

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 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
	Tamera Wimmer	Joyce Vergets

Members

Absent:	Dick Meyer	Bob Ehmann
----------------	------------	------------

Staff

Present: Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant
Bob Knorr, Engineering
Mary Newell, Support Services Manager (Left at 8:20PM)
Kathleen Bochart, Recording Secretary

Others

Present: Lew Schaad, David Herr

CHAIR MICHAEL SIMPSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:02PM.

Minutes from the September 12th, 2005 meeting were approved with amended corrections.

MOTION: Brandt/Wimmer to approve minutes from the September 12, 2005 meeting. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR:

None.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- A) **Public Hearing to consider a general traffic decision about prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks along routes where bike lanes exist.**

Lew Schaad stated that he had some general comments. Mr. Schaad first heard about this in the graphic. Mr. Schaad commented on bike lanes and the Hwy 219 and Hwy 99 intersection.

Chair Mike Simpson asked how often Mr. Schaad met pedestrians when riding in Newberg. **Mr. Schaad** stated that he has only met them a couple times, and when he does he rides at a walking speed and yields to the pedestrian.

Chair Mike Simpson asked Mr. Schaad what his position is on this topic.

Mr. Schaad stated that he believes that riding the correct way should be enforced; once that is done then the intersections should be made more secure for bicyclists. Mr. Schaad also stated that the roads need to be swept more often if possible.

David Herr stated that it was his understanding that if there was a state law then it affects the city also and referred to state statutes.

Bob Knorr recited the state statutes regarding bicycle laws.

David Herr stated that in the case that has been brought up, when someone has nearly been hit then the pedestrian must have been in violation of the law, if we pass an ordinance then you will be outlawing children, elders and the disabled from being on the sidewalk. If a car hits a pedestrian in the sidewalk then the car was doing something wrong, if a pedestrian has been hit by a bicycle then the bicyclist was doing something wrong.

Chair Mike Simpson thanked Lew Schaad and David Herr for their comments.

Chair Mike Simpson closed public hearing.

Tamera Wimmer stated that the committee needed to be reminded what the public hearing was about.

Chair Mike Simpson stated that the public hearing was to consider enacting a public ordinance for making all bikes use all bike lanes where provided instead of riding on sidewalks. Chair Simpson stated that his opinion is the same as Mr. Herr's. The current rules are not being enforced and that is something that needs to be taken care of. Mr. Simpson believes that if there were more complaints and more public testimony about this then there would have been more of a problem.

MOTION: Vergets/Brandt to not enact a public ordinance requiring bicyclists to use the bike lanes where provided. (3 Yes/2 No; Sult, Wimmer)
--

OLD BUSINESS:

- A) Newberg School District pedestrian safety request at Crestview & North Meridian and Crestview & Hoskins.**

Bob Knorr presented staff report. Mr. Knorr stated that a decision does not need to be made at this time. At this time staff recommends placing crosswalks and any necessary ADA ramps at the intersections indicated.

Chair Mike Simpson asked if there was a sidewalk on Hoskins.

Bob Knorr stated that there is a small return ramp on Hoskins but no sidewalk.

MOTION: Wimmer/Vergets to accept engineering's recommendations. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

Clair Hertz stated that she has concerns about children crossing Crestview. There is currently no stop signs, the cross walks will help but stop signs would be even better.

Bob Knorr stated that he understood what Ms. Hertz was saying. Having additional stop signs on Crestview would create new traffic problems. In addition to crosswalks, Ms. Hertz has also suggested a school zone, but currently Crestview does not meet standards for stop signs.

B) Request for a 3-way stop at Villa and Mountain View.

Bob Knorr stated that the amount of traffic does not warrant placing stop signs at the intersection of Villa and Mountain View at this time. Mr. Knorr stated that he is currently not recommended anything at this time. Mr. Knorr suggested that when Villa goes all the way to the North, they will reconsider looking at a 4-way stop there.

MOTION: Vergets/Wimmer to accept engineering's recommendations. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Doris Brandt asked if there was something that the committee could do to get items published the Graphic.

Chair Mike Simpson stated that he will try and meet with the editor of the Graphic and see what could be done.

STAFF REPORTS

Police Sergeant Tim Weaver stated that the Police Station has re-applied for the ODOT DUII grant. Sergeant Weaver stated that he expects to get the grant again this year. The Pedestrian grant is finish and there has been a lot of good actions from it. There were several stories in the Graphic about pedestrian enforcement. Currently there is one officer at the academy and has completed 6 weeks of the 10 week course.

Bob Knorr, Engineering stated that there will be a training seminar on October 25th at 6:30. It is called Highway Safety for non-engineers. The next meeting there will be a public hearing for the Villa Road median. The engineering department is still reviewing the high school speeding complaints and options and will have a recommendation by December. A survey has been done on the Villa Road/Sherman Road crosswalk. Mr. Knorr stated that he would like to talk to the director about an angled crosswalk.

Chair Mike Simpson stated that he has a problem with how long this is taking. A citizen came before the board and made a request. We held a public hearing and heard public testimony. We made a decision and directed engineering to put in a crosswalk and I feel that the engineering department has ignored out wishes.

Tameria Wimmer stated that Mable Rush is now open and the children are not using the guarded crosswalk.

Chair Mike Simpson asked Ms. Wimmer if she would be willing to bring this up to the school district and report back to the committee.

Tameria Wimmer stated that she would.

MOTION: Brandt/Wimmer to adjourn until November 14, 2005. (Unanimous) Motion carried.
--

Kathleen Bochart
Kathleen Bochart, Recording Secretary

11/14/05
Date

Mary Newell
Mary Newell, Support Services Manager

11/14/05
Date