

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES

**Monday, October 9, 2006
Newberg Public Safety Building
401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR**

Members

Present: Chair Michael Simpson Leland Parks Becky Simpson
Doris Brandt Dick Meyer Joyce Vergets
Ron Sult

Members

Absent: Tamera Wimmer John Featherstone

Staff

Present: Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer
Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant
Mary Newell, Support Services
Kathleen Bochart, Recording Secretary

Others

Present:

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Warren Parrish, 30450 NE Wilsonville Road, Newberg. Distributed newspaper articles. Wanted to thank Committee for allowing him to speak. A couple months ago I was traveling south on Springbrook Road and was approaching Springbrook and Fernwood. I was going speed limit and had a vehicle from my right, 2nd Street, who did not stop at the stop sign. I don't think this is a rare occasion; it is becoming quite frequent. This scared me enough to get involved. It is time to do something about three intersections: Wilsonville and Springbrook (supposed to be fixed next year), Fernwood and 2nd; and 2nd and 219.

This needs to be dealt with. I have always heard that there is no money to fix these problems. I encourage you to do what you can; write a letter to county commissioners. Short term, I think we need four flashing lights that say dangerous intersections. I think that is something we can do. I don't think this would cost a lot of money. Coming from the golf course -- coming west -- is particularly bad because a lot of people are from out of town and don't know what to expect.

Paul Chiu: ODOT has indicated that they are going to schedule the field work in November. We are expected to get a speed study report for 99W and Providence Drive.

A) Springbrook and 2nd

Paul Chiu presented the staff report. We have been in touch with a traffic consultant and have received crash data from ODOT and Newberg Dundee Police Department. Based on information received so far, a 4-way stop will not be warranted. He suggested a capacity analysis on the intersection, traffic counts and speed and volume counts. This Wednesday they will be doing an AM and PM peak traffic count between the hours of 7-9 AM and 4-6 PM. Based on that information they will be able to determine whether or not the 4 way stop would be warranted. Once the consultant gets the information from us, he will be able to go forward with that and, hopefully, will have the results by the beginning of next month.

Michael Simpson: You say that we are almost at having enough traffic crashes but not close, correct? Paul stated that one of the conditions is you have to have 5 traffic accidents of a certain nature within a calendar year.

Phyllis Busenbark, 2901 E 2nd #80, Newberg, OR, is a resident of the mobile home park. The managers are Ernie and Nancy Martin. I want to ask several questions of you. I would like to know who your consultant is. She asked if they were local and familiar with the area.

Paul Chiu identified the consultant as Falconi Consulting Services. He has been in business for many years and has done lots of work with the city. He is familiar with the City of Newberg.

Phyllis Busenbark: Are they only doing the study one day?

Paul Chiu: It is common practice to do studies on Tuesday-Thursday from 7-9 am and 4-6 pm.

Phyllis Busenbark stated that she thinks there should be more hours involved in the study and asked where the results of the study are.

Paul stated that he has them; that they have been presented to the consultant, "I can get a copy to you if you would like."

Phyllis Busenbark: A future map shows a light at that intersection. Can you tell me when that might happen?

Paul Chiu: That came from the TSP. Those are projects that are to be done in the future. It just says that there could be a need for one at some point in time.

Michael Simpson stated that things have been difficult for Paul as two days before the last meeting, the engineer for this commission resigned for whatever reason. Paul is trying to get this done as fast as he can. We do care and we are frustrated about this also.

Bob Larson, 2902 E 2nd # 27, Newberg, OR, stated that he is disappointed that nothing has been done yet, but does know the City Council and City Manager are waiting for responses from the Traffic Safety Commission. I would like to see a yellow flashing light there until we get the stop signs installed. There have been six accidents at the intersection in the last year.

Paul stated that he will have the report from the traffic study in a week or two and would be able to send it out to the commission as soon as he gets it. Would like to make arrangements to set up a meeting with the County.

Doris Brandt: What is the possibility of rumble strips and lowering the speed limit now?

Paul Chiu: it's hard to say. By the way, rumble strips cost approx. \$500 in material and \$1,500 labor to install.

Leland Parks stated that something that would be cheap would be to paint on the road, "stop ahead."

Michael Simpson stated that the Commission could make a motion to trim back the filbert trees and paint on the road "stop ahead."

MOTION: Doris/Ronald to cut brush back on Fernwood and 2nd street corners as needed per sight lines and stop ahead signs be painted on east and west lanes of Fernwood and 2nd street coming up to Springbrook. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

Michael Simpson asked if we could start seeing the reports from the traffic studies and information from the traffic consultant.

OLD Business:

Jen Dawson, 3701 Oak Grove Street, Newberg, OR. I am here to see how things are going

Paul Chiu: Based on the meeting, the decision was to put in 15 mph signs but did not have clear indication of the motion. He talked to public works maintenance. I would like to ask for clarification for where the signs should be located; we need to know exactly where the signs are going to be. We need a more clarified motion so we don't have any question to as where the signs need to be. Stated that alleys have a basic 15 mph limit.

Michael Simpson: It is my understanding that it was moved and seconded to lower the speed to 15 mph on Oak Grove Street, Oak Hollow Street, and Little Oak Street. However many signs it takes to accomplish that, do it.

Jen Dawson: I would like to know where the signs are going to be placed.

Paul Chiu: We need at least six, if not eight, signs.

