

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 13, 2007
Public Safety Building, 401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR

"Mission Statement: To give the citizens of Newberg a forum to voice traffic safety concerns, evaluate related issues, provide a liaison with the City and promote traffic safety within the community."

Members

Present: Vice Chair - Dick Meyer Doris Brandt Jennifer Dawson
Bryce Jones Leland Parks Ronald Sult
Lesley Woodruff

Members

Absent: Chair Michael Simpson, Andrew Cookson

Staff

Present: Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer
Tim Weaver, Sergeant
Mary Newell, Support Services Manager
Jennifer Nelson, Recording Secretary

VICE-CHAIR DICK MEYER CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:05 PM.

A) Review and approve minutes of October 8, 2007

MOTION: Jones/Dawson to approve the Minutes of October 8, 2007 as amended. (7 Yes/0 No/2 Absent [Simpson, Cookson]) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

OLD BUSINESS

A) Edgewood & Center streets (TSC-07-012)

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, presented a staff report. A traffic study conducted gave no indication for immediate concern and staff recommended nothing change until development occurs.

Commissioner Jennifer Dawson expressed concern for this being the site for a new park and basketball court and having a stop sign now could start to slow traffic down before the park. She spoke of needing a caution sign of some sort because of the open play structure at the southeast corner of Center Street and Edgewood Drive.

Mr. Chiu agreed it would be reasonable to consider a sign of some sort along Edgewood Drive in both directions before the intersection warning drivers of children possibly playing at the park.

MOTION: Dawson/Jones to approve the installation of a park sign at the intersection of Edgewood Drive and Center Street to alert drivers of the presence of a park with a play structure ahead; appropriate language to be determined by the Public Works staff. . (7 Yes/0 No/2 Absent [Simpson, Cookson]) Motion carried.
(Unanimous) Motion carried.

B) Left turn lane at Hwy. 240 at Main Street (TSC-07-014)

Mr. Chiu stated he forwarded a request to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) with the concerns brought up previously by **Mrs. Julie Codiga** and when he receives a response, he will forward it on for consideration.

Commissioner Doris Brandt stated someone approached her about the intersection and made the suggestion to take the island out and make a right turn lane only with a stop sign.

Mr. Chiu replied this intersection was recently improved with grant money from the State with City collaboration. He discussed how the intersection used to be and the problems encountered and how there is concern for traffic trying to make a left onto a City road at high speeds and a stop sign creates anxiety at the intersection. He added these improvements were completed in the summer of last year and a two-year collection of collision data would need to be acquired in order to make an argument for a problem to ODOT.

Sergeant Tim Weaver stated he did not believe there were any severe crashes there although the congestion is apparent. He also felt bringing back the pocket for southbound Main Street would just create another problem, mentioning an accident he had there.

Discussion continued with the mention of a traffic signal at the intersection in question, but it was thought a lot of engineering would be required for such a unique intersection. Other suggestions were made to have a roundabout, and it was noted it would need to be a large roundabout to accommodate truck traffic.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Request to review pedestrian access along Villa Road (TSC-07-013)

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report indicating the situation was being examined and possible short-term solutions and long-term solutions were being compared, including straightening the "S" curve, installing concrete barriers, creating a pedestrian path separate from motorists with a wooden bridge crossing over the creek.

Commissioner Brandt suggested motorcycle police monitoring in that area.

Sergeant Weaver replied that could be worked on and spoke of some trailer vandalism in that area. He also spoke of the idea that traffic can be perceived as going faster than it actually is.

Commissioner Dawson spoke of travelers on Villa towards Mountainview driving into oncoming traffic because the pavement is so badly damaged as well as children walking to school.

Mr. Chiu stated this would be a good area to install a flashing speed limit sign to notify drivers of their speed. He also mentioned the idea of restricting truck traffic as a short-term solution.

B) Request for “No Outlet” sign on Hess Creek Court (TSC-07-015)

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report and recommended approving the request to allow the City Public Works Department to install any requested “No Outlet Sign” without the approval of the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC).

MOTION: Woodruff/Jones to allow the City Public Works Department to install a “No Outlet Sign” whenever requested without requesting approval from the Traffic Safety Commission, unless there is a disagreement with the request. (7 Yes/0 No/2 Absent [Simpson, Cookson]) Motion carried.

C) Hwy 99W at River Street (TSC-07-016)

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report regarding traffic towards Portland on 99W where drivers are using the left turn lane to cut into the center lane, creating road rage situations. A report has been forwarded onto ODOT for consideration to come up with some solution to discourage this kind of behavior.

Commissioner Leland Parks asked if there was any sign posted that the left lane is a turn lane only.

Sergeant Weaver replied there was a sign on the north curve indicating the left lane must turn.

Commissioner Parks wondered if this was more than someone just being caught in that lane, as they want to change lanes to head on towards Portland.

Vice-Chair Meyer stated traffic is backed up on First Street from the River Street light because of cars making left turns onto First Street trying to get into that lane to continue east towards Portland.

Mr. Chiu stated he asked ODOT to look into the timing phase at that signal to optimize the green phase for Portland direction traffic since it appears to be changing to red too quickly with only a block of vehicles clearing the intersection before being stopped again.

Sergeant Weaver agreed with this problem and indicated when traffic is backed up well beyond College Street the temptation for some drivers is to use the left lane as a passing or acceleration lane. The same problem occurs on Hancock Street with westbound traffic using the left lane as a catch up lane or pass through lane when traffic is backed up. He stated officers were enforcing this issue as best as they can and speed is an issue for both of these areas.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police

Sergeant Weaver said the holiday season brings more traffic activity during hours of darkness. He was surprised there was no one present in the audience tonight because there is a lot of emotion and angst in the community regarding pedestrian/vehicle related crashes. He discussed recent incidents. He spoke of hotspots for elderly pedestrian traffic and safety hazards and spoke of possible suggestions for special lights that are triggered when a pedestrian is in the crosswalk at particularly dangerous areas. He stated there were two openings in the police department now and compared DUII statistics from last year. The total number of DUII's from last year was met by the end of October this year: 130 for the year with approximately 10 per month.

Mary Newell, Support Services Manager, announced the photo red light decision was before the City Council and postponed to January 2008.

B) Engineering – Project updates

o Speed Zone Reduction from 40 to 35 mph

Mr. Chiu reported a portion of Chehalem Drive is a County road and there is no problem with the speed limit being reduced in that area.

o Other

Mr. Chiu announced the speed zone on 99w had been changed last Friday between Brutscher Street and Providence Drive.

Sergeant Weaver mentioned an accident involving two cars pulling out of the Newberg Ford dealership.

Mr. Chiu updated the progress on Mountainview Drive and Aspen Way and paving. He spoke of the foundation being set for the new railroad crossing for the signal arms, which will be installed towards the end of this month. He also provided updates for other street improvements around the City currently underway.

Vice-Chair Meyer mentioned parents were complaining about there being no parking because buses cannot get onto 8th street from the school.

Commissioner Ronald Sult stated he would look into the situation.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

No business meeting will be held in December.

MOTION: Brandt/Jones to adjourn at 8:33 PM until the next meeting on January 8, 2008. (7 Yes/0 No/2 Absent [Simpson, Cookson]) Motion carried.
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Jennifer L. Nelson

Recording Secretary



Mary Newell
Support Services Manager