

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 7:00 PM
Public Safety Building (401 E Third Street)

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Neal Klein called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

III. ROLL CALL

Members Present:	Neal Klein, Chair	Karl Birky	Dianna Cotter
	Shannon Eoff	Ron Johns	Kari Lawson
	James Oravetz	Lesley Woodruff, Vice-Chair	
	Mayor Bob Andrews (Ex-officio)	Hannah Kinney, Student Commissioner	

Members Absent: Doris Brandt (excused)

Staff Present:	Brian Casey, Chief of Police	Jessica Nunley, Assistant Planner
	Mary Newell, Support Services Manager	Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer
	Mandy Dillman, Minutes Recorder	

Others Present: Mike Ragsdale, Dennis Stahlmaker, Howard Harman, and Todd Engle

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mike Ragsdale testified about a dangerous crosswalk at the intersection of College Street (aka Highway 219) and First Street where he witnessed a college student nearly getting struck when using the crosswalk. He contacted the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and they will be having their traffic safety division look into it. Mr. Paul Chiu, senior engineer, added he also was almost struck by a vehicle in the same crosswalk and agreed the area is extremely dangerous and should be looked into for the general public's safety. Chair Neal Klein requested it be put on the agenda for January.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Review and approve minutes of October 8, 2012.

MOTION: Cotter/Oravetz to approve the Consent Calendar including the Traffic Safety Commission minutes for October 8, 2012. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Brandt]).

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

A. TSC-12-017: Consider limited on-street parking or designate No Parking areas for the high-density residential property located at 1103 N Meridian Street.

TIME – 7:13 PM

Chair Klein introduced the legislative hearing and called for any conflicts of interest or abstentions; none appeared.

Mr. Paul Chiu, senior engineer, and Jessica Nunley, assistant planner, presented the staff report accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, and additional material was handed out (see official meeting packet for full report).

Commissioner Dianna Cotter asked what the reason was to limit parking near the driveway entrances. Ms. Nunley replied neighbors were concerned street parking on Meridian Street would not allow for adequate sight distance and may cause crashes.

Mr. Dennis Stahlmaker brought to the commission's attention many issues on-street parking causes when he exits his driveway adjacent to the railroad tracks on Meridian. These issues include blocked vision from cars parked on the road, a huge sequoia tree next to the driveway, and cars going too fast on the road.

Commissioner Karl Birky wondered if removing the parking adjacent to Mr. Stahlmaker's driveway would fix the problem and how much space would need to be cleared. Mr. Stahlmaker thought it would and he assumed one to two car lengths would be plenty.

Commissioner Shannon Eoff asked if the 45 foot recommendation proposed for either side of the 1103 N. Meridian driveway would solve Mr. Stahlmaker's vision issues. Mr. Stahlmaker agreed that striping the area near the 1103 N. Meridian property would be a good idea, but he did not know if it would eliminate parking adjacent to his driveway as well.

Mr. Howard Harman testified he has lived at Spaulding Oaks for 25 years and expressed concern for the increase in traffic the new development will cause. He explained when cars are parked on both sides of Meridian Street it is tight for two cars to get by at the same time. Additionally, he mentioned there are always landscape maintenance trucks for Spaulding Oaks parked in the street, which makes it even tighter. He suggested not allowing parking on both sides of Meridian Street, possibly opening a second entrance to the development on Evergreen Drive, or having adequate parking within the development to prevent residents from parking on the street.

Commissioner Ron Johns asked Mr. Harman if he thought the forty-five feet on each side of the driveway sounded like a good solution. Mr. Harman replied he did not think it was a proper solution, but having no parking on at least one side of the street was a better idea.

Commissioner Eoff stated the Evergreen Drive access would be for emergency purposes only and asked Mr. Harman if he was proposing they open it to normal traffic as well. Mr. Harman thought it would be a logical solution to make it a public road.

Commissioner Eoff suggested adding a crosswalk to make the driveway more visible or a speed hump to encourage drivers to slow down.

Commissioner Birky suggested making the Meridian Street curb to curb width wider to help with traffic issues and stated he was surprised the traffic study found the am peak was 34 drivers, which seemed low to him. He

expressed concern that making the street wider will just encourage traffic to go faster and since it is a low volume street it does not seem like a good situation.

Chair Klein expressed concern there are no bike lanes on Meridian Street and suggested adding them in place of on-street parking.

Mayor Andrews asked if traffic calming devices have been explored. Ms. Nunley answered in their experience, having parking on both sides of the street slows traffic; however, the study has shown there is a speeding problem. She did not think traffic calming devices should be implemented in this case.

Mayor Andrews asked what the setback differences are in a minor collector commercial driveway versus a residential driveway. Ms. Nunley explained there would be a vision clearance triangle on both driveways for 25 feet. Mr. Chiu added yellow striping for an entrance is not typically done, but in certain situations it would warrant consideration. In this particular situation, knowing what has happened to other multi-family dwellings in the city, this would be a good preventive measure down the road.

Ms. Nunley stated bike lanes are only required on major collectors and the plan is to continue the sharrows up Meridian Street to Crestview Drive to encourage drivers to slow down and watch for bicyclists.

