

Committee Members Present: Lynn Archibald, John Millar, Randy Lewis, Jodi Weimer, Randy Reese, Trudy Porter, Roscoe Orton, and Graydon Burton.

Approval of Minutes

Graydon Burton moved to approve minutes for May. Trudy Porter seconded the motion. All voted aye, none opposed. **The motion carried.**

Roscoe Orton moved to approve minutes for June. Jodi Weimer seconded the motion. All voted aye, none opposed. **The motion carried.**

Citizen Concerns

Michael and Alene Sauls, students at BYU-Idaho expressed concerns at the intersection of 2nd South and 1st East. There is a lot of traffic at certain times of the day; it is dangerous during these hours of the day. They asked the committee to consider a 4 way stop at this intersection.

Public Works Director John Millar explained this intersection does not meet the warrants for a 4 way stop. The National Highway Transportation Institute has a manual on when to put in certain traffic control devices. When these devices are put in when they shouldn't be, you have more accidents than if they weren't put in at all. There is a trigger point at which a traffic control device would be appropriate and accidents would then decrease. The last traffic study at this intersection was done this past spring when the university was still in session.

Chairman Lynn Archibald said the committee needs to do all we can to solve the problem at this intersection. He suggested possibly putting in a flashing light. Public Works Director Millar said he doesn't think a flashing light would be an effective option at this particular intersection. Another possible solution is to have a police officer at the busy times of the day to direct traffic.

Randy Reese said there have been very few accidents at this intersection in the past. Captain Randy Lewis said often a police officer directing traffic can make things worse than just letting things naturally flow. Judy Porter asked if the problem is that cars just aren't stopping. Alene Sauls said one of the problems is a lot of crosswalks are very faded. Public Works Director Millar explained each crosswalk is scheduled to be repainted once a year.

Chairman Archibald requested that Michael and Alene Sauls do a little more study and see if any other solution can be found besides a 4 way stop. A happy balance needs to be made between pedestrians and also vehicles. Chairman Archibald asked the Sauls' to get feedback from other students/pedestrians who cross this intersection to help come up with a solution for this problem or any other problem areas.

Jodi Weimer asked if the warrants aren't met for a 4 way stop in the traffic study, if the committee can make the change anyway. Public Works Director said no. The warrants for a 4 way stop must be met.

Michael Sauls explained the biggest problem times are about 8AM and about 3PM. Public Works Director Millar will make it a point to look at this intersection during those times.

Michael and Alene Sauls will be put on the agenda for January's meeting to talk about this issue again. Chairman Archibald said the committee is willing to consider any suggestions they might have.

Reports

Police

Pedestrian Death at 2nd West and 3rd South

Captain Randy Lewis explained Chera Birch was hit at the intersection of 2nd West and 3rd South on November 26, 2007. She died from the injuries on December 2, 2007. The police were never able to interview her. Captain Lewis explained that speed was not a factor in this situation. The pedestrian was not in the crosswalk. She was dressed completely in black. This happened between 7 and 8 pm when it was dark. Street lighting was a factor. The back lighting blurs pedestrians out. The visibility problem comes from the west side to the center. The accident could not have been avoided.

Chairman Archibald said he has driven through this intersection at night since this accident. One night he was going north and other vehicles were going south, but the glow from those lights made it impossible to see a pedestrian. He said pedestrians have just as much a responsibility to be safe as those driving vehicles. Captain Lewis said she allegedly started jogging half way across the street.

Jodi Weimer asked if a stop light has ever been discussed at this intersection. Captain Lewis said there have been two pedestrian accidents at this intersection in the past few months, but no other accident history other than this.

Roscoe Orton suggested lowering the speed limit. Captain Lewis said he doesn't think a speed limit would help. Speed was not an issue in this accident. Public Works Director Millar suggested a flashing light would be helpful. There is one flashing light that could be diverted from 2nd East to this intersection. Jodi Weimer asked if a light could be hung across the intersection so the entire intersection has sufficient light. Public Works Director Millar said additional lighting could be put in. Trudy Porter said there is not usually a lot of pedestrian traffic at this intersection.

Mayor Larsen addressed the committee and read an email he received about this intersection from Mat Miles. Mr. Miles has had a concern with this intersection for quite some time. He explained in the past six months there have been two separate occasions

when he was nearly struck by a car while crossing this intersection. Something needs to be done so additional tragedies don't happen.

Jodi Weimer asked if the City would ever be held liable for these accidents. She said a traffic study might be needed to protect the City.

Mayor Larsen asked if there was an educational process on campus about pedestrian and vehicle safety. Randy Reese said each semester there is an article in the scroll about this. This may not be effective. Jodi Weimer asked if something could be done that is more effective.

Chairman Archibald said he has spoken to a number of people since this accident happened. The consensus is that pedestrians don't pay attention. He asked if the committee could approach the scroll to have them do articles on a regular basis to educate students on pedestrian safety.

Graydon Burton asked what it would cost to put in an overpass for pedestrians. Chairman Archibald said again, the problem is often the pedestrians won't use them. They would rather cross the road than climb up 15 stairs. Unless streets are fenced off, they won't be used.

