

CITY OF NEWBERG TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
AUGUST 12, 2013
7:00 P.M. MEETING
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING TRAINING ROOM (401 EAST THIRD STREET)

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Neal Klein called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present:	Neal Klein, Chair	Karl Birky, Vice Chair	Dianna Cotter
	Shannon Eoff	Ron Johns	Greg Martin
	Kari Lawson	Tony Roos	
	Austin Christensen, Student Commissioner		

Members Absent: Mayor Bob Andrews (Ex-Officio)

Staff Present:	Brian Casey, Chief of Police	Mary Newell, Support Services Manager
	Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer	Suzanne Stitch, Assistant Court Clerk
	Jason Wuertz, Civil Engineer	Mandy Dillman, Minutes Recorder

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Klein opened and closed public comments as there was no one to testify.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approve meeting minutes for July 8, 2013

MOTION: Cotter/Martin approving the Consent Calendar including the Traffic Safety Commission minutes for July 8, 2013. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No).
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VI. OLD BUSINESS

a. TSC-13-010 College-2nd 4-way stop request

Mr. Paul Chiu had no more comments on the situation; other than the intersection will be greatly improved by the elimination of two parking spaces, even though it will reduce parking. Chair Klein said he went and spoke with Pulp and Circumstance and The Painted Lady. The owners of Pulp and Circumstance were not pleased; however, they do not own the property and are not opposed. At The Painted Lady, he and the owner witnessed several near misses in the fifteen minutes he stood there. He invited both owners to come to the meeting. The Painted Lady owners could not come and the owner of Pulp and Circumstance was going to notify the owners of the building. City Engineer Jay Harris discussed with the mayor about still not having a site reference; but, they have the option to take one more space and make it a compact spot. There is no information on how the line of vision would be affected. Commissioner Dianna Cotter asked if signage would be required for the

spaces. Chair Klein answered it would. Commissioner Tony Roos mentioned compact spaces only save a foot and a half and he did not feel it was worth the expense, so unless there are additional problems the plan should remain the same. Chair Klein mentioned his wife saw a near miss of two vehicles and noticed signage on the south east corner of College Street and Second Street. Sitting at Second Street you cannot see the sign and maybe people running the intersection think it is a stop sign. Chair Klein thought keeping it as a two-way intersection only may be a better solution. Commissioner Karl Birky suggested staff look into that solution. Commissioner Cotter asked if there is standard signage stating "two-way stop intersection". Mr. Chiu said the current sign at the intersection is standard issue. They could look into adding another sign to indicate a two-way stop, but they are not required. It would be a rectangular placed under the stop sign. He was not sure it would help at the intersection, because the intersection faces north and people will look for traffic there before looking at a sign. Commissioner Cotter suggested moving forward with what they discussed last time. Mr. Chiu suggested observing the intersection for one year after implementing the stop signs and see if they need to make changes again.

b. TSC-13-014 Center-7TH stop sign request

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report accompanied by a power point presentation (see official meeting packet for details).

Commissioner Shannon Eoff mentioned a lot of the intersections have hedges or fences right against the road, but this specific intersection seems to be the least crowded and does not seem to need a stop sign. Chair Klein said he would write to Mr. Antonio Saavedra and let him know what the commission discussed and they do not feel the intersection needs a stop sign. Mr. Chiu added he is in contact with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and hopes to have the issues figured out before school starts.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Johns reported at the planning commission meeting last week at least twenty-five people turned in sheets to speak; however, only five were for the project. It is for a new subdivision going in north of town, off College Street. Recently they changed the zoning lot size from 7,500 to 5,000 square feet, which is one of the issues citizens brought up. There were three main issues concerning traffic safety, which were Terrace Drive, stop sign request at Natalie Drive, and vision clearance at Morris Street. First was the intersection of College Street and Terrace Drive, which has a jurisdiction issue because the county, the city and ODOT all own portions. Additionally, there are visibility issues with tall grass not getting cut. Lastly on this issue, South bound on College Street to get into Terrace Drive is a sharp turn with a culvert where two citizens mentioned there were previous accidents. ODOT completed a traffic study in the area, which he suggested the TSC look over before the planning commission meeting. The second issue heard that night was a requested stop sign at Natalie Drive and Morris Street. The last issue was parked cars, trees, and vegetation blocking vision at Morris Street and Foothills Drive. Commissioner Johns said one citizen declared those three issues to be the main three; however, others said adding the houses will force more traffic onto Morris Street and Foothills Drive and suggested stop signs at those roads. He thought performing a traffic study should determine if these requests are warranted. Some citizens also suggested a signal on College Street and Foothills Drive.

Commissioner Roos asked when a decision will be made. Commissioner Johns answered it is on next month's agenda. Commissioner Roos asked if they would get to weigh-in before they made a decision. Mr. Chiu said staff will bring information to traffic safety before a decision is made. Staff will be looking into some conditions beforehand and will allow traffic safety to weigh-in at some point. He also mentioned the speed limit on College Street is 40 miles per hour (MPH) and one or two houses before Foothills Road, it reduces to 35MPH. They did a traffic study several years ago and a signal was not warranted at the time; however, with the new subdivision one might be warranted now.