Tom Hebert, 3717 Oak Grove Street, Newberg, OR. I have an observation and a comment: Observation: This is a public meeting and I have a hard time hearing the meeting. There are a lot of children on this area. The purpose of the 15 mph speed is to not arrest them; it is to make them aware that this is a different area. If you put a sign by the streets by Fred Meyer and over by Oak Grove Street and Hayes, then it would encompass the whole area and only need two signs.

Paul Chiu stated that the maintenance staff stated that two signs would not be sufficient.

Michael Simpson stated that at a minimum we need 15 MPH signs at the entrances of the development.

Tim Weaver: Enforcement here -- whether there are two or eight signs -- is going to be difficult to enforce.

Jen Dawson was wondering about some way to keep people from coming into the development, except having emergency vehicles allowed.

Children at play signs were discussed.

Tim Weaver asked if parking was allowed on both sides of the road and Jen stated that it was.

Tim Weaver stated that he does not think that emergency vehicles could get through there. One thing we could look at doing was to have parking only on one side of the street.

Jen Dawson asked what happened with the stop signs that she mentioned last meeting.

Michael stated that if they were to do a traffic study, then it would not warrant a stop sign,

Tim Weaver stated that the person on the top of the "T" is the one who has the right-of-way so people on Oak Grove Street would have the right-of-way.

Doris Brandt: Could they put in a yield sign?

Tim Weaver said the way the statute reads, they would have to stop anyway.

Paul Chiu: We don't want to put in so many signs that they (drivers) ignore them.

MOTION: Leland Parks/Doris Brandt to put a yield sign installed at the corner of Oak Hollow at Oak Grove Street. (Unanimous) Motion carried.

Michael Simpson asked Jen Dawson to let the Commission know if this is not taken care of this month.

Traffic Safety Commission took a five minute break.

Wade Witherspoon, 308 Oxford, Newberg, OR. Witherspoon requested South College be ten-minute parking only during school hours.

Paul Chiu stated that there needs to be some no parking on the corners because of the vision clearance triangle, or at least two parking spots back.

Michael Simpson stated that he thought that it was a 20-foot no parking setback from the corner.

Paul Chiu stated that it is 50 feet. When I look at this, as much as I would like to provide this, this intersection is not good. Any parking close to the crosswalk could block the view of the pedestrians crossing the intersection. I am debating on what should properly be done.

Michael Simpson asked if the yellow curbs already exist, and Wade Witherspoon stated that they do exist.

Michael Simpson asked Wade if he was asking for 10-minute parking on S. College and parking be ok on 2nd street, and keeping the yellow curbs. Wade stated that that was correct.

Motion: Doris Brandt/Joyce Vergets to install ten minute parking signs on S College on school days between 7 AM and 4:30 PM (Unanimous) Motion carried.

At public works discretion that what we want is 10-15 min parking on school days during school times on College street because Mary Newell stated that the verbiage on the signs have to be okayed by Public Works Maintenance in accordance with the Uniform Sign standards.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ron Sult said that on October 10, 2005, we considered a staff report on the school district's request on Crestview and N. Meridian and Crestview and Hoskins and asked for an update. Paul stated that he would check with Public Works to find out where they were with the project.

Michael Simpson asked if the committee members were interested in holding training at the November 13th meeting. Paul stated the instructor is asking for 2 hours.

Mary asked if it has been determined whether or not the Traffic Safety Commission is going to hold a public hearing on the candle sticks on Villa at the November meeting. We are waiting for the coffee shop to open and the school to start at the old hospital.

Paul stated that traffic has dropped since the hospital moved.

Michael asked if it (the hearing) has been scheduled or is this tentative.

Doris asked if we could have another date for the training and Ron Sult stated that he would be willing to do it on another night.

November 2nd was the date tentatively set for training.

Michael stated that he would like to see something published in the newspaper about this training session.

STAFF REPORTS

Michael Simpson: ACTS is very interested in doing whatever they can in helping us become proactive and we want to become more proactive. I would like to see us come up with something that can be our spearhead, whether it be getting into the schools and talking to kids. There are grants available. Michael Simpson asked if people would be willing to give up another day a month to help sponsor activities in the community. I would like to propose a mission goal and a mission statement.

Tim Weaver, also regarding the ODOT Traffic Safety Conference, noted that we are making some headway but we also have along way to go. Conferences like this are pretty positive. The bottom line is speed is such a huge factor and it isn't going to go away.

Police

Sgt. Weaver reported that the department has a new Intoxilizer 8000 for Commission members to see. The Department model should be installed next month.

Engineering

Paul Chiu: For clarification, asked about rumble strips and asked if they were talking about rumble strips that are applied to the road. Michael Simpson stated that he had asked about the rumble strips that are cut into the road because they are something that doesn't have any upkeep. Paul stated that he would have to look into the cost of that kind, stated that we might have to have outside help on getting them done if they are available.

Paul Chiu stated that on Hwy 240, that gravel was applied to the shoulder of the roads.

Michael asked if we were going to have a public hearing about the traffic candles.

Mary indicated that Staff would have to talk to the City Manager about that matter.

Michael Simpson asked if Doris Brandt was going to take care of reservations for the December meeting. Doris said that she would and asked if they wanted to have it at Calamity Jane's again. It was decided that in lieu of a regular meeting, that Commission members would meet for dinner on December 11th at Calamity Jane's at 6PM.

MOTION: Doris Ron to adjourn until November

Minutes taken by Kathleen Bouchart, Recording Secretary.



Mary Newell, Support Services Manager
Newberg-Dundee Police Department