Chair Klein added ODOT's safety handbook recommends six foot wide bicycle lanes on roads that will have bike traffic. He expressed concern that encouraging bike traffic but not giving them a bike lane will cause accidents. Ms. Nunley explained low traffic streets marked 35mph or less are meant to have bikes in the street.

Commissioner Ron Johns asked what the speed limit was on Meridian Street and why speeding is so high in that area. Chief of Police Brian Casey replied Meridian Street is a 25mph zone and he believes drivers speed because it is a long stretch of four to six blocks with no stops. He said the department has put more enforcement on Meridian Street to help discourage speeding.

Commissioner Eoff asked if they could eliminate parking on one side of the road to allow for bike lanes. Chair Klein seconded Ms. Eoff's suggestion and further expressed his concern for bikes not having anywhere to go when traffic will increase. He asked if it would be possible to move the property line in five feet to allow room for a bike lane in front of the property. Ms. Nunley explained they have to follow what the Transportation System Plan (TSP) requires. In this case the property does extend out, but must dedicate right-of-way to match the rest of the street and the appropriate minor collector width identified in the TSP. We cannot ask for more right-of-way beyond what is required in the TSP.

MOTION: **Birky/Johns** to approve TSC-12-017: Consider limited on-street parking or designate No Parking areas for the high-density residential property located at 1103 N. Meridian Street. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Brandt]).

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. TSC-12-020: Request to eliminate First Street Parking space (yellow curb) next to Bank of America.

TIME – 8:09 PM

Discussion commenced on replacing the Yamhill County Transit Authority (YCTA) bus stop sign with parking stalls and specific parking for the bank; however, it was decided no further decision could be made until clarification is received from YCTA regarding their usage of the bus stop.

B. TSC-12-018 safety for pedestrians along Fulton Street.

TIME – 8:30 PM

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report suggesting a street light be added to provide more visibility. Staff is working with Portland General Electric (PGE) and waiting for a report from them.

Mr. Todd Engle expressed serious concerns for pedestrians on Fulton Street. In August, 2008, a death occurred on Fulton Street and the Friendsview Retirement Community has been working towards preventing any other deaths. Mr. Engle mentioned the residents, the college students, and the general public are misusing the crosswalks. He suggested adding another crosswalk, a light, or possibly ticketing jaywalkers to help bring awareness to the danger of crossing in an unmarked area.

Mr. Chiu commented because of the geometry of the location another crosswalk would not be visible and may be even more dangerous.

Chair Klein suggested this topic be moved to January's meeting after they have touched base with George Fox University (GFU) and have heard back from PGE. He also suggested doing a traffic study in order to show Friendsview residents numbers of how many cars are speeding in hopes of deterring jaywalking.

Mr. Chiu added GFU has already agreed to put in a light and said it would not conflict with their stadium plans. Additionally, they are waiting on PGE to determine if they can do underground boring to bring power from the north side of the street to the south side.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS – GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Police Update

TIME – 8:44 PM

Chief Casey reported he recently received a letter from a resident who was very happy with the reduction in speeding on her street due to the trailer they had placed there, which is nice to hear because he does not get a lot of positive feedback. Furthermore, he was happy they recently caught a woman driving under the influence of prescription medication, which may have saved her life as well as others. He also mentioned they have lately seen a lot more people driving under the influence of prescription medication, which is difficult to determine since you need a specially trained officer to detect that kind of illegal influence. Unfortunately, this time of the year there are increases in abuse, domestic violence, alcohol problems, and suicides.

2. Engineering Update

Mr. Chiu reported in the beginning of the year a study was done on the intersections of Sheridan and College Streets with focus on the area bound by Hancock Street, Hwy 240, and College Street. The study suggested making Sheridan Street a right turn only onto College Street; however, they are waiting to hear back from ODOT.

Chair Klein asked if it would be plausible to have a four way stop at Meridian Street and Sierra Vista Drive to slow traffic in that area. Mr. Chiu replied it would help slow traffic but more data needs to be collected when school is in session before making a decision.

Commissioner Lesley Woodruff reported she applied for a grant from the Oregon Builder Safety Program and if the City receives the grant they would get \$5,000.00 to implement a program to educate teens on driving safety.

Mr. Chiu reported the grant application for improving Villa Road, which would add a sidewalk on the east side and bike lanes on both sides, has been accepted and staff is working on the next phase of filing a formal application. Additionally, planning and engineering are working to apply for the next phase of the Aldercrest Drive to Foothills Drive sidewalk as well as adding bike lanes on College Street. Mable Rush Elementary has a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Action Plan, approved by ODOT, which includes a plan to improve Deborah Road. With grant money, they want to add a flashing school zone sign and bike shelters. The City should know in December if ODOT will fund this grant.

3. Items from Commissioners

None.

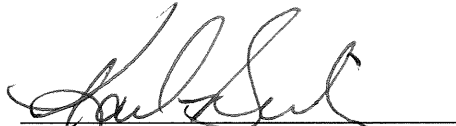
X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Approved by the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission this 14th day of January, 2013



Nicole Tannler
Minutes Recorder


Karl Birky
Traffic Safety Commission Vice-Chair