

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Monday, November 10, 2008
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: Chair Michael Simpson Dick Meyer Doris Brandt
Jennifer Dawson Leland Parks Ronald Sult

Members

Absent: Andrew Cookson (unexcused) Bryce Jones (unexcused)
Lesley Woodruff (unexcused)

Ex Officio

Present: Mayor Bob Andrews

Staff

Present: Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer
Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant
Jennifer Nelson, Recording Secretary

Others

Present: Heather Denton, Nina Thatch, Rick Olson, Daryl Self, Pete Miller, Tina Slogowski, Owen Lowe

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

A) Review and approve minutes of October 13, 2008

MOTION: Brandt/Sult to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for October 13, 2008. (6 Yes/0 No/3 Absent) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Heather Denton approached with concerns for follow through with the speed issues previously discussed on Mountainview Road between N. College Street and N. Main Street. She reminded the commission of their various "soft" and "hard" proposals and spoke with staff to find out where the next step would be to see this through. Asked about the speed hump by Friendsview and felt this would be a good solution here as well. She noted other neighbors placed signs in yards to warn drivers to slow down because of children. She asked about the status of the road as a northern arterial.

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer stated he did not feel the speed limit would change to 35 mph with the northern arterial status because it is still a residential area. He added the speed hump at Friendsview is on a trial basis and will be evaluated over the next year or two to see if provides appropriate pedestrian safety; the cost of the raised crosswalk was split three ways between the City, Friendsview, and George Fox University because it is very expensive.

Mr. Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant, also added increasing the speed limit to 35 mph would be strongly contested because of the number of driveways on these roads.

Ms. Denton asked what an appropriate course of action would be further down the road to make a case concerning the traffic with the northern arterial status. It was suggested she attend the City Council meeting to address their concerns and questions when the items comes up to them.

Ms. Nina Thatch agreed with the traffic problems from this neighborhood and spoke of tactics she used to warn drivers of the presence of children; she placed brightly colored toys at the end of her driveway. She spoke of the current difficulties she has exiting her driveway since the changes to Mountainview Road and this area have occurred. She felt strongly that there was a need for a physical speed barrier to slow people down.

Chair Simpson informed her that these items have been discussed in detail, a traffic count was completed and reports are expected to come back to the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) in January. He suggested she get together to share ideas and concerns with Ms. Denton to have an added voice to the matter.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Request for 4-hour parking limit at Ninth & Industrial (TSC-08-019)

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer presented the staff report concerning the extended semi-truck parking issue on 9th Street and Industrial Parkway and the suggestion to provide a 4-hour parking limitation (see official meeting packet for full report).

Mr. Rick Olsen, Rick's Auto Repair, spoke of his issue with large semi-trucks parking and using the street for storage and the damage they have caused to some sidewalks and curbs. He said this has been an ongoing issue over the last four years and he would like a limit to the space they are taking up and away from customers. He expressed sympathy for the non-availability of overnight truck parking, but did not feel this is a feasible area for them to stay, especially when they are not conducting local business.

Mr. Daryl Self, Chehalem Valley Import, Inc., spoke of difficulties running equipment around these parked semi-trucks. He stated he owned his property for a year and a half, he also observed the problem and he is supportive of a 4-hour limitation to free up some of these spaces for customers during business hours.

Chair Simpson asked what limitation was installed on Wyooski Road for the same problem and if it has eliminated the problem. Staff replied it was a 4-hour parking limit as well and seems to be working there, although the problem has shifted further down the road on Wyooski and to other areas of town most likely.

Ms. Tina Slogowski stated she built her building in this area in 1997 and the last five years this has been a concern. She spoke to a man that transports cars, there is sometimes an issue with a lack of lighting, and cars he has left there have been hit before. She was concerned for the timing of the parking limitation because of her construction company's employees coming in for

safety meetings and having to park there for four days, but she is also harassed by union representatives all day long and she would be game for the 4-hour limitation for that reason.

Mr. Pete Miller, Property Owner of Renee Properties and Owner of Caravan Coffee, stated he has been there eight years and supports getting rid of the trucks and trailers parked there. He confirmed the issues discussed by others. He felt it was a visual nuisance and a safety concern with the large trucks in a narrow area. He said he could live with a 4-hour limitation but would prefer “no overnight” signage or 12 hour parking because of some customers and employees of his having to use this area for parking on larger production days.

Mr. Olsen suggested he could use some of his small parking lot for his customers if needed. He added a school bus also needs to get through twice a day and the trucks do pose a problem.

Chair Simpson closed the public testimony and asked staff if signage about “no trailer parking on street” would be enforceable like the signs in Dundee. Staff stated if it were an official sign, it would be enforceable. Chair Simpson asked if the TSC has the authority to impose “no truck parking” on streets.

Mr. Weaver stated this was a difficult situation because it is an industrial area, although it is not part of the truck route. He expressed concerns for pushing the problem further down Industrial Parkway and all around the city since the trucks still need a place to park.

Chair Simpson questioned parking enforcement and staff replied it was on a complaint only basis.

Commissioner Leland Parks sympathized with business owners but was also concerned for the fact that the semi-trucks are essentially being herded around town without making any place available for truck parking. He stated the truck drivers are also trying to earn a living and this does not solve the problem for everyone.

