



**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION**  
[www.independencpolice.org/tsc.html](http://www.independencpolice.org/tsc.html)

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON MARCH 11, 2009**

Commission members & staff present:

Terry Allen                      Kie Cottam                      Tim Hinds  
Carl Nightengale              Lonnie Sanner                  Vern Wells

Absent:              Beau Horn              Shawn Irvine                  Jennifer Lippert

Visitors:

Kate Murphy, ACTS-Oregon  
David Snelling, G Street

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

Approved as written.

**VISITOR BUSINESS:**

1. Kate Murphy, a representative of ACTS Oregon, informed us that Independence was one of the 11 Oregon cities selected to receive a 2009 Building Safer Communities grant.

She told us what some other communities are using their grants for:

Aumsville will purchase lapel cameras to be used for DUII enforcement, diversion classes, and other training uses.

Eugene has an eye-to-eye program. Grant will fund a PSA, and community events.

Keiser will hold bike commute classes.

Portland will have share the road diversion classes for bicyclists and vehicle drivers.

Philomath is building a bicycle trailer for their bike fleet.

Ms. Murphy noted that the Oregon Traffic Safety Conference will be held in Hood River, October 27 - 29. This year's theme is Facing the Challenge of Change.

Kate also asked if we have any youth projects. If so, ACTS may have some funds to support the project.

**2.** David Snelling, a concerned citizen, reported problems in the Henry Hill Elementary School area, especially in the area of 5<sup>th</sup> and G Streets. Vehicles are speeding and not stopping for stop signs according to Mr. Snelling which he says is dangerous for all pedestrians, especially children. Mr. Snelling suggested a 4-way stop, or a security crossing guard at school start and ending times. He also has a digital camera that he is willing to use to record violations, and will share the videos with the police department. Mr. Snelling also offered to help in any way he can to improve safety here.

We will ask for extra enforcement, and the decoy car will be deployed.  
*This item will be continued onto next months agenda as we track progress.*

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**1.** Resident request to replace road bumps on Gun Club with rumble grooves. The claim is the bumps are dangerous to motorcycles.

*Kie is investigating whether grooves are practical, and will advise at the next meeting. He also suggested that with all the other work being done on the street that perhaps the rumble bumps or stripes are no longer needed.*

**2.** Marquis Spa requested action regarding the crosswalk on Polk St. near Stryker. The crosswalk is from the company parking lot to the factory.

Items discussed at the 09/17/2008 meeting:

- Blinking lights on crosswalk sign may not be bright enough in daytime.
- City planted trees, and the school bus-yard fence block vision when traveling west.
- Crosswalk bumps and painted warnings on street in both directions may be too close to the crosswalk, not affording enough time to slow down.
- Street light is close by the cross walk but may not be bright enough.
- Vehicles turning left from Hoffman to Stryker are ignoring the No-Left-Turn sign. Most come from the rental yard. A suggestion for another sign to be placed near the rental business, and/or talk with the owner.

Items discussed at the 11/19/2008 meeting:

- a. A "blinker-sign" was examined by all present to see if this would be a possible improvement. The sign is very visible at all hours, would be solar

powered, and big visual improvement. Cost is \$1,500 each, and Ms. Blunk will see what Marquis Spa will contribute to this and other safety measures. Public Works would install the signs if the purchase cost could be covered by Marquis.

