

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Monday, September 8, 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 Doris Brandt Jennifer Dawson
Bryce Jones Leland Parks Ronald Sult
Lesley Woodruff

Members

Absent: Dick Meyer (excused) Andrew Cookson (excused)

Staff

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

Others

Present: John Vida, Heather Denton, Steve Freeman, Barbara Freeman, Lia Doherty,
Joanne McElwain

CHAIR MICHAEL SIMPSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:05 PM.

A) Review and approve minutes of August 11, 2008

MOTION: Sult/Jones to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for August 11, 2008 as amended. (7 Yes/0 No/2 Absent [Cookson, Meyer]) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

A) Blaine-9th Street 4-way stop sign – Installed (TSC-08-009) Engineering staff is pursuing Blaine Street (south of 9th Street) right-of-way acquisition.

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, presented the staff report. Engineering staff is pursuing Blaine Street (south of 9th Street) right-of-way acquisition. He said there is no way to determine when this will be resolved (see official meeting packet for full report).

Mr. John Vida thanked the commission for the stop signs but stated it has not stopped the speeding as intended. He still has concerns for the rocks and dust as well as the safety of the children walking on that street near that intersection. He asked the City not to repair the potholes in this road to slow down drivers and to oil the gravel more than once or twice a year.

Mr. Simpson empathized with the situation but stated this commission has done all it can. It would be up to City Council and the implementation of a Local Improvement District (LID) if he wished to have speed bumps installed there. He encouraged him to take his concerns to City Council.

Mr. Vida stated he has already attended a City Council meeting last week and felt the issue was shoved aside. He asked about oiling the road to help with the dust and he was directed to inquire with the Public Works department. He said he wished someone would observe this area.

Commissioner Lesley Woodruff stated she is frequently in the area walking with her daughter and she sees the problems and issues he is discussing. She said she understood his frustration and wished they could do more.

Chair Simpson said they would see if there is someone from city can look into this farther and contact him.

B) Mountainview-College (TSC-08-014)

Mr. Chiu stated there was no data to review at this time; it will be available in October. He said the areas around the two 25 mph speed signs have been pruned back to improve visibility.

Mr. Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant, offered updates on the placement of the speed trailer on Buckley, east of Mountainview Road, and enforcement before school started.

Ms. Heather Denten first submitted further signatures collected from neighbors and offered appreciation for the things that have been happening, like the playground and speed limit signs. She requested the speed trailer be posted closer to College Street just beyond Buckley. She also spoke of a dump truck being parked west on College Street posing a hazard to traffic pulling out.

Sergeant Weaver stated it was a public street and people can park where they want but he would talk to the owner of the vehicle.

Ms. Denten asked about the intentions for this street to be a main arterial from 99W to Hwy 240.

Mr. Chiu replied this will be happening in the future but he did not believe it would be in the near future. He did not have any predictions for when this would happen but mentioned there were traffic calming measures that could be taken to slow traffic through the neighborhood when it did occur. He also stated it would remain 25 mph through the residential area.

Ms. Denten asked if the October meeting would be a good time to have people from the area show up and if proposals would be made for how to address the results of the traffic study. Staff agreed this would be a good time for discussion. She asked if neighbors could install their own signs. Staff discouraged this because of City regulations regarding signs and because it causes

sign pollution. She also requested increased enforcement in the area, including nighttime and weekends. She also encouraged staff to explore less expensive options for traffic control if an LID would be created to address these issues rather than discussing options into the million-dollar category; she felt there would be more support from neighbors for small improvements. She suggested a 3-way stop would work well at Buckley, rather than islands and landscaping.

Mr. Steve Freeman stated his wife runs a daycare out of their house and likes to take the children to the park across the street. He said there is no crosswalk there, making this quite a dangerous crossing with a blind curve. He said there is also no stop sign coming out of Mountainview Court. He asked if the speed trailer recorded data. Staff replied it did not.

Ms. Barbara Freeman spoke of the many changes to the area in the last 20 years and commented on the dump truck sitting there, creating a visibility hazard. She also mentioned shrubbery on the sidewalk that hinders visibility.

Ms. Lia Doherty commented she has lived in the area for 14 years and it used to be a lot quieter. She said she would like to see increased enforcement since it is dangerous for the many pedestrians there.