Chair Simpson stated the parking is not the only issue, but the damage those trucks are causing without taking responsibility. He agreed the problem is being chased around the City and would love to provide an area for trucks to park, but stated other issues would come with that as well.

Mayor Andrews stated that “overnight” parking is ambiguous and preferred specific time limits for parking. He also mentioned a recent phone conversation about the possibility of working with the City to capitalize a truck park; he directed the phone call to public works or engineering.

Mr. Chiu stated he had heard nothing about it but thought it would be a good thing to look into as the City continues to grow.

Commissioner Parks questioned Mr. Miller if the 4-hour limit would be an imposition for him. He stated he did not think it would be a problem.

MOTION: Parks/Brandt to approve the request for 4-hour limited parking at Commerce, 9th Street, and Industrial Parkway up to Hwy 219 as a limited decision. (TSC-08-019). Motion carried.

B) Request for a handicapped parking space for a passenger transport vehicle on E Hancock, East of Sitka Avenue (TSC-08-020)

TIME – 7:54 PM

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report (see official meeting packet for full report).

Chair Simpson asked if the transport vehicle is parking legally.

Sergeant Weaver stated they are parking legally but the access to Wilco is limited by sight on Hancock Street. Wilco allowed them to use their parking lot for a period of time, but there was a falling out. The difficulty comes from Mid-Valley's policy to not back up if they do not have to; parking here allows them to pull straight in and out again.

Chair Simpson asked if there were any other parking spots designated for buses only or deliveries only in the City. Staff stated there was one reserved spot for a chiropractor on 1st Street and there are YCAP bus stops.

Chair Simpson did not feel there was enough information concerning the request and asked to table the item until the January TSC meeting. He directed staff to follow up with the representative for Mid-Valley Rehabilitation, who requested the parking spot, and request she attend the January meeting for questions. He recessed for five minutes and reconvened at 8:13 PM.

MOTION: To table **TSC-08-020**, a request for a handicapped parking space for a passenger transport vehicle on E. Hancock, east of Sitka Avenue, until the January 12, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS

C) 4-way stop at River and 4th Street (TSC-08-018)

TIME – 8:14 PM

Mr. Chiu stated the presentation on this item will be completed at the January TSC meeting and noted corrections to the file number.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Owen Lowe thanked the commission and the City for installing the 4-way stop at Howard and 5th Street and encouraged the City to consider a stop sign at Howard and 4th Street as well rather than the suggested yield sign. He was concerned for the children at the park. He also requested the TSC consider making improvements to the crosswalk at 8th Street and River Street, which is used as a major crossing for kids going to Edwards Elementary School. They would like to see better signage or clearing of the overgrown trees covering the signs and updated crosswalk strips.

Commissioner Parks agreed this area could use some assistance to make this crosswalk more defined.

MOTION: Brandt/Parks to re-mark the crosswalk at River Street on the south side of 8th Street and direct the code enforcement officer to contact residents to make sure the trees are cleared covering the crosswalk signage on both the north and south bound sides of River Street within the week. (6 Yes/0 No/3 Absent [Cookson, Jones, Woodruff]). Motion carried.

A) Crestview-Emery corner sign – 15 MPH speed rider on order (TSC-08-012)

B) Meridian & Ninth – seeking legal advice for crosswalk without ramps (TSC-08-016)

Mr. Chiu stated he followed up with the City Attorney regarding the City's liability if crosswalks are installed before ramps improvements are made. The City Attorney stated the crosswalks could be installed and funding for the improvements could be placed as a request into the budget for the following fiscal year.

MOTION: Parks/Brandt to install a crosswalk across 9th Street on the west side of Meridian Street after verification from Ms. Arletta Schwantes that this is the common crossing area. (6 Yes/0 No/3 Absent [Cookson, Jones, Woodruff]). Motion carried.

D) '2009 Traffic Safety Commissioner

Mr. Chiu stated the election of new officers was required annually at the January meeting and would be placed on the agenda.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police

Sergeant Weaver gave updates on the new officers and those in police training. He stated an increase in DUI arrests for opiate/narcotic abuse rather than alcohol and mentioned five arrests in a 24-hour period. Discussion followed as to establishments where DUI offenders were served and how to follow-up with service to intoxicated individuals.

B) Engineering

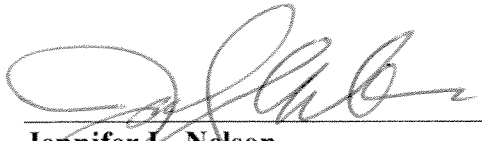
Mr. Chiu gave updates on the median islands on Illinois to Crestview, sidewalks on the east side of College north of the railroad crossing, items to council to accept the right of way and 2nd Street between Hwy 219 and Springbrook, including State and County contributions for frontage improvements.

C) Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Brandt stated the City staff planting plants in the new traffic islands is doing a nice job.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

MOTION: Brandt/Dawson to adjourn at 8:55 PM until the next meeting on January 12, 2008.
(6 Yes/0 No/3 Absent [Cookson, Jones, Woodruff]). Motion carried.



Jennifer L. Nelson
Recording Secretary

Michael R. Simpson
Traffic Safety Commission Chair