

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 14, 2011
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	Karl Birky
	Dianna Cotter	Shannon Eoff	Ron Johns	James Oravetz
	Ronald Sult			

Members

Absent: Josi Fettig

Staff

Present:	Brian Casey, Police Chief	Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer
	Mary Newell, Support Services Manager	

Ex Officio

Present: Mayor Bob Andrews

Others

Present: Chris Bolek, Police Captain
Jadene Stensland
Jim McMaster, Chehalem Park & Recreation

CHAIR NEAL KLEIN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:10 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance.

A) Oath of Offices

Mayor Andrews conducted the Oath of Offices for Commissioners Dianna Cotter and Ron Sult.

B) Review and approve minutes of January 11, 2011.

MOTION #1: Birky/Johns to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for January 11, 2011, as amended. (9 Yes/0 No) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

PUBLIC HEARING

A) TSC-11-001: Crestview Drive at Hoskins Street – Request for Crosswalk

There being no objections or abstentions to hearing the public hearing, Chairman Neal Klein opened the public hearing.

Ms. Jadene Stensland, parent of children and petitioner, requested a crosswalk be installed at the intersection of Hoskins and Crestview, stating there was plenty of room for the installation of a crosswalk at the desired location. She presented a letter of support from Lesley Carsley, principal of Joan Austin Elementary School.

Clyde Thomas, George Fox University, spoke in favor of getting children to school safely, noting he had no objection to placing a crosswalk at this location. Responding to a question regarding plans of GFU for the athletic fields, he directed their attention to the Concept Masterplan. The Concept Masterplan is two or so years old and some things have changed. One significant change is that one of the soccer fields will be a football field/stadium for approximately 5,000 fans. Included are some paths and sidewalks. There have been significant improvements along Villa Road and some crosswalks are planned for the future. Complete funding has not yet been raised, which means that it is a bit premature to determine what routes may be installed to get from one place to another.

Using a diagram on the white board, Mr. Thomas outlined his concerns and suggestions for the north sidewalk and the intersection. A Verizon (now Frontier) phone vault lies directly in the middle of the north sidewalk, obstructing pedestrian traffic pattern. He noted that GFU discussed with Verizon the option to move the vault in exchange for some property. Verizon wanted \$130,000. They approached the property owner to consider a connecting route around the vault and connected to the sidewalk, but the property owner did not want anything encroaching on his property.

Mr. Thomas said there are agreements in place with area churches and schools for the sharing of parking lots, that most parking will occur further down Crestview away from Hoskins.

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer presented the staff report (see official meeting packet for full report). He noted that his report is much the same as that presented at the January meeting. Mr. Chiu indicated that at this point, the request is merely for a crosswalk across Crestview available for children to cross the street and make their way safely to Center Street. He noted there may be opportunities in the future to provide input on the overall GFU project, and encouraged Commissioners to focus on the main issue.

Questions from Commissioners followed.

Responding to a question from Ms. Eoff, Chiu indicated the telecommunications vault is very heavy duty, with many communications phone lines and that it will be very expensive to move the vault. It is situated just behind the curb, and a better situation would be to build a sidewalk behind the vault in a grassy area.

Further, noting that a study has been conducted about marked vs. unmarked crosswalks, which indicates that a crosswalk in a similar area, two-lane road with the medium traffic volume, would probably not make any significant difference in avoiding crashes. However, this particular request is in a school area and he would lean towards installing a marked crosswalk. Mr. Chiu indicated he would also encourage an educational effort for parents and children about crosswalks.

Police Chief Brian Casey indicated he is familiar with the area. Responding to question from Mr. Oravetz, he indicated that there is no ordinance against parking on the street as long as vehicles are not parked in excess of 72 hours.

Clyde Thomas said there is no timeline for the development of when they will build, and indicated that if a crosswalk is needed now, they should not wait for GFU development.

Jadene Stensland raised issue of many vehicles parked along the north side of Crestview that children must walk out into the street to cross the street, noting they can't cross at the assumed crosswalk area because of the trailer parked across the way.

