

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Monday, October 12, 2009
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	Jennifer Dawson (Vice Chair)	Doris Brandt
	Neal Klein	Dick Meyer	Lesley Woodruff
	Ronald Sult		

Members

Absent:

Staff

Present:	Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer	Mary Newell, Support Services Manager
	Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant	Dawn Karen Bevill, Recording Secretary

Others

Present:

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

A) Review and approve minutes of September 14, 2009

MOTION #1: Sult/Dawson to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for September 14, 2009 as amended. (7 Yes/ 0 No) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR: No communications were brought forth.

NEW BUSINESS

A) TSC-09-012: Arduus-2nd- 3rd-Hwy 219 – Vision and Parking

TIME – 7:06 PM

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer explained a homeowner that lives on Arduus Drive is concerned with the traffic flow situation on E. 3rd Street into the 2nd Street intersection, (see Google map and aerial photo in the meeting packet). The pavement in that area is very narrow especially with cars parked on that segment of road. Vehicles traveling east/west bound cause one vehicle to yield allowing the other to pass through due to the bottleneck area. Vehicles traveling southbound on 2nd Street toward the stop sign at 3rd St. have to stop before turning towards the highway and visibility is difficult. The petitioner is asking staff to look into the safety issue in that area. Staff would recommend no parking in that bottleneck area and have it signed accordingly for unimpeded 2-way traffic at all times and better visualization at the corner. On the flip side, if parking is not allowed, it will make people drive faster without the obstacle, since it does serve as a barrier for faster speeds. In light of the visual safety there, a restriction on parking is recommended.

Mr. Chiu stated if the Commissioners would rather have a restriction on just one side that is doable but not ideal; a minimum to parking on the north side if a compromise is needed.

Chair Simpson stated a public hearing and public testimony will be needed if parking is prohibited on both sides of the street.

Sergeant Tim Weaver stated after many years of driving this area, he believes it may be a property owner issue of not widening the sidewalk. There's a make shift curb line there with a bit of elevation between property #308 and street level. The improvements need to be done. He believes some of the area is yellow curb on the south side. There are many cars parked there overnight; 3 per residence. Mr. Weaver believes the safest area for no parking would be on the south side, although he does agree with Mr. Chiu's recommendation of no parking on either side.

Mayor Andrews stated in looking at the cone of vision at the stop sign when heading SE on 2nd Street, a stop bar could be installed there. He then asked in regards to the curb from 3rd St. to 2nd St. how much of that is or could be painted yellow to create a cone of vision. Mr. Chiu replied one parking space; 30 feet. Sergeant Weaver added that curb is exceptionally wide.

Commissioner Klein is concerned with blocking the fire hydrant in that area. Allowing parking on one side of the street will hinder emergency vehicle accessibility.

Chair Simpson entertained a motion for no parking on either side to encourage a public hearing if needed.

MOTION #2: Meyer/Dawson moved to approve **TSC-09-012** to create no parking on the north and south side of Third Street in the area of 50 feet to the east of the private street to the Air Park Way as a limited decision with notices going out to all homeowners affected in the area; public meeting to be scheduled for November 9, 2009. (7 Yes/ 0 No) Motion carried.

B) TSC-09-013: Villa Road – Signage:

Mr. Chiu stated in addressing the concerns voiced by the Commissioners at the last meeting regarding the signage in the Hess Creek area, staff has researched the appropriate MUTCD verbiage that can be posted, shown on the meeting handout.

Mayor Andrews asked if there had been any discussion of limited visibility signage discussed since often times ODOT has signage if sight distance is impaired. Mr. Chiu replied no there was not.

Commissioner Brandt travels that road 2 -3 times a day and expressed her concerns for bicycles and pedestrians. Signage stating "road narrows" isn't sufficient.

Commissioner Dawson suggested signage saying "share the road" with a large yellow caution to be placed and put "road narrows" at the bottom of the sign for an extra precaution. "Share the road" is user friendly.

Commissioner Klein asked if there is any signage that states "bicycle/pedestrian lane closed" in order to force people to use the east side of Villa. Chair Simpson stated that could cause head-on collisions

with bicyclist going up the hill and coming down within the same bike lane. Unfortunately, there aren't enough signs to cover all the problems in that area.

