

TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES
August 24, 2016

APPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jerry Dunning, Sondra Baker, Pierre Jomini, Ron Alles, Capt. Harper

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gene Wade, Sondra Baker

STAFF SUPPORT: Aaron Lebsack, Terry Smith, Debi Meling, Erin Claunch

GUESTS: None

BUSINESS MEETING:

Call to order: In the absence of the Board Chair and Vice-Chair, Terry Smith called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm in the conference room of the Public Works Building, 2224 Montana Avenue.

Minutes: Pierre noted the following additions & corrections to the July minutes:

- Minutes: Pierre abstained from the vote on approval of the June minutes
- Cross Uniformity: Second sentence should read "Some are marked and signed, and some are not."
- Complete Streets Policy: Second sentence should read "Lora noted that a final copy..."

Motion by Jerry Dunning for approval of the July 2016 minutes as amended. Seconded by Pierre Jomini. Motion carried on a voice vote.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STAFF REPORTS: None

BOARD REPORTS:

Planning Board: Terry provided a handout of information from Lora Mattox. See attached page. Terry also distributed a copy of the *Billings Gazette* article regarding PCC action on the Fifth Avenue Corridor Study.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **School Speed Zone Modifications:** Terry provided an update to the school speed zone modifications first discussed at the June Board meeting. Street-Traffic crews are starting with the schools identified as a priority by the Police Department. Poly Drive school has been completed. Work around Burlington School has started. Pierre noted the Gazette article incorrectly reported how the allowable speed reduction is calculated. Erin reported State law provided speeds in school zones may not be lower than 80% of the regular speed rounded down to the nearest number divisible by 5 with a minimum of 15 mph. That means 45 mph streets can be reduced to 35 mph, 35 to 25 mph, and 25 to 20 mph. Terry reminded the Board that the signing changes required for the zones to be enforceable involve more than just the numerical speed limit. Other signs such as "FINES DOUBLE" and signs marking the end of the school zone also have to be posted.
- **Revised Complete Streets Policy:** Terry reported he recently checked the City website and the revised Complete Streets policy has not been posted.

- **Letter to Council; Primary Seatbelt Law:** Terry reported he was not able to get in direct contact with Todd to determine the status of a letter from the Board to City Council regarding support for a primary seat belt law.
- **Crosswalk Uniformity:** Terry reported the City currently has no specific written policy regarding signing & marking of trail crossings. He acknowledged that not every trail crossing has been signed or marked and the treatment tends to vary from subdivision to subdivision within the newer residential subdivisions. To the best of staff's knowledge all crossings that have been signed or marked, are signed/marked in compliance with MUTCD requirements. Terry noted that the city does not have specific written policies on most traffic control devices, but instead relies on engineering judgment and the MUTCD. Debi noted that over the next couple of years the Engineering Division would like to develop some "standard practices" on a variety of traffic control issues, including things like uncontrolled intersections. This is an area that can be looked at with that process.
- **Access from Rimrock Frontage Road to Rimrock Road:** *(Nothing to report at this time)*
- **Five non-signalized intersections with most injury/fatal accidents for 2014-2016:** *(Nothing to report at this time)*

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

BOARD INQUIRES:

- Trees obscuring signs. Ron asked who should be contacted about trees & shrubs blocking traffic signs. Code Enforcement now handles these complaints, including contacting property owners to have the trees trimmed. Staff will get a name and phone number for the specific person to contact.
- Pierre asked if there were any guidelines regarding spacing of roundabouts. The minimum or desirable distance between roundabouts. Terry & Erin responded that they are not aware of any, but can do some research.
- Pierre asked if the chevrons at the roundabouts on Shiloh would be replaced with black & white chevrons as have been installed at the new roundabouts on Grand. Erin noted that the required color has changed in the MUTCD since Shiloh was constructed. The black & yellow chevrons were in compliance when Shiloh was built.
- Pierre noted that discussion of the date for November-December meeting should be added to next month's meeting agenda

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.