



**CITY OF ALBANY
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
City Hall, Santiam Room
333 Broadalbin SW
Monday, October 7, 2013
10:00 a.m.**

Commission Members Present: Terry Crook, Robert Fox, Ron Green, Chuck Kratch
Commission Members Absent: Peggy Kroessin (excused)
Staff Present: Ronald G. Irish, Transportation Systems Analyst; Irene Mann, PW Executive Assistant
Others Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Fox called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the August 6, 2012, meetings were approved 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair

The Commissioners present decided to wait until the next meeting when all Commissioners were present. The item was put to a vote and passed 4 to 0. It will be added to the next agenda.

Speed Zone Request – Pacific Boulevard near Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC)

Irish explained that Marcene Olson (Safety and Loss Prevention Manager from LBCC) had requested a reduction in the speed limit along SW Pacific in front of LBCC or installing a flashing warning light prior to the Ellingson signal. Olson had included ODOT attachments to her email with accident data.

Irish said that the reports were over a 5-year period and included three separate intersections, one that was not signalized. He commented that it was a risky stretch of road, but other City roads were similar.

Kratch asked if there were fewer crashes when the school was not in session. Irish replied that the crash rate may stay the same, but there were fewer trips. He added that if ODOT performs an 85th percentile study – the speed at or below which 85 percent of vehicles travel, sometimes the speed rates may actually increase.

Irish said that the staff recommendation would be to investigate the timing of the signals (sometimes adding a few seconds for extra yellow or all-red can assist in solving some angle crashes). Sometimes using a radar reader board assists in slowing down cars (the Albany Police Department has two reader boards they move to different locations). ODOT can make a small change at the request of staff and do not have to perform a full study.

Kratch wanted to make some type of change.

Irish said the location was not eligible for ‘school zone’ signs.

Irish suggested:

- * asking ODOT to check the timing of the lights,
- *allowing for a ‘congestion ahead’ sign to alert drivers to slow down, and
- *adding a few seconds to the all-red signal phase.

Kratch asked if staff would request that the police increase their patrol of the area.

Traffic Control Device Evaluation Report

Irish said that the report was prepared by three engineers (an engineer in the private sector, a City of Portland engineer, and a professor at Oregon State University teaching traffic engineering). Irish said he drove around the City for one-half day with the 3 gentlemen, and they drove another one-half day without him.

Irish would like the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) to review the report and make recommendations and prioritize items to be fixed now and other items that may be five-to-seven years out that could be included in the City of Albany's Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

OLD BUSINESS

Kratch asked the installation of the stop sign on Edgewood and Irish said it had been installed.

The roundabout on 2nd and Main will not be constructed until FY 2014-015. Some of the bids received were ~ 1 million higher than the engineer's estimate. It will be re-bid and constructed next fiscal year. Irish explained how the roundabout would work.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Commissioners requested that since the agenda and minutes of the prior meeting were e-mailed to them, there was no need to provide any copies at the meeting. They did request handouts be provided at the meetings.

Kratch asked about the construction on North Albany Road. Irish said it would be designed this fiscal year and constructed next fiscal year. A temporary traffic signal will be installed on Quarry Road.

Irish discussed a new issue that he just received. There is currently no speed limit sign posted on Ellsworth Street, but the sign on Lyons are posted as a 25 mph limit. St. Mary's church on Ellsworth has closed their school. The speed limit signs near the school are posted with a 20 mph speed limit. Irish will go to Council and ask if the limit should be 20 or 25 miles per hour. The lights are synchronized for 25 mph. There is also a crosswalk at 8th that could be removed but there is a question whether students attending Central Elementary School use it. Irish will talk to officials at Central and report back at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting has been scheduled for December 2, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., in the Periwinkle Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Mann, PW Executive Assistant