- b. Kie will add “crosswalk ahead” signs further back in both directions, giving vehicles more time to react. The street warning paint and bumps are starting to deteriorate, and Kie will investigate speed groves cut in the pavement when it’s time to repaint. He will also determine if the warning paint can be located further back on both sides, again giving vehicles more reaction time to pedestrians.
- c. A possible, inexpensive, solution might be an Adopt-A-Flag program, details provided at the meeting, and on the following web sites:  
<http://crossingflags.googlepages.com/home>  
<http://www.pedinroads.org/flags>  
The idea was discussed, and decided that pedestrians wouldn’t take advantage of the flags.
- d. *Action Kie –IPW is ordering new high-intensity signs and will install at new locations.*
- e. *Maddy – Marquis Spa currently has no funding for blinker signs*
- f. *Carl – looking for bright, affordable lights.*

*This item will be continued to be investigated and kept on our agenda.*

### **3. New old business is the Gun Club Road & Hoffman Road intersection.**

Vehicles turning from Gun Club have to enter the crosswalk to see oncoming traffic, especially from the east. This puts people trying to cross the intersection at risk.

In addition, the sidewalks and culverts on Hoffman are not aligned, which makes it even harder to solve the crosswalk problem. On November 13, 2006, Chief Wells sent a letter to the Polk County Commissioners requesting a fix for this problem, who sympathized. There have been small improvements by the City of Independence.

Possible solutions:

- Straightening the culverts and sidewalks
- Stop light on-demand, push button activated.
- Overhead pedestrian bridge.
- Three-way stop light.

Another formal letter was drafted and sent to the City Planner, Polk County Commissioners, and the City Manager by Chief Wells.

This letter was sent on October 10, 2008.

As a result improvements have been started on this intersection in a cooperative effort between Independence City, the School District, and Polk County.

*Kie will ask the city engineer contact Polk County Public Works.*

*This item will be continued in the minutes as we keep track of progress.*

4. Request, via Public Works, for a street light on the Monmouth Street at the bridge by 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

There is a longer than usual stretch between street lights here, and is dark. Public Works and the Police Department are working on a city-wide review of street light issues, and this request will be considered. This new light could be mounted on the existing pole.

*This item will be continued in the minutes as we track the progress. IPW has requested the light. The original work order was reportedly lost by Pacific Power and a new one has been submitted.*

*We are awaiting installation by Pacific Power.*

5. Speed zone reduction request for Corvallis Road.

Carl requesting ODOT and Polk County study.

ODOT and Polk County declined this request. The previous speed change was done in 2006, and only two more residences have been built on Corvallis Road since then. Requestor notified.

***No further action needed.***

6. Beau Horn will present the new school maps for Monmouth St. and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets.

*Beau is with his family for medical reasons, and he wasn't available for the meeting.*

*This item will be kept on our agenda*

7. Lonnie Sanner has agreed to continue his membership with the Traffic Safety committee.

***No further action.***

8. There is no speed-limit sign on Polk Street between Rte. 51 and Stryker, west bound.

*IPW has the signs and will install soon.*

*This item will be kept on our agenda until installation is complete.*

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Request for Gun Club speed zone reduction to 25 mph for the entire length between Monmouth Street and Hoffman Road.

With the new Marigold apartments and street extension from Gun Club and 16<sup>th</sup> Street, this should be reviewed.

*Request is tabled until the Gun club Road improvements are completed.*

**2.** Resident complaint of speeders to and from the new trailer-building facility at the Boise plant. This is reported to be especially bad at 15:30, their quitting time.

“They drive like they’re still in Dallas” reported the caller.

Extra enforcement has been requested.

*This item will be continued to the next meetings agenda as we track the progress with the complainant.*

*Action- Extra patrol. Carl will put out the decoy car.*

**3.** Complaint of vehicles failing to stop from the alley on Grand St. The complainant has been struck once at this intersection, and wants a stop sign at the alley.

*Carl will take photos and notes of this area and we will discuss at our next TSC meeting.*

**4.** We are hoping to receive a grant for bicycle helmets from Wal-Mart – Carl is working on the grant and is currently writing up the paperwork.

*Action – Carl will submit the grant and will report on the progress.*

#### **SAFE ROUTES AND CITY TRANSPORTATION:**

Will ask Shawn to review Gun Club Road improvements and Ash Creek Trail progress.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Wednesday, MAY 20, 2009**

**6:00 PM**

**Independence City Hall**