

Traffic Control Board Minutes
Tuesday, April 22nd, 2008

Sondra Baker ✓
Angela Cimmino
Doug Kary ✓
Walt Willett ✓

Judge Knisely
Capt Slade ✓
Keith Lang ✓
Steve Zeier ✓

✓ = Present

Staff Support: Terry Smith, Debi Meling, John Gibson, Erin Claunch

Guests: Chris Hertz, P.E., Staff Engineer

Call to Order: At 12:17 pm in the Large Conference Room, 4th Floor of the Library

Minutes: Walt moved for approval of the March minutes, second by Steve. Motion carried on voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STAFF REPORTS:

Chris Hertz reported on the King Avenue East Construction project:

- The project is being funded by a newly created Tax Increment District
- There are two phases of the project; phase 1 started this week, and includes the installation of a water main between Newman Drive & Orchard Lane. Phase II will include the widening of King Avenue East from South Billings Blvd to Orchard Lane, including the following:
 - Installation of traffic signals at King Avenue East & Orchard Lane and King Avenue East & Calhoun Lane.
 - Traffic Signal modification for the existing signal at South Billings Blvd and King Avenue East.
 - Additional traffic lanes on South Billings Boulevard between King and the eastbound interstate ramps. The existing median will be removed across the overpass to make room for the additional lanes; the bridge itself will not be widened.
- The project will start in July and be completed by October of this year. The estimated construction cost is \$3 Million. Total project cost including design is approximately \$3.8 Million.

BOARD REPORTS:

Planning Board: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Photo Enforcement presentation delayed until May meeting

2. Roundabout Public Relations Campaign

Debi Meling reported that King Avenue east of Shiloh is expected to open by June 27th. The project will be completely open to traffic by August. Billings first major roundabout at King & Olympic Boulevard is being constructed with the project. She is working on a public relations effort to educate the public on how to drive roundabouts. The roundabout will consist of a single lane approach for N/S traffic and a dual approach for E/W traffic on King Avenue West.

Doug suggested that we not show single lane roundabouts if that is not what we are constructing. Walt cautioned all information needs to be consistent with State law. It was suggested that maybe we could get the different TV stations to film from different angles or locations at the same time, and pool their video to show traffic patterns and lane usage more clearly.

3. No Parking Zones at residential mailboxes

Terry informed board members of our policy regarding requests from citizens to paint yellow zones at mailboxes. The City does not paint yellow zones at individual mailboxes. Nothing in State law or City ordinance prohibits parking in front of a mailbox. In many subdivisions, if parking was eliminated at every mailbox, there would be little or no on-street parking left. If residents agree on a central location to place a cluster mailbox, the City would consider a yellow zone. As new subdivisions are developed, the U.S. Postal Service is requiring the use of cluster boxes for mail distribution.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. State Avenue –MDT Safety Project

Terry stated the City has received an official request from MDT to approve the concept of re-striping State Avenue to 3 lanes (one lane each direction, plus a two-way center left turn lane). Details of the proposal were presented to the Board at the December 2007 meeting. Terry asked if the Board was willing to make a recommendation on the project. Steve Zeier made a motion that the Board recommend approval of the proposed safety project to re-stripe State Avenue as a 3-lane street. The motion carried on voice vote, with one abstention. Sondra wanted to talk with First Student (school bussing contractor) about what impacts the change might have on their bussing before taking a position on the proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM