

Traffic Safety Minutes December 7th 2010

Traffic Safety Board Members

Roscoe Orton
Stephen C Smith
Reed Neilson
Graydon Burton
Jody Weimer

Trudy Porter
Rick Robbins
Eric Sundberg
Lyle Wakefield

Garth Gunderson
Doug Barker

Those who were present:

Roscoe Orton
Stephen C Smith
Reed Neilson
Graydon Burton
Rick Robbins
Randy Lewis
John Millar
Natalie Schneider

Chairman Roscoe Orton-conducted the Traffic & Safety Board meeting. He welcomed all those in attendance and thanked them for coming.

Approval of November 2nd, 2010 minutes: Rick Robbins motioned to approve the November minutes and Stephen C. Smith seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Roscoe Orton- introduced Scott Johnson with the City of Rexburg and turned the time over to him. Scott stated that in the October Traffic Safety meeting Mayor Richard Woodland had discussed the concerns over seeing pedestrians at night. Mayor Woodland spoke to the University concerning putting reflectors on bikes, backpacks, dark clothing, cell phones etc. Scott presented the board with a box of 1,000 reflectors that were purchased as part of a Safe Road Grant, to be given out to pedestrians. However, there still needs to be more education given to the students regarding safety.

Discussion took place concerning the SLASH Bus drop off/pick up location near the Hart Building. The board members agreed that this is a dangerous situation and suggested that the location be moved 100 yards to the north. This location is very congested with pedestrians; two crosswalks and a four way stop. John Millar stated he has an upcoming meeting with the University and will follow up on this issue.

There was also a discussion of street lights that are out and need to be replaced as well as locations that currently do not have a light that need one. John Millar presented a list of locations for the board members to review and asked that they inform him of any other locations that need attention. Randy Lewis stated that the night patrol officers will continue to gather information on additional locations. The list will be e-mailed out to the board members.

Captain Randy Lewis- reported that the portable State Law stop for pedestrians signs have been a huge success. He would like to see more of these signs placed at high traffic intersections. Concerns from the Traffic Safety Board regarding the intersection of 1st West and 1st North were discussed. This location is a safety concern as it narrows from a two lane road to a one lane and when cars are turning left to go down to Broulims other vehicles just speed around them. This intersection will continue to get busier as the water park opens next year. John Millar informed the board members that the City of Rexburg will

look at putting a pedestrian light at this location if needed. Long term the City is looking at continuing the four lanes around the curve at Steiner Elevators.

Graydon Burton- reported that he had went over and watched the bus parking at the University as previously discussed in this meeting. The buses cannot use the turnaround due to the current construction. The location that they are using now near the Hart Building is convenient because it is close to the building for the musicians to unload their instruments, skiers to unload their equipment etc, however it is not safe. The University buses should be using the parking lot next to the track and stadium to unload these students. Discussion took place concerning the SLASH buses. John stated he has taken this issue to the University and they were going to run it through their executive committee and come up with a better solution. John will follow up with the University and report back to the Traffic Safety Board.

Stephen C Smith-was asked to report. He stated that Merrill Quality Landscaping located on the corner of 5th West and 2nd South has pushed their snow up into a pile on the corner of their property. This is a very dangerous situation as drivers are unable to see oncoming traffic. Compliance Officer Natalie Schneider will contact Mr. Merrill and ask that he remove the snow pile that is causing an obstruction of vision. Also, on 7th South and 2nd East there is a pile of snow that is causing an obstruction of vision. John Millar stated it is the City that is plowing the snow in this location, he will have it hauled it off.

Reed Neilson- was asked to report. He is concerned with the amount of snow on the sidewalks and residents not being able to keep the walks shoveled. Most residents are upset that the snow plow goes by shortly after they have shoveled their sidewalks clear and the snow plow fills the sidewalks back up with chunks of hard ice and snow. The new construction is being required to put in a seven foot landscaping/grass strip next to the curb and the five foot sidewalk is located behind the grass strip. This allows for someplace to store the snow. Reed's suggestion was to make a wind row right up next to the curb, keeping the snow off the sidewalk. John Millar stated he has told his foreman to inform the drivers to try and pull back and not bury the sidewalk, however they may need to cut in were the mailboxes are located. The idea is that residents will only have to shovel a few feet where their mail box is and not their whole sidewalk again. The solution is the green strip that is now being designed and required.

John Millar- reported on the city projects in progress. One of the things that the City had committed to this group as well as the City Council to do is that when the traffic out at 12th West and University had stabilized that the City would do a traffic study. The traffic study helped to see numbers and what direction traffic was coming from, what maneuvers were being made etc. The study helped determine whether we needed a signal, a roundabout, four way stop or if what we have there was adequate. The study was completed this last month. John handed out a chart showing the traffic counts and direction of traffic. This road was once a stop going north and south, prior to school starting it was suggested that this location become a four way stop. The four way stop just would not handle the volume of traffic and causing it to back up to the on/off ramps of Highway 20. There had to be an officer there directing traffic through every morning. The solution has been opening the road up going east and west and stopping north south traffic. This has handled the traffic with very little back up. The traffic at the corner of 12th West and University appears to be worse in the morning than after school, it is very heavy in the mornings for about 15-20 minutes. The area will continue to be monitored, however it is believed that this is the best solution at this time.

The High School has a sidewalk on their property that currently goes up to 12th West. The sidewalk will be continued all the way up to Burger King next spring. In addition to the lighting list that was passed out earlier, John mentioned a few other locations that he would like the board members to review. First,

Golden Beauty Drive & University, second 4th North & 3rd East and third 4th North and Barney Dairy Road. The City has applied for a grant to continue the sidewalk along Barney Dairy Road clear up to 1st South and if this gets funded we will have to light this path. John encouraged the board members to report any other locations of concern.

Discussion on Traffic Safety Bylaws: Discussion took place concerning the lack of participation and attendance of board members. For the last couple of meetings there haven't been enough voting members present at the meetings to form a quorum. The suggestion was made to have the secretary contact the members and ask them if they would like to continue serving on this board or if they would like to be released. The Bylaws state "Committee members are encouraged to attend a majority of meetings. Any member having more than 2 unexcused absences per year may be excused from serving on the Traffic/Safety Committee."

Chairman Roscoe Orton: Thanked those in attendance for coming and for their comments and concerns. If there is anything you would like to add to next month's agenda, please contact City Hall. He then adjourned the meeting until the next meeting to be held at City Hall January 4th at 5:15pm. If you are unable to attend please contact City Hall at 359-3020.