Mayor Larsen suggested a sting operation like they had in St. Anthony. Enforcement may be the key. Chairman Archibald said it needs to be enforcement for both vehicles and pedestrians. He recommended trying the flashing light at this intersection. The committee can recommend it, but the City Council would have to approve this.

Jodi Weimer moved to put in additional lighting at this intersection and improve the lighting as much as possible. Graydon Burton seconded the motion. All voted aye, none opposed. **The motion carried.** Public Works Director Millar will work to get additional lighting up.

Trudy Porter moved to recommend to the City Council to put the flashing light that was originally intended for 2nd East, in at this intersection. Jodi Weimer asked if this would take away from another intersection that needs it. Public Works Director Millar said they put one on 2nd East already that has been very effective. The intersection of 2nd West and 3rd South could probably benefit from this flashing light. Jodi Weimer seconded the motion. All voted aye, none opposed. **The motion carried.**

Trudy Porter said there are two places on 2nd East (6th South and Viking Drive) that need additional lighting or another florescent sign to light up these crosswalks at night. Public Works Director Millar will look at both of these because this is an easy fix.

Randy Reese got a request from Eileen Wilcox at the intersection at 1st West and West Campus Drive where decorative lighting has been put in. Public Works Director Millar said a street light has been ordered to be put in there.

Roscoe Orton asked if a car is stopped for a pedestrian at a crosswalk, when the car can continue. Do they have to wait until the pedestrian is completely across the road? Captain Lewis explained they do not have to wait until the pedestrian is completely across the road; they have to wait until they are past the car and it is safe to proceed.

Mayor Larsen explained he always gets complaints about the lighting in this community. It is a huge expense to the city. He suggested that other cities have implemented a system where \$1 is added to each utility bill and this would go into a fund to help pay for better lighting in the city.

Chairman Archibald said this sounds like a good solution. Mayor Larsen said this would have to be a legislative action, but the committee could make a recommendation. Public Works Director Millar said there are about 650 street lights in town. Each light costs between \$6 and \$11 per month. Rocky Mountain Power maintains most of these street lights. It costs about \$1500 for a new pole and light.

Public Works Director Millar said a new program has been implemented that the city can maintain these poles instead of Rocky Mountain Power and save about \$20,000 to \$24,000 a year if this is done. 2nd West and 2nd East both need more lights. It would take about 50 poles each. These lights would cost more because they would go on a higher level of power. The real cost is running the power.

Mayor Larsen suggested finding solutions on how to have better lighting in this community. Public Works Director Millar and Mayor Larsen will work to get a cost analysis put together for the committee to look at.

Streets

Nothing to report this month

New Business

Committee Bylaws

Roscoe Orton moved to nominate Graydon Burton as vice chairman. Jodi Weimer seconded the motion. All voted aye, none opposed. **Motion carried.**

Quadrant Reports

University Boulevard scheduled to be completed by end of October.

University Blvd. is now open. Public Works Director Millar has asked the design guys to look at making this a 45 mph road. Chairman Archibald said after the curve it should be a 35 mph zone. A traffic study will be done on this road in early spring.

National Parking Survey by BYU-Idaho

No report on this. Public Works Director John Millar has still not received any info on this.

Citizen's Request – Ruth Lee Hernandez

a- Request to change speed limit on 7th South between the Freeway and 12th West from 35 mph to 25 mph. Has safety concerns for children in that area.

Jodi Weimer said this road is barely ¼ of a mile. A traffic study needs to be done on this stretch of road in the spring. The speed counter will be set up for this.

Truck problem on 12th West

Another “no truck” sign will be put up. Public Works Director Millar said the sign will be put up at valley wide before they turn left onto 12th West.

Old Business/Pending Business: (Committee action complete, awaiting completion of the approved project.)

- Intersection of 5th West/Main Street – left turn signal – ITD responsible
- Traffic flow in Alleyways North & South of Main Street - City Council has approved funding & bid, project has begun, now nearing completion.

This project is complete.

- Traffic lights at Main/2nd East – Left and right turn lanes on 2nd East at that location. ITD has reviewed the proposed changes and funding has been committed. **Project Complete, discuss completed results.** *John and Randy Lewis to review northbound traffic lane for safety.*

Public Works Director Millar said they are still thinking of adding a right turn only lane at this intersection. He is reviewing this with ITD.

- Final design for roads and location of school buildings on S. 12th West – John meeting with the School District monthly for status and traffic survey. **Traffic Impact Study received, will discuss results.**

Next Meeting date— January 8, 2008

Meeting adjourned.

TRAFFIC/SAFETY COMMITTEE PRIORITY PROJECTS

- 1- Traffic flow from Main Street to 7th South on 2nd East.
- 2- Intersection at 4th South and 5th West.
- 3- Intersection/Traffic Light at Main Street and Pioneer Road.

PROBLEM INTERSECTIONS/FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

- 1- South Yellowstone Highway & Trejo.
- 2- South Yellowstone Highway & 5th West.
- 3- Intersection at 7th South and 2nd West.
- 4- Intersections on 2nd East to 7th South.
- 5- Future traffic requirements for new High School & Elementary School on S. 12th West, with resultant impact on vehicle movement and safety issues.
- 6- Future traffic considerations when the new Stake Center is built near the Trejo/Yellowstone Intersection.