

# INDEPENDENCE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF MEETING ON **June 28, 2006**

Commission members present:

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Terry Allen      | Kie Cottam    |
| Tim Hinds        | Shawn Irvine  |
| Carl Nightengale | Lonnie Sanner |
| Vern Wells       |               |

Absent:

Beau Horn

Visitors:

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETINGS:**

February 15 & April 19, 2006 – so approved

### **VISITOR BUSINESS:**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Corvallis Road speed-reduction study has moved from Polk County to ODOT for their approval.
2. The resident request for no-parking on 11<sup>th</sup> Street near Monmouth Street has been resolved by White's Collision. They graded and graveled their lot and alley next to the body shop, and now park employee and customer vehicles there.  
The Commission will write a letter to Mr. Ellis, recommending a Good Neighbor award to White's Collision for working so quickly and efficiently to enhance livability in their neighborhood.
3. Four-way stop signs were approved and installed for Chestnut and Cedar and the 7<sup>th</sup> Street intersections.  
No further action.
4. The request for safer intersections and crosswalk on 4<sup>th</sup> and A, near Ash Street, to help IES pedestrian safety was reviewed by the committee with no solution yet found. There was discussion about improving the sidewalk on the west side of Ash Street. Map attached.  
Suggestions discussed:
  - A. Request Mr. Pfaff to continue the sidewalk by his house and the west side of the Ash Street Corner.
  - B. City Shops grade a path for a sidewalk along Ash Street's west side. Boise would be willing to provide bark dust, which would keep the path from becoming too muddy.

C. Forest Capitol, who owns this property, may be willing to do this improvement. Terry is willing to ask them if they would undertake this job.

D. Add crosswalk stripes in this area: see attached map.

The Commission agrees that step C would be the best solution, and Terry will contact Forest Capitol. If this sidewalk/path is built, the school will be notified so they can educate the students and parents to the sidewalk's use.

5. We reviewed the speeding complaints for East Main St., downtown.  
The decoy car and speed trailer have been and will continue to be deployed.  
No further action.
  
6. The commission discussed the resident request for attention to traffic issues around Henry Hill ES. The lack of sidewalks in the area leads to a problem.  
There is a crosswalk on the north side of 4<sup>th</sup> and I streets, also a crosswalk right in front of the school. Cars dropping off and picking up students block the main crosswalk in front of the school.  
Carl will take photos of the problem areas, and this subject will be reviewed at the next TSC meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. High School related traffic issues. Student issues.

### Main entrance to the east parking lot from Monmouth Street:

City supports the addition of a new driveway.

ODOT has given past verbal approval with the agreed closure of one of the 'U' driveway exits.

### Bus exit from main parking lot onto Gun Club Road:

The property by the driveway is 60' wide - probably not enough room for two buses at once.

The City's concern is the sight distance to the north from the driveway, and an original neighborhood concern about the exit being used for cars.

The City would support the driveway being used for vehicle traffic if a certified traffic engineer studied the exit and gave their endorsement for the exit to be used by vehicles. This would reduce the liability for the City and the School.

### Student use of east parking lot – requires an exit onto 16<sup>th</sup> Street:

City has no issue with this request.

A big problem the Committee sees with traffic in the area is the school hours. Ash, Talmadge, and Central all seem to have hours which conflict with hours at the next school(s), creating a huge congestion around Central High School – 16<sup>th</sup> Street at Monmouth Street..

The schools on 16<sup>th</sup> Street let Ash Creek out at 2:50, then Talmadge at 3:00, and finally Central out at 3:10. What this does is put Ash Creek and Talmadge students next to Central when they let out.

The District has been requested to revisit their hours.

With these traffic problems, come student street-crossing issues, especially on Monmouth from 16<sup>th</sup> east to the crosswalk. Many students cross where there is no crosswalk.

One solution might be fencing along Monmouth, to funnel students to proper crossings. Or, make the schools a closed campus.

2. The traffic plan for diverting traffic for the Rte. 51 improvement appears to be working. Flaggers have been observed when traffic is the busiest.
  
3. Hoffman Road crosswalk at Gun Club has a visibility problem for vehicles turning from Gun Club onto Hoffman. The sidewalks on GC don't line up, and the crosswalk is too far back from the intersection. Moving the 'Welcome to Independence' sign would be too expensive, and would not help that much. The police don't have resources to monitor the crosswalk all the time. Until this area gets developed and the intersection restructured, the best solution would be to have the school district deploy a crossing guard during student crossing times. Shawn Irvine will request the District Superintendent visit this problem.
  
4. There have been resident complaints of speeding on F Street, neat Mt. Fir Park. Vehicles reportedly are frequently disregarding the stop signs in that area. The problem is generally east to west from 7<sup>th</sup> St., and late at night.  
Additional enforcement will be done.
  
5. Two complaints from a resident.
  - a. Bicycles riding on the sidewalks. This is not illegal except in the downtown area.
  
  - b. The sidewalk in front of Independence Station is not accessible.  
The walk will be opened up for Western Days, but the sidewalk can't safely be used on when construction is ongoing.

Both issues tabled.

6. Resident complained of parking in front of his house, by yellow-paint 'no-parking' curbing.

The curbing has been repainted. Issue resolved.

7. Resident request for stop signs on 7<sup>th</sup> and G, and 5<sup>th</sup> and G Streets.

Tabled until next meeting. Carl Nightengale to take photos and observe these intersections.

**NEXT MEETING:**

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| <b>AUGUST 23, 6:00 PM, City Hall Conference Room</b> |
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**ADJOURN:**