Commissioner Woodruff suggested a diamond sign showing the curve with "share the road" below.

Commissioner Klein suggested public education such as a public service announcement or an ad in the Newberg Graphic identifying that area; asking pedestrians not walk or ride bikes on the part of the road.

Mayor Andrews asked if Public Service Announcements (PSAs) can be published on the internet. Sergeant Weaver doesn't believe so but maybe in the safety section.

Chair Simpson asked if there were any other recommendations from the Commissioners other than the sign recommended by Mr. Chiu.

Commissioner Brandt liked Commissioner Woodruff's recommendation.

Chair Simpson agreed and then asked if "share the road" could be placed at the top of the sign instead of below. If not, then it can remain on the bottom. Mr. Chiu stated he'll look into it.

MOTION #3: Brandt/Dawson moved to approve **TSC-09-013** for diamond shaped signage (MUTCD) southbound on Villa Road south of Park Lane and northbound just north of Haworth showing curves in the road with "Share the Road" preferably on top of sign. (7 Yes/ 0 No) Motion carried.

C) TSC-09-014: West First Street – Stop Sign

Mary Newell explained Mr. Joseph Clements wrote a letter suggesting the placement of a stop sign at the corner of 2nd Way and W. First St. and/or traffic control lowering speed limit device, (see meeting packet), but was unable to attend the meeting this evening.

Sergeant Weaver drew a diagram on the white erase board to help in clarification and stated there have been a few fatalities there.

Mr. Chiu stated without some additional study and seeing what the impact would be, is reluctant to make a decision now. The situation is similar to Vittoria Way. There are many vehicles and as soon as you make a stop, cars line up which could cause rear –end accidents. He will need to ask ODOT's opinion, as well.

Chair Simpson asked if a traffic study could be done. Mr. Chiu replied it could be very expensive due to the awkward intersection. Chair Simpson then asked if a traffic count could be done, instead. Mr. Chiu replied, yes on all the streets to see the movement in that area.

Chair Simpson asked staff to do a traffic count and report back at the January meeting with the results and a recommendation.

MOTION #4: Brandt/Sult to table **TSC-09-014** until the January 11, 2010 meeting when Paul Chiu will report back with the traffic count results and recommendation. (7 Yes/ 0 No) Motion carried.

Chair Simpson recessed the meeting at 8:10 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

A) TSC-09-010: Vittoria Way – Installation of Stop Signs

TIME - 8:20PM

Called to order

Mr. Chiu received a total of 2 letters and 2 emails regarding the notification letter dated September 17, 2009, all of which asked for consideration of more stop signs on the neighboring Aquarius Boulevard out of concern that traffic may overflow to the adjacent streets. This requires additional traffic data on Aquarius Boulevard and Libra Street before and after the installation of stop signs. Therefore, installation will begin only after all data are collected (which is about three weeks from now.) (See meeting memorandum dated October 5, 2009).

Mayor Andrews asked if letters had been sent in response to the residents on Aquarius who have expressed their concerns; since he wants to be sure they know their concerns have been heard. Mr. Chiu will respond to them after this meeting. Chair Simpson asked Mr. Chiu to draft a form letter in response. Mr. Chiu will work out the details with Mary Newell.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police

Mr. Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant, reported 30 people were arrested for DUII's this past month; 175 for the year and 875 traffic stops for the month of September.

He also stated this past month has been a very difficult one due to the Oregon Court of Appeals Case regarding search and seizure. In the past, a search warrant was unnecessary for breath tests because of exigent circumstances; the importance of time and the loss of evidence as impaired drivers are sobering. A breath test ideally is within an hour of the arrest. The Oregon Court of Appeals came down with a very broad sweeping 5 – 4 decision ruling that police need to obtain a warrant to check a person's blood-alcohol content which has taken away implied consent. This ruling was based on a Portland Police Officer who in 2005 arrived at the scene of an accident and then went to OHSU to speak with the driver, read him the Implied Consent Form, and asked for a blood test at which time the driver agreed. The court ruled that the driver was coerced and not within his rights. Also, the Police Officer was asked if he could have obtained a warrant in that amount of time and the officer replied he could, but believed he had exigency due to the circumstances.

