

# TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES

## March 22, 2017

### APPROVED AS AMENDED

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Todd Cormier

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

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 Ron Alles for approval of the February 2017 minutes. Seconded by Sondra Baker. Motion carried on a voice vote.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STAFF REPORTS:

- **2017 Major Construction Projects:** Erin updated the Board on the upcoming major 2017 projects. See attachment for further details.

BOARD REPORTS: Lora updated the Board on the Household Travel Survey. The household survey is the first step in designing a travel demand model. With MDT covering half of the cost, the survey is able to cover the entire county, including Laurel. If selected for the survey, participants will be encouraged to download an app to their smartphone which will then record trip generations. In order for the transportation model to function properly, developers of the model must know how many trips each household is taking and into which areas of town they are going. This data will allow transportation planners and engineers assess the roadway networks needs for future projects. Participants will be asked to use the app for 48 hours. In doing so, each household will receive \$15 and be eligible to win a \$500 gift card.

Responses to Board Inquiries:

1. Directional signing at North 25<sup>th</sup> St & 6<sup>th</sup> Ave N – Terry reported that the damaged sign has been replaced.
2. Empty sign poles at Poly Drive near 13<sup>th</sup> St West – Terry stated that the poles may have had No Parking signs at one point, however with bike lane additions and painted yellow curb the signs may have been removed.
3. Signal operations at Grand & Zimmerman – *Nothing to report at this time*
4. Pothole patching schedule – Following a request from Gene to examine a pot hole at Lake Elmo & Main, Terry indicated that that specific intersection is in ownership to the State. The City has been

using cold mix asphalt (non-permanent) to patch up some of the worse pot holes over the winter. Hot asphalt mix will be produced beginning April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two crews will begin work at higher volume streets with the idea of not focusing on just one specific area of town.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Five non-signalized intersections with most injury/fatal accidents for 2014-2016:** *Nothing to report at this time.*
- **Local Option Gas Tax:** *Report delayed until after the 2017 Legislative session.*
- **Impacts of MDT funding cuts on Billings projects:** *Report delayed until after the 2017 Legislative session.*
- **Impacts on Inner Belt Loop on west end streets:** As a follow up from the January meeting, Pierre asked about the Inner Belt Loop and impacts it may have on west end streets. Once completed, the Household Survey and forth-coming travel demand model will be able to analyze any potential impacts.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Construction Traffic Control:** Jerry asked about traffic control zones and why at times there is traffic control set up without any work being performed. Terry stated as an example, when replacing a water line it must be chlorinated and tested before being paved over. Testing can last up to 7 days. Erin stated that in the contract for the 6<sup>th</sup> Ave N work this summer, one block may be allowed to have active construction while another block before or after may be going through a testing process. This may appear as though no work is being completed. Jerry asked about areas that are blocked off with no excavation or any work being done at all. Erin offered the following as a potential time when this may occur: A water line breaks and the existing as-builts show the line is 12". However, once the road is excavated the water line if found to be different. This then requires parts to be ordered and results in a few days of downtime. Erin also mentioned that it is entirely feasible that a contractor may be operating without the City's knowledge. The Board was encouraged to contact City staff with any questions regarding construction Traffic Control.
- **Terry Smith's retirement:** Prior to the meeting, Pierre had e-mailed to the Board members the following proposed resolution for the City Council:  
The Traffic Control Board thanks Terry Smith, City Traffic Engineer, for his 40 years of service to the City of Billings and for his professional dedication to the Community. The Board wishes Terry all the best for his retirement. The motion to approve the resolution was carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.