

# TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES

July 27, 2016

## APPROVED AS AMENDED

MEMBERS PRESENT: Todd Cormier, Gene Wade, Jerry Dunning, Sondra Baker, Pierre Jomini, Ron Alles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Capt. Harper

STAFF SUPPORT: Aaron Lebsack, Lora Mattox, Terry Smith

GUESTS: None

BUSINESS MEETING:

**Call to order:** Todd Cormier called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm in the conference room of the Public Works Building, 2224 Montana Avenue.

**Minutes:** Motion by Gene Wade for approval of the June 2016 minutes as printed. Seconded by Jerry Dunning. Motion carried on a voice vote.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STAFF REPORTS:

- **Grand Avenue reconstruction** – Terry reported that the Grand Ave reconstruction is progressing well. He stated that the target date to open Grand Ave west of Zimmerman Trail is August 9<sup>th</sup>. There will still be lane closures for things like installing street lights & signing, however through traffic will have at least one lane in each direction all the way between Zimmerman Trail and Shiloh Road. Access to businesses along Grand remains open from the Shiloh Road end of the project. Pierre asked why three westbound lanes were left open on Grand when all traffic has to turn either right or left with Grand closed west of Zimmerman. Terry noted this was previously mentioned to the project manager, but with Grand opening soon it will be a moot point.
- **Orchard Ln reconstruction** – Crews are working on the south end of the street with the project working from south to north. The full project runs all the way from State Ave. to King Ave East. Sondra asked if the project will be complete for the start of the school year. Terry noted the entire project will not be complete until late fall and said he will have the project manager give her a more detailed schedule of when and where the full closures will be by the start of school.

BOARD REPORTS:

- **West End Multi-Modal Planning Study:** This study as well as the Rims to Valley bike/pedestrian study have both been approved by the PCC with the west end plan being used already to gather information.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Ave North Feasibility Study:** Due to concerns from property owners adjacent to the study area, the City Council denied the consultant agreement between the City and KLJ Engineering. Planning staff hopes that City Council will provide some direction on the scope of this project as it was an approved project in the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program.

- **Community Transportation Safety Plan:** Lora discussed some of the goals and objectives of the Community Transportation Safety Plan. There are three main emphasis areas that this study looked at. These areas are: unrestrained occupants, impaired driving, and distracted driving/speeding. A draft for this document should be ready in August. Pierre asked about efforts to pass a primary seatbelt law. After discussion Pierre made a motion that the Board recommend City Council support of a primary seat belt law. Motion was seconded by Ron Alles. Motion passed on voice vote. Todd will draft a letter to the Council on behalf of the Board.
- **Bikeway & Trail Plan Update:** A public meeting was held on June 30<sup>th</sup>. A website has been created where anyone can provide input on bicycle or pedestrian improvements that are needed or desired throughout the city by posting comments on a map or via an on-line survey. The website can be accessed at <http://www.billingstrails.com/>

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Accesses from Rimrock Frontage Road to Rimrock Road:** inconsistency in traffic control (no report)
- **Five non-signalized intersections with most injury/fatal accidents for 2014-2016.** (no report)

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Crosswalk Uniformity** – Pierre noted there are inconsistencies in how trail crossings are handled in new subdivisions. Some are marked and signed while some are not. He asked what the City policy was. Terry noted that staff is aware of the issue and that inconsistencies have developed because historically there has not been a single person reviewing the signing & striping plans for all new developments. Pierre asked if the person reviewing site plans could address the topic at a future meeting.
- **Billings Clinic Crosswalk; 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N between N 28<sup>th</sup> & N 29<sup>th</sup>** – Ron explained that while driving 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N between N 28<sup>th</sup> St & N 29<sup>th</sup> St, there is a bad reflection that comes off of the sky bridge at certain times of the day making it tough to see pedestrians using the crosswalk underneath the sky bridge. Terry stated that the hospital has acquired that section of road and is planning on converting the street into a westbound one-way with angled parking on both sides of the street. Speed bumps will also be installed in this block in an effort to slow traffic speeds.
- **CBD Pedestrian Safety.** Pierre asked if the full text of the Council Initiative regarding Downtown Pedestrian & Traffic Safety could be provided because the excerpt in the June Board minutes does not contain the full text. He noted the Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> Council minutes specifically mention the Traffic Control Board. Lora noted there is a potential project in next year's Planning Work Program to study traffic flows in the downtown area.
- **Complete Streets Policy.** Pierre asked if the Board could get a copy of the updated Complete Streets Policy adopted by the City Council. Lora noted that a final copy of the modified policy has not been posted on the City Website yet.
- **Upcoming Planning projects & studies.** Lora asked if a presentation on projects & studies in the 2017 Unified Planning Work Program could be listed as a future agenda item.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.