

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
Monday, February 11, 2013 7:00 PM
Public Safety Building, 401 E. Third Street, Newberg

“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.”

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Neal Klein called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present:	Neal Klein	Karl Birky	Dianna Cotter
	Ron Johns	Kari Lawson	Shannon Eoff
	Suzanne Stitch	Greg Martin	Doris Brandt
	Mayor Bob Andrews, Ex-officio	Hannah Kinney, Student Commissioner	

Staff Present:	Brian Casey, Chief of Police	Mary Newell, Support Services Manager
	Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer	Nicole Tannler, Minutes Recorder

Others Present: John Kelso, Leah Griffith, Robert Soppe

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Neal Klein opened and closed public testimony; no citizens appeared.
TIME – 7:03 PM

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

No Discussion.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING (Legislative)

A. TSC-12-001: N College/Sheridan Intersection Safety

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

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer and Carl Springer, DKS Associates, presented the staff report including a PowerPoint slideshow (see official meeting packet for full report).
TIME – 7:05 PM

Commissioner Klein asked Mr. Springer if he could go over the cultural district as part of the presentation. Mr. Springer said they would make the cross walks shorter and add curb extensions which would make it safer for pedestrians.

Leah Griffith, Library Director, Cultural District Committee, and resident, agrees with recommendation of the right turn only sign, possibly without ugly large posts on College. She is looking at what will impact cultural center as well.

Commissioner Birky asked whether they are going to widen Sheridan. Ms. Griffith stated it will not look like a regular street but will be more of a street for festivals that can be closed off. We plan on closing the street off more in future as the cultural center develops.

Robert Soppe, resident, stated the DKS report discussion on Sheridan west of the cultural district regarding widening the street is on his parking plan from his committee. This will not push cultural parking into the neighborhoods. The College and Sheridan intersection discussion of the number of collisions is just those that are reported and there are many more not reported. Three of the accidents are westbound which is baffling because visibility is very good. Mr. Soppe stated we may be trying to solve a much larger problem than really exists. We are trying to fix a problem for 24 hours of the day, but seven of the eight accidents are at the peak traffic period. If we go with the suggested solution of plastic bollards, there will be problems that will come with that for residents of the neighborhood. My suggestion is to make it a right turn only during peak traffic hours. Mr. Soppe agrees people don't always respect right turn only, but this is when there is good visibility. If we try this solution first and are still seeing more crashes you will hear from the residents. Mr. Soppe encourages the committee to try the signs first with time allowances.

John Kelso, resident, said it is a bad idea to widen College and ODOT wants that, but it is my neighborhood. Mr. Kelso said he believes a right turn only seems like a good solution, but bollards make it permanent. He said signage with certain times seems like a good place to start. Commissioner Johns asked which times, from your observation, should be on the signage. Mr. Kelso said 3:00-5:00pm for rush hour going home.

Recommendation from staff:

Mr. Chiu stated this intersection has higher than usual collisions and something needs to be done. The options that DKS has provided can all be used and some are better than others. The best option for safety and economical reasons is the bollards. Signage with timing would be more of an honorary solution and could be a starting point, but there is still a possibility ODOT will say no to timing and want it for twenty four hours a day.

Mr. Springer stated the solution with a right turn only can work and it is legitimate to just restrict the eastbound with time limitations.

Commissioner Cotter asked what the expected cost maintenance is for plastic bollards. Mr. Chiu said he doesn't have those figures right now, but it would be a wear and tear situation. Eventually with people hitting them they will have to be replaced.

Mayor Andrews asked if there has been any discussion on pedestrian issues. Has there been any discussion of phasing in the solutions, for example starting with signage, then diversion, and signaling. Chair Klein responded they have had limited discussion on some parking issues, but we do have issues with pedestrian and biking problems.

Chair Klein said he is somewhat against the bollards idea because of the amount of traffic and the trucks that go through the area. It seems like we will have to have a pretty big fund to keep those up. He does like the right in right out idea because he has had difficulty there himself. He is in favor of right in right out, but is worried about the time period.

Commissioner Eoff stated she feels the same about the traffic separators, if the residents feel strongly about them she would agree with them.

Commissioner Johns said he is for the signage and time period, and feels people may go up a street to turn instead.

Commissioner Lawson asked if ODOT needs us to apply for a permit for right-turn only sign. Mr. Chiu said it will probably not be something they would object to. Commissioner Lawson asked how difficult would it be to police a time frame.

Commissioner Cotter agrees with right turn with time restriction and she believes it is going to alleviate the problem.

MOTION #1: Cotter/Brandt place signage restricting Sheridan Street approaches to College Street Eastbound to Right-Out Only between the hours of 4:00-7:00pm contingent on authorization from ODOT and that the issue is checked on for compliance one year after installation of signage. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No).

VII. NEW BUSINESS

No Discussion.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. TSC-13-002: E First/Grocery Outlet Driveway – Status on No Parking Request

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, presented the staff report including a PowerPoint slideshow (see official meeting packet for full report).

TIME – 8:05 PM

Chair Klein asked staff if we should follow up with ODOT on this. Mr. Chiu said the only thing ODOT can do is restrict the height of vehicles parking near the driveway to Grocery Outlet. They don't even really recommend that slight change now.

Commissioner Cotter stated the committee should put on record we would like ODOT to remove the parking and there was already a pedestrian death in the area.

Student Commissioner Kinney agreed with Commissioner Cotter and with the pedestrian death and risk potential.

Commissioner Johns stated he doesn't think we need to go back to ODOT with this and should leave it as is.

Commissioner Lawson asked how long it will take to get a formal response from ODOT. Mr. Chiu replied it is hard to say, but he could go over some heads to get an answer sooner. Chair Klein asked if anyone has gotten back to the man who made the request. Mr. Chiu said no. Chair Klein stated the committee would table this until we hear back from ODOT and put it on the April agenda.

B. TSC-13-008: Spaulding Oaks Driveway – No Parking Request

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer presented the staff report including a PowerPoint slideshow (see official meeting packet for full report).

TIME – 8:20 PM

Commissioner Johns asked what the parking situation is like there. Chief Casey said it is not heavily used.

Chair Klein said it will pretty much match up with the driveway to the affordable housing complex across the street.

MOTION #1: Brandt/Cotter Grant the request of Spaulding Oaks for no parking for 45 feet on the north side of both the north and south entrances on the east side of Meridian Street. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No).

IX. STAFF REPORTS – GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Police Update:

TIME – 8:29 PM

Chief Casey said it has been busy the last couple months. There was a disturbance at the hospital and the police had to transport someone to Meridian Park. There was a stopped car with passengers of Russian descent with methamphetamines in the car. A man had a handgun in his car and they believe he was shooting at the officer pulling him over. There have been more attempted suicides the last couple months than he can remember.

B. Engineering Update

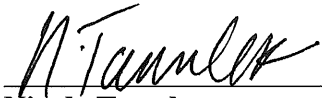
Traffic Safety Workshop for Non-Engineers & Public on February 23, 2013 – Free to attendees.

TIME – 8:38PM

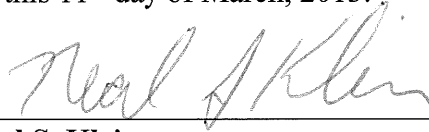
X. ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING - Next meeting March 11, 2013

The meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

Approved by the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission this 11th day of March, 2013.



Nicole Tannler
Minutes Recorder



Neal S. Klein
Traffic Safety Commission Chair