

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Monday, October 11, 2010
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."

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Members

Present:	Neal Klein	Lesley Woodruff	Doris Brandt
	Dianna Cotter	Ron Johns	James Oravetz
	Ronald Sult		

Staff

Present:	Chris Bolek, Police Captain	Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer
	Mary Newell, Support Services Manager	Jennifer Nelson, Recording Secretary

Ex Officio

Present: Mayor Bob Andrews

Others

Present: Robert Soppe, Roger Minthorne, Clyde Thomas, Teresa Townsend, and Councilor Marc Shelton

CHAIR NEAL KLEIN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM.

A) Review and approve minutes of September 13, 2010.

MOTION #1: Woodruff/Brandt to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for September 13, 2010 as amended. (7 Yes/0 No/2 Vacant) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

A) Review the limited parking restrictions in the 700 and 800 blocks of E. Sheridan Street (TSC-10-016).

TIME – 7:02 PM

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, presented the staff report stating the issue of congestion on College Street and accidents at the intersection of Sheridan Street and College Street comes up on an annual basis, if not every other year. The two major issues are traffic backup from the signal at Hancock Street and the parking on Sheridan Street that makes maneuvering large vehicles challenging. This keeps coming to the attention of the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) since there has been no resolution or solution for the problem (see official meeting packet for full report).

Chair Klein opened the public hearing as asked if there were any conflicts of interest or ex parte contact; none appeared.

Mr. Robert Soppe testified this is a crash prone intersection, but said it has nothing to do with the parking on the 700 and 800 block of Sheridan Street. He would understand doing something about the parking only if there were an issue of safety, not with convenience. He also asked who received noticing for this hearing because it is not only a Sheridan Street issue, but also one for Hancock Street, College Street, and Edwards. He spoke of the last time this issue was in front of the TSC and the many residents opposed to removing the parking because wider streets support faster traffic, which would be more of a safety concern. He also felt that even removing parking on one side of the street or staggering parking would cause more of a problem because cars would both try to fit through rather than pulling to the side to allow one at a time as they do now. He also felt the suggestion of making this a one-way street would not change the current situation from a safety standpoint and would not address the issues. The major concern is crashes that occur when vehicles are crossing Sheridan Street from the west not seeing vehicles traveling northbound on College Street.

Mr. Roger Minthorne said little has changed on this road for sixty-six years and he wants to make sure there are no changes or rules to restrict parking around his building at College Street and Meridian Street because tenants are encouraged to park on the street to leave spaces open in the parking lot. He does not see large trucks or busses coming down this street and if two cars are approaching each other, one pulls to the side to allow the other through.

Chair Klein closed the public testimony.

Chair Klein stated staff has not finished with the data collection, so there are no recommendations to be given at this time. He said he would like to hear from the school bus providers and George Fox University (GFU) although no one representing those groups has signed up to speak.

Mr. Clyde Thomas, George Fox University, stated they did not wish to see one sided parking on the 700-800 block east of Meridian Street and there would be no interest in any changes.

Ms. Teresa Townsend, First Student, said this is a dangerous road for school buses from all different ways and their drivers do not travel on side streets like Sheridan (which is the worst) because they are narrow with parking; they travel on Sherman Street and Meridian Street out to Hwy 99W to go back up College Street. It would still be difficult to maneuver with staggered parking because the bus drivers need a three foot clearance to turn. They will not send buses onto Sheridan Street until something is done with the street.

Chair Klein asked to hear about concerns from the Fire Marshall and emergency vehicle access.

Fire Marshall Chris Mayfield said the code does not allow us to change what is preexisting, there is nothing we can do change the road. He said there can be a delay in response, but right now others pull out of the way if they are traveling down that street. There have been no issues or delays on Sheridan so far.

Commissioner Ron Johns mentioned the yellow painting on the curb at the stop sign at College Street on the 800 block side of Sheridan Street is only about seven feet rather than fifteen. He asked staff to look into this and include it in his report because it extending the yellow paint would eliminate a car parking so close to the stop sign there.

Commissioner Lesley Woodruff wondered if anything needed to be done since the residents are opposed to changing the parking and even those with a strong feeling about the intersection do not feel strongly about the parking issue.

Mr. Chiu addressed previous testimony questioning the public notice and noted the areas notified.

Commissioner Doris Brandt added this issue has come up several times during her service on the TSC and she felt it should be left as it is if everyone in the area is happy with it being unchanged.

OLD BUSINESS

- A) **TSC-10-003: Creekside at Emma – to rescind an approved motion made on 9/13/2010 in lieu of the proposed “stop” sign, to limit parking at the corner of Emma and Creekside. The September motion requires painting the existing curb yellow for 20 feet on the north side of Emma and east side of Creekside.**

TIME – 7:28 PM

Mr. Chiu explained this motion to install a stop sign at this location was made in February and although other decisions were made upon reconsideration, the original decision needs to be rescinded.

MOTION #2: Sult/Brandt to rescind the previous motion on TSC-10-003 to install a stop sign at Creekside and Emma. (7 Yes/0 No/2 Vacant) Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) **Police Update**

Police Captain Chris Bolek spoke of employee promotions and additions to team as well as the re-application for the DUII grant through the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police for 2010-11 and trends in DUII arrests.

B) **Engineering update**

- TSC-10-011: Stop sign request on south side of Newberg

Mr. Chiu called Ms. Kappa, the original requestor for the stop signs, but has not received a call back. He will continue to follow-up with her and report the specific intersections she would like to request signs for.

- TSC-10-012: Signal Warrant inquiry @ Foothills & College

Mr. Chiu was asked to have data collected to see if a signal is warranted at Foothills and College, but the data equipment has been in use for the area of Sheridan and College. Once the data collection is complete at Sheridan and College, he will move into collecting data at Foothills and College to present a report.

- TSC-10-013: Stop sign request at Buckley @ Mountainview

Mr. Chiu reported this request is completed except for landscaping which is planned to be complete in the next two weeks.

Mr. Chiu also gave updates on the Safe Route to School grant applications and arranged for a workshop and training with the TSC and anyone who lives in the community who wishes to attend with a professor from the University of Portland on Saturday, January 15, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

C) Items from Commissioners


Mayor Andrews said the Mayor's Cabinet is under advisement. He questioned if the public hearing should have been tabled until the staff report is given because that item was left hanging open. He felt it should be more formalized that action is being tabled. He discussed updates with staff on ODOT and the right in, right out at Hwy 219 and 2nd and 3rd Streets as well as the traffic controls in the area; staff said they are waiting for funding from ODOT before work can proceed. He asked about the police department getting feedback from the DMV or ODOT for changes in accident reporting records because they are very different from what the city has on record.


Discussions followed about speed feedback signs to be installed at Joan Austin Elementary School on Mountainview Drive, hearing a report back next month on the hearing from tonight that was not officially tabled with all data collected, plans for the TSC Christmas party on December 13, 2010 at 6:00 PM, photo red lights being installed in Sherwood, updates/information on the Newberg-Dundee Bypass, and inviting ODOT to the work session planned for next month.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM until November 8, 2010.

Approved by the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission this 8th day of November, 2010.


Jennifer L. Nelson
Recording Secretary


Neal S. Klein
Traffic Safety Commission Chair