



**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION**  
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**MINUTES OF MEETING ON September 16, 2009**

Commission members & staff present:

Terry Allen	Carl Nightengale
Tim Hinds	Vern Wells
Beau Horn	Aaron Wimer
Shawn Irvine	

Absent:

Lonnie Sanner

Visitors:

No visitors.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

May 20, 2009 minutes: *unanimous approval* as submitted.

**VISITOR BUSINESS:**

No visitors present

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. 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.

This situation is caused by the sidewalks and culverts on Hoffman which are not aligned, which makes it even harder to solve the crosswalk problem.

Chronology of work so far:

On November 13, 2006, Chief Wells sent a letter to the Polk County Commissioners requesting a fix for this problem; they sympathized and promised to help.

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 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 reports that the city and school actions are complete and we wait the Polk County Road master's action. Carl will contact him.*

The Road master reported there is no money for the project, although it was part of the school project. They were to move the crosswalk and extend the curb. He is still working with the school and said there may be ODOT money available.

Note 10-22-2008 newspaper article, attached.

Polk County Commissioner Ritchey reports Polk County Public Works will work with the school, and that costs will have to be split between Polk County and partners.

Later report of a newly planted tree which may obstruct site view to the east when the tree matures. Public Works will advise.

*This item will be kept on the TSC agenda and minutes until completion.*

**2.** 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, scheduled for the end of September 2009 – Keep on minutes as reminder.*

**3.** 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 was continued to this meeting as we tracked the progress with the complainant.*

Action- Extra patrol. Carl deployed the decoy car and traffic counter.

Complainant reports reduced problem, but some drivers still speed.

*No complaints from other parties.*

*The committee agreed not to pursue this any further and to remove it from the agenda.*

**4.** Complaint of large trucks and employee vehicles turning left from Hoffman to Stryker. The large trucks sometimes block all three streets, and endanger pedestrians trying to use the Marquis Spa crosswalk.

There is a “NO LEFT TURN” sign already in place.

A letter was sent to Forest River, including a map with suggested legal exit routes requesting their help distributing it to their truck drivers. Extra enforcement was requested.

We have discussed:

Would it be feasible to paint “No Left Turn Ahead” in the street approaching the intersection?

Terry Allen suggested making the street one-way eastbound. The TSC agree this is a good solution for this continuing problem. Beau Horn will check to make sure there won't be school bus traffic concerns. We will give all businesses in the area notice of the change, if approved.

If the one-way flow is approved, another concern arises with large trucks parking on the short section of Ash Street, between Polk St and Hoffman. There will be heavier traffic flow in this section, and the big trucks will not be able to park here. There is a city ordinance in place, so enforcement won't be a problem.

Carl will forward license plate numbers to the Police Department for mailing of a warning letter that the area will be no longer available for truck parking.

**5.** Terry Churchill reported the heavy traffic congestion in front of Independence Elementary School, and that it was extremely hard to find a parking spot to drop off or pick up children.

People sometimes stop in the street and wait for their children at the end of the school day.

School bus sometimes stops on 4<sup>th</sup> St. to make drop/pick up. They should be using the bus parking area on C St.

Ms. Churchill reported that 4th Street is so narrow that when there are cars parked on both sides it is very tight. She has twice had her vehicle mirrors hit by passing vehicles.

Ms. Churchill also reports speeders on 4<sup>th</sup>, vehicles not obeying stop signs on C Street, and a lack of school zone signs.

She suggests 4<sup>th</sup> Street be made one-way.

Another problem is that vehicles are again using Pfaff Alley lane for school access between A and Ash Street. Carl will check this again in September to see if the problem continued.

Carl reports school zone signs are in place on 4<sup>th</sup> and C Streets, and will ask Public Works to install one on B St., for westbound traffic.

Carl also offered to speak to the IES principal requesting he and school staff discuss ways to free up parking, including making 5 or six spaces right in front of the school a time-limit parking zone for pick up and drop off. Carl will remind him again when school resumes in the fall.

We will request extra patrol enforcement at heavy traffic times.

The one-way street idea may not be feasible, because 4<sup>th</sup>/Ash is one of the main north & south traffic flows.

Using available property in front of the school for drive-through lanes won't be done because IES is designated a historical building.

Beau will make sure busses use the proper drop area.

*After further discussions about the traffic around IES it was decided that no more could be done at this time and that this item will be removed from our agenda.*

**6.** Ms. Churchill is also concerned about speeders and oncoming vehicle visibility on Kabl Ylimini and Stryker, especially traffic headed to Rte. 51. It's also a pedestrian and bicycle problem for lack of sidewalks on Stryker. There is no place to deploy the decoy car or speed trailer to face the eastbound Stryker traffic. The site view is difficult because of the RR crossing barriers.

We requested extra enforcement, and took photos of the site obstruction to try and find a solution.

Sgt. Mason observed traffic in the area and didn't have any citable speeders. He did report that if you sit behind the stop line, you have inadequate vision toward the west, and you have to creep out in the intersection to get a partial view. Visibility of eastbound traffic is hindered by the railroad barrier rails and signals.

Sgt. Mason can see no solution for the problem except for reducing the speed limit on east bound traffic approaching the corner.

Complainant hasn't responded to multiple messages.

*The committee agreed not to pursue this any further and to remove this item from future agendas.*

- 7. Status of bollard installation on Main St in front of Dusty Spur?**  
Safety barriers installation is imminent.

