

INDEPENDENCE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING ON August 23, 2006

Commission members present:

Kie Cottam	Tim Hinds	Beau Horn
Shawn Irvine	Carl Nightengale	Lonnie Sanner
Chief Wells		

Absent:

Terry Allen

Visitors:

Kristen and Mark Rodgers
Julie Bonnett
Mr. & Mrs. Stewart
Rosa Day
Lynne Mutrie

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Approved.

VISITOR BUSINESS:

Introduction:

Kristen and Mark Rodgers, Capital Enterprises
Julie Bonnett, 12th Street resident
Mr. & Mrs. Stewart, of F Street
Rosa Day, of 8th Street
Lynne Mutrie, of ACTS Oregon

Mr. & Mrs. Rodgers presented traffic calming devices, including programmable timing switches for traffic lights (see New Biz #3), pedestrian motion sensors, beacon system lights that are activated when pedestrians are in the crosswalk, and, of special interest, the VCalmVMS. This machine has a variable message sign, flashing beacons, warnings, programmable message timing, useful for school times, and a built-in traffic data acquisition system, which counts vehicles and logs min/max speeds.

Julie Bonnett would like to see safe drop-off and pick-up areas, where parents could leave their children safely. Some places that may serve are St. Patrick's, the new store on Monmouth St., across from 11th, and the Ash Creek Trail, when completed.

Ms. Bonnett was also introduced as a coordinator of Independence Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program and committee, with help from Shawn Irvine, City Resource Planner, Lynne Mutrie, Acts Oregon, and other state-wide and local resources.

This drop off area will fall under the SR2S program.

Julie is also the initiator of Old Business #8, HHES student safety.

The Stewart's are concerned about truck traffic on F Street to the mill – see New Biz #1.

Rose O'Day concern is the one-way traffic on 8th St. to Monmouth St. See New Biz #5.

Lynne Mutrie, representing ACTS Oregon, a State organization that has provided Independence with traffic safety funding through the years, including the readerboard, traffic counter, speed trailer, radar guns, emergency signs, technician pay, and more. Ms. Mutrie is also the ACTS Oregon Safe Routes to School person. Lynne talked about the ACTS Oregon safety conference coming up in September, which will also feature SR2S. Lynne offered to help with walkabouts and demos. She also talked about wellness programs, which the Central District employs, and how these programs dovetail with SR2S.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Corvallis Road speed reduction is in its final stages at ODOT. [Attachment]
2. A Good Neighbor Award was given to White's Collision by the Mayor. This was the result of a letter from this commission. The Whites were very appreciative. No further action.
3. Safer intersections and crosswalk for IES, especially Ash and 4th Streets were discussed again. The city shops have finished grading a path on Ash Street, from the bridge to Pfaff's alley. Carl will talk with Terry Allen about providing wood chips or bark dust, which will prevent the path being too muddy. Carl will also talk to Jan Burke, IES Principal, regarding student and parent notification of the new path.

What remains, is a crosswalk in the 4th/Ash area, which Mr. Cottam will review, and a sidewalk from Ash to 4th on the south side. Chief Wells will talk to Mr. Pfaff, asking if he will build all or some of a walk.

4. Student traffic related issues at Central HS.
Chief Wells reported that he had met with the school district and they liked the idea of the new exit onto Monmouth Street but would like to do the work next summer along with other planned remodel at the High School. Tabled until next spring.
5. Hoffman Road crosswalk at Gun Club. The sidewalks and signage is too expensive to revise, and will have to wait until the property nearby is developed. In the meantime, Mr. Horn will talk with Ms. Weiland, Ash Creek MS Principal, about providing a crossing guard for students attempting to cross Gun Club. Shawn Irvine talked to the school superintendent, about this during a unrelated conversation. He may need to be reminded.
6. Complaints of speeding on F Street.
No further speeding complaints. Problem closed.

7. Request for stop signs on 7th and G, and 5th and G.

Part of the problem is site visibility obstructions on both intersections. Kie will talk to property owners about fixing these problems.

8. Lack of sidewalk on the north side of I street to the school, and cars don't stop at the crosswalk on 4th and I streets.

A sidewalk would be very expensive to build, having to build curbs and drainage in addition to sidewalk construction costs.

Chief will have extra patrols after school starts, and Carl will deploy the decoy car after that. Ms. Bonnett will add this to the SR2S and HHES agenda. [Attachment]

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resident reports problem of large-truck traffic on F Street. Trucks are possibly confused about best direction of travel to take when leaving the mill and which streets are better suited for entering and exiting the Mill on F St.

On F, the traffic is mostly eastbound down to 4th St. All large-truck traffic would be better going to 10th. We would like the mill to educate drivers to travel this way, and/or put up signs indicating this. In the past, drivers were able to circle the mill through entrances at F and 10th, but the back gate is now closed.

The ideal would be to use 9th Street, but the asphalt is too thin to support these large vehicles, so 10th Street is the best route in and out.

A TSC member will visit the mill to discuss the traffic problems.

2. Ash Street speeding complaint about a specified vehicle. Information was forwarded to IPD. No further TSC action.

3. New school zone speed laws – HB 2840. All signs changed. No further action.

4. Oregon's seat belt use rates statistics shown and discussed. No further action.

5. Resident complaints of non-compliance of the new one-way sign on 8th Street northbound to Monmouth St. Rose O'Day suggests installing a one-way sign at the Monmouth St. end, and educating the new apartment residents.

Kie will have the painting company finish striping, adding another arrow, and the words "DO NOT ENTER."

6. The Central High School senior project traffic safety public service video was at the meeting. The project was a cooperative effort between the school, police department, fire department, and the Traffic Safety Committee. The video was well received, and will be shown at the next Amphitheater movie night, and at the new movie theater.

7. The Police Department has some helmets left from various programs, and are looking to partner with the Fire Department and the Monmouth Police Department to give them to school children at the schools. Reserve Officer Sarah Schmidt is in charge of this program. Suggestions will be gratefully accepted. Contact her at (503) 828-1214.

8. ACTS Oregon 2007 grant discussion.

We are going to apply, and keeping in mind the \$5,000 limit, some funding suggestions:

Tubeless traffic counter, such as the unit the Capital Enterprise team demonstrated.

Continue the Central HS PSV senior project.

Continue the Traffic Safety KWIP radio show, or maybe change to a public meeting.

Carl and Officer Oliveros will discuss the project.

Bicycle, scooter, and skateboard helmet enforcement.

School transportation plan. Hire someone before the SR2S grant becomes available. This person would collect hard data: bicycles, cars pedestrians by school. The data would be used with grant preparation.

Julie Bonnett volunteered to help with this effort while she is out of work after surgery.

Any other suggestions for the grant, contact Carl at IPD or home, or email cnightengale@ci.independence.or.us

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 15, 2006