

TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES

April 26, 2017

APPROVED AS AMENDED

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pierre Jomini, Capt. Harper, Sondra Baker, Todd Cormier

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jerry Dunning, Eugene Wade, Ron Alles

STAFF SUPPORT: Dakota Martonen, Aaron Lebsack, Erin Claunch, Debi Meling, Lora Mattox

GUESTS: Jason Gartner (Police Department)

BUSINESS MEETING:

Call to order: Todd Cormier called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm in the conference room of the Public Works Building, 2224 Montana Avenue.

Minutes: Minutes were tabled until May meeting for approval.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STAFF REPORTS:

- **Signal Priority Study:** Erin and Dakota detailed the results and grouping of intersections for the Signal Priority Study. Intersections that were warranted for a signal were given an additive factor of 10.00. These 10 additional points are added in order to separate intersections that warrant a signal and those which do not. The weighting factor for the ranking of intersections include: number of warrant classes met, four-hour volume, school crossings, accidents severity, and change in Level of Service. Although the original signal priority study dates back to 1993, the City staff has updated the criteria to the signal warrants in the latest Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- **Grand Ave roundabout speed results:** Following a request from the Board, a speed study was performed on Grand Avenue. The count locations were between the 38th Street West roundabout & Shiloh Road, and the 36th Street West roundabout & Zimmerman Trail. Grand Avenue was reconstructed in 2016 from Shiloh Road to Zimmerman Trail to include two new roundabouts, street widening to 4 lanes, and raised median to restrict certain turning movements. The results of the speed study are as listed:
 - Grand Ave east of Shiloh Road
 - Westbound: 85thile: 43.3 mph 10 mph Pace: 33.7 – 43.7 mph
 - Eastbound: 85thile: 46.7 mph 10mph Pace: 36.9 – 46.9 mph
 - Grand Ave west of Zimmerman Trail
 - Westbound: 85thile: 40.4 mph 10 mph Pace: 31.4 – 41.4 mph
 - Eastbound: 85thile: 38.8 mph 10 mph Pace: 30.1 – 40.1 mphA speed study conducted in 2014 shows the speeds west of Zimmerman Trail have decreased since the reconstruction. Given the results of the speed study, the posted speed will remain at 45 mph.

BOARD REPORTS:

- Lora updated the Board on the Household Travel Survey. Surveys will be sent out to approximately 11,000 residents around the county with anticipation of receiving at least 1,100 back in order to

begin design for the traffic demand model. The goal is to have all of the surveys completed by the time school is released for summer.

- The Bike Plan is going through its final adoption process with the Planning Board recommending approval to the Policy Coordinating Committee. The Board and County Commissioners are going to take action on the plan May 2nd and City Council will take action May 8th.
- The Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) has been updated for road projects over the next five years. The majority of the projects included are State projects.

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.*
- **Signal Operations at Grand & Zimmerman:** *Nothing to report at this time.*

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Police Department Traffic Complaints:** Sergeant Jason Gartner with the Billings Police Department talked to the Board regarding some of the traffic complaints they receive and how they are handled. As complaints come in, they are filtered down to the traffic specific officers for further investigation. The officers will then contact the citizen after the investigation and provide feedback. Speeding is a primary complaint received by BPD. Temporary speed feedback boards and increased enforcement have been used in several areas recently, such as Montana Avenue and Medicine Crow Middle School. As the weather warms there are generally more traffic complaints called in. Another complaint that the Police Department receives regularly are drivers running red lights. For this complaint, officers will review intersections for potential reasons causing the red light violations. When identified and addressed, the amount of red light violations can be minimized proactively.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.