Regarding other sides of the intersection, Chiu noted there are additional obstacles requiring additional right-of-way, potential relocation for fire hydrant, pole and guy wires, which makes for a more challenging situation. There is no sidewalk on the south side of Crestview, west of Hoskins.

Chief Casey indicated that if the Commissioners are inclined to approve the request for a crosswalk, a yellow no-parking strip can be painted back 15 feet. He confirmed that Crestview is a public street, not private for parking.

Chairman Neal Klein closed the public hearing.

Responding to question from Mayor Andrews, Senior Engineer Paul Chiu identified the location of the vault, stop signs and his recommendation for locating the sidewalk. There are differences in street widths.

Discussion ensued, regarding raised crosswalks, bulbouts, utility easements, location of utility poles, the feasibility of moving the telecom vault, and the pros and cons related to bulbouts and bicycle riders. Bulbouts forces bicycles to move into the main street with vehicle traffic.

Commissioner Klein summarized that the question he sees is to whether or not to move ahead with the request to provide a marked crosswalk at the intersection of Crestview and Hoskins, on either the east or west side. He said it seems the east side to the intersection if the most favorable and practical at this time due to restrictions. He indicated the downside is that it would require residents to move his vehicle from in front of his residence a bit further down the street.

MOTION #2: Oravetz//Cotter to approve TSC-11-001 request for a marked crosswalk to be installed on the east side of Hoskins crossing Crestview, west of the stop sign.

VOTE #2: To approve TSC-11-001. (9 Yes/0 No) Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A) TSC-11-002: Illinois Street – Speed Review

Directing Commissioners attention to the Staff Report in their packet, Paul Chiu indicated that speeding appears to be a problem in this area between 3PM and 7PM. His suggestion at this time is for enhanced enforcement of current speed in the area.

Police Chief Brian Casey said this location has already been added to the list for traffic enforcement as well as a request submitted for placement of the speed trailer.

No further action at this time.

B) TSC-11-006: Main Street – Marked Crosswalk Request

Mr. David Jeffery, property owner of Stone Church, said the intended use of the building will be as a conference center, worship, wedding chapel, etc. Additionally, there appears to be a significant number of school children crossing Hwy. 240, which is posted at 25 mph. He said they acquired the property from Pamphlin, and completely renovated it, and are using the back building for business offices. He is aware that ODOT is a state highway, but pointed out there are no crosswalks from Hancock until you are out of town. There is a sidewalk that runs along Illinois. Mr. Jeffery anticipates considerable attendance at events. Also

under negotiation with Allen Fruit to use their parking lot, which would mean that people would need to walk about a block. A crosswalk would be advantageous for pedestrian safety.

Paul Chiu indicated that the crosswalk had to be approved by ODOT. He has contacted and is waiting for a reply from ODOT at this time, and there is no timeline for their response.

By consensus, this item was tabled until ODOT, who has jurisdiction over this highway, sends a response.

C) TSC-11-007: Haworth Avenue – Yellow Curb Request

Jim McMaster, Chehalem Park & Recreation, explained his request for a yellow curb extending both directions from the exit of the pool parking lot. He indicated that there have been accidents because vehicles park right up next to the exit. Other issues which compound the visibility issue is the curve in Haworth, as well as the large number of vehicles which use Haworth.

Paul Chiu referred Commission members to his staff report, which was located in the packet. He confirmed with Jim McMaster that the yellow curb should extend both directions from the exit to the pool. Mr. McMaster indicated he felt 50 feet on each side of the driveway would be sufficient, as opposed to 60 feet.

Discussion followed regarding the number of parking spaces and traffic. Birky suggested the vision triangle be used to determine the distance from the driveway. Johns expressed concern for lost parking spaces, to which, Mr. McMaster indicated that driver would just park a bit further away for events.

Mr. Chiu confirmed that 50 feet is approximately two parking spaces. 50 feet back from the east and west of the driveway would be approximately four parking spaces lost.

