staff report. Mr. Knorr updated the committee on the Sherman and Villa Crosswalk. Mr. Knorr stated that he will have more information for the committee in October.

* NHS Speeding Issues: A traffic study was done before school started and another will be conducted on Tuesday September 13th, 2005.

* Villa/Mountainview Drive 3-way stop: A traffic count has been done and will have more information at a later date.

* Median on Villa next to Mike's Pharmacy: Public works has done a manual traffic count and definitely sees a problem.

* Friendsview Manor: Mr. Knorr will be meeting with the director soon to clarify the no parking zone.

* At the October meeting there will be a public hearing for the prohibited biking area. At the November meeting there will be a public hearing on the Villa Road median investigation

* Mr. Knorr recommended a training session in October or November on improving safety features on local roads and streets.

The Committee decided on Tuesday the 25th of October at 6:30. The Committee will invite the City Council.

6. ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

MOTION: Brandt/Clarkson to adjourn until October 10, 2005 at 9:50 (Unanimous) Motion carried.

Kathleen Bochart
Kathleen Bochart, Recording Secretary

10/10/05
Date

Mary Newell
Mary Newell, Support Services Manager

10/10/05
Date