Now, every DUII requires a telephonic search warrant which entails writing the report before asking the person for the breath test, and a statement explaining what took place, such as why the driver was

stopped. There are Circuit Court Judges in Yamhill County that have been awakened in the middle of the night due to this ruling, sometimes several times a night. Sergeant Weaver is interested in how this ruling will affect the DUII numbers.

Chair Simpson asked if the ruling is being appealed. Sergeant Weaver replied it is being appealed to the Supreme Court; probably 6 – 8 months out.

Mr. Weaver asked Mary Newell to comment on the new City of Newberg website.

Mary Newell, Support Services Manager, reported the new City of Newberg website is up and running. The new domain is: www.newbergoregon.gov. Old agendas and minutes will be posted on the site in the future. There will be a work session regarding the new website and emails.

Ms. Newell reported Dispatch is very busy. They currently have a full hiring component; 2 in training; 1 working as a section chair and 1 in training.

The H1N1 Executive Order came down on how to continue operations. In this venue, Supervisors are authorized to send people home if they have flu-like symptoms as well as cancelling meetings due to illness.

In closing, Sergeant Weaver stated the water meter surcharge is moving ahead; \$1 per meter – per officer. 131 applications have been received for 3 positions.

B) Engineering

TIME - 8:50 PM

Mr. Chiu gave an update on Sandoz Road between Hwy 219 and Wynooski regarding the improvement project in preparation for the pending animal shelter.

Mr. Chiu will be conducting traffic research for the Traffic Calming Program with the intent of a brochure/booklet to eventually be used as a reference guideline to help with future requests from the public. Mr. Chiu will also be working along with the emergency departments on this project.

Mary Newell stated the application process for the Traffic Safety Commission has been extended until 4:00 p.m. on November 10, 2009. Two vacancies need to be filled as well as two terms that are due to expire. Incumbents will need to reapply. Chair Simpson encouraged all TSC members to be in attendance for future meetings in order to have a quorum over the next few months.

Ms. Newell reminded the Commission of the work session to take place on November 9, 2009 at 6.p.m.

Mayor Andrews posed the question regarding the actions on having a student commissioner on board. Mary Newell replied she has not taken action on that as of yet. She will contact Norma Alley and will put together a letter of introduction together.

C) Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Woodruff said she will be attending the work session and would like to take approximately 15 minutes regarding the TSC brochure; receiving suggestions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Klein would like to discuss Morton, 99W and 1st Street under "New Business" at the next meeting.

Commissioner Brandt will make arrangements for the December TSC meeting to take place at Izzy's as soon as they open.

Chair Simpson recommended December 8, 2009 at 6 p.m. for the December meeting at Izzys.

Mayor Andrews stated on behalf of the City Council, they are very satisfied with the work of this Commission.

Chair Simpson asked if anyone would like to volunteer to write a 5 – 6 paragraph letter to the Editor as a member of the TSC to talk about what the Commission has tried to accomplish this year. Commissioner Woodruff and Commissioner Klein volunteered.

Commissioner Klein asked if this Commission can view the applications before the Council sees them. Mayor Andrews replied historically that hasn't happened, but it is a good idea. The Library Board is the only board who review applications and make recommendations to the Mayor and Council. He will have to double check the code.

Mary Newell stated the City Council filing deadline is on the Friday after the next TSC meeting on November 9, 2009. Perhaps the TSC could view the applications received on that date. In the mean time, Mayor Andrews and Ms. Newell will work out the nuances to accommodate this if possible. Ms. Newell will also talk with Leah Griffiths on how the Library Board handles it. If the process doesn't work out in time for this year, perhaps they can implement it next year.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM until November 9, 2009.

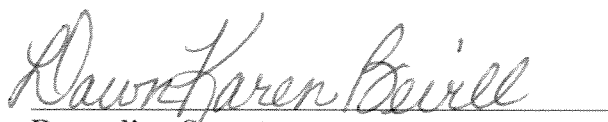
Approved by the Traffic Safety Committee this 5th day of November, 2009.

AYES: 7

NO: 0

ABSENT: 0
(List Name(s))

ABSTAIN: 0
(List Names(s))


Recording Secretary


Michael R. Simpson
Traffic Safety Commission Chair