Ms. Joanne McElwain stated she agreed with the previous concerns and would like to see no parking from Buckley to College Street, since commuters rarely stop on Main Street in the morning and afternoon during the summer.

Discussion followed about placing a crosswalk in the area and other options.

Sergeant Weaver noted that enforcement increases would not take place until after the traffic study was completed so the data would not be affected.

C) Fulton Street raised crosswalk (TSC-08-004)

Mr. Chiu discussed photos of the completed raised crosswalk, stating it was an experimental effort shared by the City, George Fox University, and Friendsview Manor. It will be monitored for a year or two before discussing possible use elsewhere in the City.

D) Sandoz-Wynooski parking limit signs (TSC-08-007)

Mr. Chiu mentioned the parking signs have been installed and showed photos.

Sergeant Weaver mentioned there were trucks parking on gravel areas now.

E) 2- Hour parking limit in front of 106 S. Center Street (TSC-08-0011).

Mr. Chiu stated notification letters of the Limited Decision were mailed on 8/15/08. If no protests occur, signs will be installed in September.

F) Crestview -Emery corner sign (TSC-08-012)

Mr. Chiu stated research is being conducted on the “Stay in Lane” signage and the MUTCD complaint traffic sign to be installed in September.

G) Crater-Oxford 4-way Stop Request (TSC-08-013)

Mr. Chiu reported the speed study did indicate a speeding problem (85% at 30.8 MPH; highest recorded speed at 40.9 MPH) and he is looking into whether a stop sign request is warranted. He discussed the possibility of conducting a speed study of Chehalem Drive as a parallel street to see if that road experiences similar situations.

H) Center-Edgewood crosswalks (TSC-08-015)

Mr. Chiu provided pictures of the sign installation stating crosswalks are planned for installation as scheduled and speed data is being collected.

Discussion followed about the installation of crosswalks and the effectiveness it may have for the College Street and Mountainview area. It was decided to re-open discussion of **TSC-08-014** to create a motion.

B) Mountainview-College (TSC-08-014)

MOTION: Sult/Jones to install a pedestrian crosswalk with appropriate signage on the west side of Mountainview Drive at the Mountainview Court intersection following the completion of the traffic study for **TSC-08-014**. (7 Yes/0 No/2 Absent [Cookson, Meyer]) Motion carried.

I) Meridian-Ninth 3-way stop request (TSC-08-016)

Mr. Chiu stated data was still being collected and there would be nothing to report until the next meeting in October.

J) Howard – Fifth Street Stop Request (TSC-08-017)

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report and recommended leaving the intersection as it is.

Sergeant Weaver disagreed with the staff recommendation and felt it would not be out of order to have a 4-way stop because of the proximity to the park.

Chair Simpson agreed the established playground and park provided enough reason to support a controlled intersection here even if the speed data did not support this.

Previous crash information at that intersection was discussed and how the 4-way stop may help to remedy future accidents.

MOTION: Parks/Brandt to install a 4-way stop sign at the intersection of 5th Street and Howard Street including white painted stop lines on the pavement (**TSC-08-017**). (7 Yes/0 No/2 Absent [Cookson, Meyer]) Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police

Sergeant Weaver reported on the alcohol training recently completed and the reactions from the participants. There were 10 DUII arrests over the month with 116 for the year, placing the count ahead of last year. Specific incidents were discussed as well as the ability to find out where people have been drinking. He gave updates on staff changes and upcoming plans for the department. The second motorcycle will be in service again this week. He also spoke of the memorial for Richard McCabe and the donations to Safety Town instead of flowers.

B) Engineering

Mr. Chiu gave updates on the College Street pedestrian/bike improvement project and encouraged others to fill out the survey for the grant. He also gave updates on Villa Road and the Verizon utilities moving along, they are to be done by September 11. PGE wants to salvage the utility poles. He spoke of vandalism at Everest, someone painted a crosswalk, which ODOT is removing.

C) Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Bryce Jones mentioned sight lines on Hwy 240 needing some maple trees to be trimmed. He was referred to code enforcement.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

MOTION: Brandt/Jones to adjourn at 9:14 PM until the next meeting on October 13, 2008.
(7 Yes/0 No/2 Absent [Cookson, Meyer]) Motion carried.


Jennifer L. Nelson
Recording Secretary
Michael R. Simpson
Traffic Safety Commission Chair