Commissioner Johns reported a citizen suggested covering the culvert somehow to prevent more accidents. Commissioner Martin said turning left off of Terrace Drive onto Highway 219 is the main issue. Citizens are riding the yellow line and the tree wells prevent good line of sight. Commissioner Birky added you have to go up to go across the lane because the road tilts uphill around the curve. Commissioner Cotter suggested asking ODOT to signalize the intersection. Commissioner Johns said Terrace Drive is not traveled heavily enough for ODOT to consider it. Commissioner Cotter suggested a flashing yellow light, but the rest of the commission did not find that feasible. Commissioner Shannon Eoff proposed asking ODOT to look into speed reduction options, like an island and asked if they could talk to the Yamhill County Water Shed about the culvert. Chair Klein liked her suggestions and mentioned the first step would be to look at the ODOT traffic study and add to that once they have more knowledge.

Commissioner Johns mentioned ODOT graded the intersection a B for rush hour and an A for the rest of the time. Commissioner Birky noticed the intersection needs to become more T shape rather than a Y, which costs money; so their option is to go to ODOT or form a local improvement district. He feels the county, ODOT, the city, and the new homes would not pay for the changes. Chair Klein said the developer could also pay a portion. Commissioner Johns agreed that would need to happen again. Chair Klein asked for the traffic study done at College Street and Terrace Drive, a PDF of the previous PC meeting, and said he will be informing Chair Cathy Stuhr of their plans to look at these issues. Commissioner Birky wondered if the improvement of the intersection would stall the development. Commissioner Eoff thought they could charge the developer fees for contributing a portion, but did not think TSC would make that decision. Commissioner Johns mentioned earlier planning may have allowed them to, but it is too far in to the process now. Commissioner Eoff mentioned fees were refunded at 2nd street and HWY219. Chair Klein assumed the process will be drawn out and they have time to look into the issues. Commissioner Roos wished to add a condition that the subdivision help pay for any necessary traffic improvements. Chair Klein thought they would need to speak with the city attorney on those issues. Commissioner Birky was concerned if they ask the developer to pay he may ask all homeowners in the subdivision to pay.

Mr. Chiu offered a few suggestions for some of the problem areas. Additionally, he felt there will need to be a signal on College Street at some point as well. Although, ODOT only allows signals so close together, so only one would be allowed on College Street. Chair Klein wondered with school starting if doing a traffic study would be a good idea for Foothills Drive and Morris Street. Commissioner Johns asked for a traffic study on Natalie Drive and Morris Street before next months meeting. Mr. Chiu said first they should look into studies already completed. Chair Klein asked Mr. Chiu to look it over and if the issues were not covered to re-do the traffic study. Commissioner Cotter suggested they do a traffic study both before school starts and then after to get a base line for both types of seasonal traffic.

VIII. REPORTS

a. Police

Mr. Brian Casey, chief of police, reported they had a busy month in July with the Dundee Half Marathon, Special Olympics, and the Old Fashioned Festival. The Old Fashioned Festival was very busy with no problems and The Special Olympics had a great turn out. Staff is putting together a crosswalk enforcement operation on August 27, 2013, from 11-3PM on First Street and Washington Street. Staff is trying to decide how to reach kids for their new teen driving program, which has the potential to touch a lot of kids to prevent fatalities and accidents. They are considering reaching them through the court system and the school and they want it to be a voluntary program. They hope to establish sponsorship. Chair Klein mentioned the steering committee will have a meeting September 18, 2013, at 2:00PM, to discuss the teen driver program.

b. Engineering

Mr. Chiu, senior engineer, reported on Second Street and Harrison Road crack sealants and the pavement restoration projects happening in the city. He showed the commission a map of streets to be worked on and the time frame for each area. He mentioned the document with the time frame can be found on the main page of the cities website. The Mabel Rush Safe Route to School Program grant money and Intergovernmental Agreement has been executed with ODOT and are working to get to the next level, which includes a bike shelter, a speed feed-back sign on Deborah Road, and street improvements. Mr. Chiu mentioned they will be using the colored graph program to determine what streets in Newberg need improvement next and Victoria Way was rehabilitated last month with one inch of new compact asphalt. Mr. Wuertz reported the road for the Sheridan Street Project will be finished with a fancy paver by the Cultural Center. While reconstructing the area, Sheridan Street will be closed for two blocks at the beginning of September and lasting for two months. Mr. Chiu said they are excited to start the project because the road is falling apart so badly the street sweepers cannot clean it for fear of tearing out more rock.

Commissioner Cotter noted on the corner of Hayes and Burl Streets, there is a bubble-out for decreasing pedestrian distance in the crosswalk; however, there is no warning and it does not match up with the paint markings. This causes visibility issues and foresees issues arising. She suggested they increase visibility by remarking some of the paint lines.

Commissioner Cotter expressed concern when the bypass construction starts traffic will move to Hayes Street from Highway 99 and thought maybe TSC should have some anticipatory plans for dealing with resident complaints.

Discussion commenced on bypass construction and ideas were discussed on how to make citizens more aware of what will be happening on Springbrook Road.

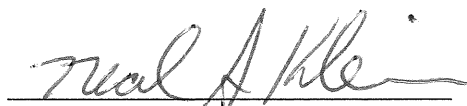
IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:38PM.

Approved as amended by the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission this 16th day of October, 2013.



Minutes Recorder



Neil Klein

Traffic Safety Commission Chair