MOTION #3: Woodruff/Johns to approve TSC-11-007 request for yellow paint on the south side of Haworth at the exit of the pool, 50 feet on the east and 50 feet on the west side of the exit to the pool, or as Staff deems appropriate.
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VOTE #3: To approve TSC-11-007. (9 Yes/0 No) Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A) TSC-11-004: Zimri Drive – Speed Zone Revisit

Paul Chiu indicated that this is old business from one to two years ago, and referred Commissioners to the information in their packets. He related the history behind the request to revisit the speed zone request. There has been concern expressed by the Allison resort. Mr. Chiu indicated the issue was brought the Traffic Safety Commission for their consideration. The option at this time is to make a formal appeal to ODOT for a transitional speed zone be installed between the 45 mph and the stop sign. He noted that he did talk with a former State traffic engineer, who felt it was unlikely to be a successful move. The Speed Zone Panel consists of six members consisting of representatives from different disciplines, i.e. ODOT engineering, law enforcement, etc.

The topic was opened up for discussion.

Mayor Andrews reported that the League of Oregon Cities is taking on this particular concern of the State of Oregon having jurisdiction over speed for streets that are non-state highway through the Legislative process. He noted it may not be an issue in the future since it is currently involved in the political process.

Mr. Oravetz drives Zimri Drive every day and stated that there is one hazardous spot just as you are entering the city limits. Anyone pulling out of the upper driveway from the Allison Hotel is in a blind spot. Oravetz felt that in order to be effective in reducing speed before the stop sign, the speed sign would need to be situated inside the County line.

Mr. Chiu explained the results of the recent speed study conducted in January 2011. He suggested that without changes to the roadway, an educational program or some other activity, we will not see the reduction in speed that is wanted.

There was extensive discussion about installing signage to alert drivers about the end of Zimri Road.

Mr. Ron Johns suggested placing a warning sign, stop sign ahead, or Urban Area, until the political decision is made.

Mr. Birky questioned why the design planning process allowed the situation to develop, that drivers cannot see persons exiting the Allison.

Ms. Woodruff agreed with Ron Johns, suggesting some type of reflective signage with arrows which would alert drivers to the stop sign. Chairman Klein agreed, and also suggested rumble strips on the City-owned portion of Zimri Road. Mr. Chiu advised that the Allison may not like the rumble strips as they create a lot of noise.

Mr. Birky asked if the resort would consider a one-way in.

Ms. Eoff supported the idea of red and white arrows at the end of Zimri, and suggested another signage which would state something similar "resort traffic entering roadway next 800 feet."

Mayor Andrews encouraged working with Yamhill County on any proposed signage. Mr. Chiu indicated that there had been no recent dialogue with Yamhill County regarding this issue.

Chairman Klein continued the matter to the March meeting. He requested Staff invite representatives from ODOT, Yamhill County, and representation from the Allison. Chief Casey will discuss this issue with the Allison to see if they wish to pursue this matter further.

B) Discussion with City Attorney: Traffic Safety City Code revisions and ethics

City Attorney Terrence Mahr advised that the City Council had recently adopted new Newberg Municipal Code, and went through the new provisions relating to the Traffic Safety Commission. He requested that Commission members send him any suggestions for changes, and that he would have a draft available for review at the March work session.

Mr. Mahr then did a presentation on ethics for public officials.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police Update

Chief busy with developing budget for fiscal year 2011-2012, and provided some department stats from the last year.

B) Engineering Update

Paul Chiu reported that Engineering will be taking the Crestview Drive east of Westlake Loop, east of Springbrook Road roundabout, to the construction phase, with hope to start construction in July.

C) Items from Commissioners

Ms. Woodruff said that several members discussed brief articles for web site and asked that anyone interested get in touch with her to help develop a plan for generating articles for the City of Newberg website.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

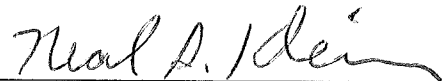
MOTION #4: Brandt /Woodruff to adjourn the meeting. (9 Yes/0 No) Motion carried
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The meeting adjourned at 10:47 PM.

Approved by the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission this 14th day of March, 2011.



Mary Newell
Service Supports Manager
Recording Secretary Pro Tem



Neal S. Klein
Traffic Safety Commission Chair