

Committee members present: Chairman Craig Nordfelt, Donna Benfield, Carol Mason, Randy Lewis, John Millar, Lynn Archibald, Randy Reese, Stephen Zollinger, and Randy Schwendiman.

Richard Smith was present as a liaison for BYU-ID.

Approval of minutes: Randy Lewis made a motion to approve last month's minutes. Lynn Archibald seconded it. All approved.

Reports:

- A. Police: Randy Lewis mentioned that they have had five accidents on Pioneer and W Main in the past year. The majority as been failure to yield. There also have been some complaints against the new no parking signs on 3rd South. John Millar said that the councilmen have told them they are getting good responses from the residents. They feel the signs are working surprisingly well. Craig Nordfelt talked to some of the residents about the signs. Overall, the residents were satisfied with the signs; they had no suggestions as to how to make things better. Lois Siepert asked that the curb by her driveway could be painted. Her driveway offsets the street. People block her driveway when they park. John Millar said that they wouldn't be able to do it, because if they paint one they have to paint them all and maintain them at least once a year.
- B. Streets: John Millar brought up South 2nd East. They removed parking on the East side of 2nd E by the girls dorms for a while. The snow was narrowing the street to where it was becoming a problem. Ultimately, 1st S to 3rd S is going to lose parking in the future probably starting with one side then going to both. Widening that street was a very painful process the last time they tried it. John Millar went around and did some rough estimates of how much sidewalk is adjacent to the curb. He estimated that there was about 30 miles of sidewalk.

Craig Nordfelt asked John Millar if the study on South 2nd East had been done yet. John Millar said that they have not got a traffic count as yet. John asked what the committee was specifically wanting as far as 2nd E. The committee was looking at having a commuter street with no parking and a turning lane. They also looked at removing the four way stops and having a traffic signal at 2nd South. John Millar said that they are looking at different alternatives. They needed to discern the time frames that traffic flow needed improvement.

Craig Nordfelt said Viking Drive and 2nd E intersection has a congestion problem at 8:00 am, noon, and later in the afternoon.

Craig Nordfelt asked that John Millar have study done as soon as possible on S 2nd E for a turning lane between 1st and 3rd South, and a signal light at 2nd S to eliminate four way stop signs and speed up the flow of traffic. Also to consider a turning lane South of 3rd South on 2nd East with parking on one side of the street. John Millar said that he would get it started and have a report by next month's meeting but probably no conclusions.

Donna Benfield wondered why there weren't any of the new no parking signs on 2nd E between 2nd S and 3rd S. Some residents were wondering if they had been overlooked. Craig Nordfelt felt that there shouldn't be any parking on 2nd E at any time of the day.

Stephen Zollinger commented that he and a campus police officer drove around the campus parking lots and surrounding streets and noted that there were 7 cars total out of approx. 50 spaces that were parked on the streets in the half hour before the time restriction so at 8:00 a.m. they weren't using them. The B class (student) parking lots were clear full except a few spaces in the North West Stadium parking lot and the Hinckley Building parking lot. He noticed that there were 72 A class (faculty) parking spaces open. So the students are being forced off the streets and into student permit parking.

Richard Smith commented that some of the parking problems are seasonal. During the winter, kids are driving a couple of blocks to class instead of walking. Richard Smith said that the University is going to make a move to encourage pedestrian traffic. Randy Schwendiman stated that students weren't using the crosswalks or sidewalks on 2nd E by Ridge Apartments because they were covered with snow. Mr. Smith said that the University is in full support of anything the City wants to do to enhance crossing on 2nd E. Randy Schwendiman thinks 2nd E should have no parking to force the students to walk more.

Craig Nordfelt asked if college is not giving permits to students who live close to campus.

Richard Smith said that the college is encouraging all students to buy permits. They want them to park in student parking lots, and to teach them to walk. He said that to build more parking lots invites more movement.

Stephen Zollinger said that movement comes with vacant spaces. If a parking lot is built to compensate for parking on the streets there won't be much more movement than what we already have.

Richard Smith said that the parking lot for the Ricks building will be more meaningful (closer) than the Hinckley parking lot. The Hinckley parking lot has 60 B parking spaces that are being used for staging. The university wants to improve parking on Center; they've considered building a parking lot there if it could be approved. They are also having a study done on parking issues for Viking North up to 7th South. Mr. Smith mentioned that it takes less than 5 minutes to walk from the Benson Building to the Snow Building.

Randy Schwendiman is concerned about student crossing on 2nd East.

John Millar said that a traffic light has to be warranted in order for it not to be challenged if there was an accident, and someone felt the traffic light was at fault. They are thinking that Hwy 20 and the new arterial road up to 7th South should carry most of the traffic up to the college, and take some pressure off of 2nd East. There was some discussion of future belt routes on the East side of Rexburg. The committee wanted to send a recommendation to the City Council to designate land for an East belt route with limited access.

Old Business

- B. New traffic light on 2nd East has been activated today, and is on a timed sequence for now. The lights will be synchronized on the state's timetable.
- C. Map for meetings – 3/11/04 the County and City are presenting the transportation plan from 4:00 – 6:30 at the courthouse. Public can enter written testimony.
- D. Blind Corner 3rd E and Barney Dairy Rd – John Millar was not sure what else to do on this corner. No action was taken.
- E. New signage on 3rd South – the new no parking signs were put up on 3rd South.
- F. Parking signs around campus – Craig Nordfelt went around and randomly asked residents how they felt about the new no parking signs. The signs haven't completely solved the problems, but all agree that it was much better. No residents had any suggestions on improvement. John Millar suggested that we put signs on 2nd East from 2nd South to 3rd South. The board thought to wait until the study was done, then ask the residents. Lynn Archibald made a motion to table no parking signs on 2nd S to 3rd S on 2nd E until study on 2nd E was complete. Randy Lewis seconded it. All in favor.

New business

- A. Traffic Safety Issues/Quadrant Reports – Lynn Archibald said that the street lights on 7th South on 2nd West are still not working. John Millar said that a power line got cut underground, in the spring they will be able to work on it. John Millar has had the state look at the traffic light on 2nd East and Main twice to see if they can fix the controllers, it still is not working as well as it should.
- B. Prioritize Projects – Craig Nordfelt asked if there were any revisions to the priority list. All felt the list was still good. Pioneer Road was brought up again as a high priority to get the intersection fixed. John Millar asked the committee members if visibility on 3rd South and 2nd West had improved with the more powerful lights. Randy Reece said that it was a marked improvement. Randy Schwendiman wanted to make sure that land for the East belt route was designated. Lynn Archibald made a motion to recommend to the City Council that arterial roads in city and county as well as South 2nd East and Barney Dairy Road be designated for limited access. Carol Mason seconded it. All were in favor.
- C. New committee members – Crag Nordfelt showed appreciation to Carol Mason for her years of service. He asked if anyone knew of someone that would be a good replacement the vacant spot on the committee. He would like to have female representation. Carol Mason was not sure if Donna Benfield had a new person yet.

Donna Benfield wanted to announce a Citizens Academy on 3/31/04 at the Tabernacle at 7:00 pm. The Mayor would like all volunteers to attend so all can be on the same page.

Next meeting is April 6, 2004 at 5:00 pm.
Meeting was adjourned.