*This item will be kept on the TSC agenda until completion.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Complaints of speeding on the new Marigold extension from Gun Club to 16<sup>th</sup>.**  
Speed limit signs were installed by IPW.  
Speed Trailer deployed, and added extra enforcement, including bicycle patrol.

*No further complaints.*

*The committee agreed not to pursue this issue any further and to remove this matter from future agendas.*

- 2. Complaint of construction workers at CHS are disregarding the traffic signals at 16<sup>th</sup> and Monmouth. Concern about the children.**  
Another separate complaint about the same workers speeding on C St. near the Gun Club intersection. It's especially dangerous with no sidewalks.

No member of the committee has seen any questionable driving by any of the construction crews – in fact we have been impressed by their safety.

No police officer has witnessed unsafe driving by the construction workers either.

*It was determined that these complaints must have been isolated incidents.*

*This matter needs no further consideration and is being removed from future agendas.*

- 3. Resident Alexandra Allen has requested a stop sign at 12<sup>th</sup> and E Streets. He said, "As a family with young children, we are concerned with the speed cars choose to drive down 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Seeing how other intersections at E Street have already been equipped with stop signs, ours should not be too much to request. Again, I will request our neighbors to voice their concern as well."**

Carl will take photos of the area and deploy the speed-trailer.

This intersection has stop signs and this request is to create a four way stop at this intersection – an action that the Traffic Safety Committee rarely takes.

*This item will be kept on the TSC agenda and minutes until completion.*

4. Complaint of cars blowing through the stop sign at marigold and Wisteria, and teens using the stop as a place to “burn off.”

Extra enforcement has been requested.

*This item will be removed from the future agendas.*

5. We have requested a replacement for the youth position on our Committee to replace Jennifer Lippert. We’re looking for a committed junior who will sign up for two years who has good communication skills.

Beau will help with this process.

*Mr. Horn reports that we will have a recommendation of a new student liaison at the next meeting.*

6. Request for a dead end sign near 280 N 12<sup>th</sup> St. Complainant says that with the construction of Gun Club Road, there are multiple vehicles traveling in this area, and they think they can get of this way and are speeding down the street and back when they realize it is not an option.

City Shops has already installed a temporary dead-end sign.

*This request is complete and no further action is required.*

7. Resident requests a 25 mph sign on S. 9<sup>th</sup>. Vehicles are speeding mostly northbound from the mill at afternoon quitting time.

Traffic counter deployed, and shows most northbound traffic does occur at the mill’s afternoon quitting time. The average speed is less than the speed limit – see attached print out.

Unable to make renewed contact with the complainant.

*Extra enforcement will be requested, and Carl will continue trying to contact complainant to show them the graph.*

*This matter has been dealt with and will be removed from future agendas.*

8. Resident complaint about area near 979 Morning Glory Drive. He reports that cars park along a curve about 10 to 15 feet near the intersection with Marigold Drive which creates a hazard for drivers. He suggests painting the curb in this area to prohibit

parking. Additional complaint of two lawn maintenance vehicles with trailers that park at Marigold and Jasmine Circle, one on each side of the street, making it difficult for two-way traffic. Perhaps curb painting is needed here as well.

*Public Works will review this and the Traffic Safety Tech will review the area and bring a report and recommendation back for our next meeting.*

- 9.** A resident of Hemlock Loop complains of frequent stop sign violators.  
Officer notified.

*This request is complete and no further action is required. Remove this item from future agendas.*

- 10.** Complaint of speeding and disregarding the stop sign at Independence Way/River Oak Ct.

Extra patrol requested, and speed trailer deployed.

*This request is complete and no further action is required. The item will be removed from future agendas.*

- 11.** During the Gun Club Road project pedestrians have been routed through Colonia Amistad property to avoid the construction. Once the road construction is finished the apartment complex wants the pedestrians to stop cutting through their complex. Since the City has been directing people that way we feel obligated to help reprogram pedestrians to use the new sidewalk. To accomplish this Shawn has requested assistance from both the police department and the school to stop and redirect persons who continue to cut through the apartment complex after the road construction is finished.

Shawn will let us know when that help is needed and will try to find a small amount of money to help pay the reserve officers assigned there.

- 12.** A neighbor complained of children darting out from between cars parked on Gun Club Road and Colonia Amistadt. The street parking will be eliminated when the construction project is finished and the street has bike lane striping, but it may continue to be a problem until then.

Suggested was a “no-parking 6 am to 4 pm” sign until striping is completed.  
*This item will be kept on the TSC agenda and minutes until completion.*

**13.** There is a need for better street lighting on Monmouth Street near Winco. There is an existing pole on the north side. Also desired in this area is a crosswalk – there is none between Atwater St. in Monmouth and 16<sup>th</sup> St. The suggestion was at 17<sup>th</sup> St.

Perhaps Winco would be willing to pay for the crossing.

Aaron and/or Carl will work together to be sure a street light is ordered for this area. Options are either Pacific Power or Monmouth Power.

Crosswalk action TBD.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION:**

1. Carl has submitted a grant to ACTS Oregon under the Building Safer Communities grant program.
2. Carl has submitted a grant to ACTS Oregon under the Bicycle Safety program.
3. Carl has submitted a grant to State Farm Insurance asking for bike helmets to give the low income youth.

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

For lack of funding for a person devoted to this effort, it was decided to discontinue the Safe Routes to School program.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

**NOVEMBER 18, 2009**