

INDEPENDENCE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION



MINUTES OF MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 2005

Commission members present:

Tim Hinds Beau Horn Shawn Irvine
Lonnie Sanner Chief Wells

Absent:

Terry Allen Kie Cottam

Visitors:

Jan Burks , Principal Independence ES
Robert Ping, Safe Routes Presenter
Barb Welander, Principal Ash Creed MS

Traffic Safety Technician: Carl Nightengale

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Will take place at the Feb 15, 2006 meeting

VISITOR BUSINESS:

Mr. Robert Ping, Program Director of Safe Routes to School.

The Chief called the meeting to order and noted that normal business would not be discussed this evening. The entire meeting would be devoted to a presentation about a new "Safe Routes to School" program. The Chief invited Shawn Irvine to give a quick background of the situation and present the speaker for the evening.

Mr. Irvine stated that he had come across the Safe Routes program while searching for funding for the Ash Creek Trail. It is a new federal program which is meant to encourage more students to bike and walk to school. The program will give grants both for planning, education and infrastructure improvements that will help create safe routes to school for area students. Robert Ping is the Safe Routes program director for the Bicycle Transportation Alliance, which helped push the bill through the state legislature. The BTA is also working closely with ODOT as they prepare the administrative guidelines which will govern grant distribution for the Safe Routes program.

Robert Ping gave a Powerpoint presentation discussing the need to encourage kids to walk or bike to school, as well as numerous ways to encourage such behavior. He explained the status of the grant-making program as well as how the city of Independence could prepare itself and have a better shot at a grant when they are finally announced in the Summer.

The commission decided to create a Safe Routes to School Task Force, which will, at least initially, be a subcommittee of the Traffic Safety Commission. Announcements will be made and all interested parties will convene at 5 pm February 15th at the Independence City Hall, to begin work on a Safe Routes program in Independence.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

NEW BUSINESS:

Because this was a one-subject meeting to discuss Safe Routes to School, we will covering new business at the next TSC meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Will discuss at the February 2006 meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

FEBRUARY 15, 2006