

Traffic Control Board Minutes
August 26th, 2008

Members Present: Doug Kary, Keith Lang, Walt Willett

Members Absent: Sondra Baker, Captain Bedford, Angela Cimmino, Steve Zeier,
Judge Knisely

Staff Support: Terry Smith, John Gibson, Lora Mattox

Guests: None

BUISNESS MEETING

Call to Order: 12:15 PM

Minutes: Motion for approval by Keith Lang, 2nd by Walt Willett. Motion carried

STAFF REPORTS:

Terry stated that the presentation for Traffic Signal Warrants will be postponed until September.

Terry reported on the following major street projects:

1. King Avenue West-- is substantially complete and open for traffic.
2. King Avenue East and South Billings Blvd--scheduled to begin soon. The project should be completed before winter sets in.
3. The Aronson Avenue connection to Alkali Creek is on schedule and should be completed this fall. There will be a separate project bidding this fall for installation of a traffic signal at Governors & Aronson.
4. Rimrock Road from Shiloh to 54th Street West—This State administered project will start soon.

BOARD REPORTS:

Lora Mattox stated that the Planning Staff is still updating the Growth Policy; 85 % of the goals set in the last plan have been reached or are on-going items. A draft of the updated policy will be presented at a public meeting on September 18th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Red Light Cameras & Photo Enforcement. The use of cameras for red light enforcement is still being researched by the Police Department. The presentation scheduled for today's meeting was postponed because Capt. Bedford could not attend. If you have any questions or receive inquiries from citizens, you can refer them Capt. Bedford.

NEW BUISNESS

Clear Vision Zones. Terry Smith gave a PowerPoint presentation on the City's current "Clear Vision Zone" requirements and outlining considerations in making changes to existing ordinance requirements. From a staff perspective one of the biggest concerns with the existing ordinance is it doesn't distinguish between traffic entering an arterial or collector from that entering a local street. Even on an intuitive basis one would expect to need more sight distance as traffic speeds along the street increase. The Home Builders Association (HBA) has asked that the ordinance be reviewed because they feel it is too restrictive in some instances. Staff will be developing specific proposed changes. Members present were provided with a copy of the existing ordinance language controlling visibility at intersections and driveways. Staff will bring detailed recommendations to the Traffic Control Board and the Development Process Advisory Review Board (DPARB) for input before any proposed ordinance changes are taken to the City Council.

38th Street West from Poly to Colton. Because of speeding complaints from residents along 38th, staff was asked to review traffic controls at Poly and 38th and to investigate the feasibility of speed humps on 38th. Volume and speed data were collected in May of 2008. Analysis of this data determined that a 4-way stop or a traffic signal is not warranted at the intersection of 38th and Poly. Measured 85%-ile speeds are 29 to 30 MPH on 38th and slightly higher on Poly (Poly is minor arterial, posted at 35 MPH). Speed humps could be installed, but they would have to be at a reduced spacing from what is typically recommended because of the intersection and driveway spacing. Putting in too many humps along this short section of roadway, or using speed bumps that are too severe (like those found in parking lots) could cause traffic leaving the adjacent soft ball fields to detour thru the neighborhood to the east (using Colin and Corbin) to reach Poly. Current City policy requires the neighborhood to pay for the cost of installing any traffic calming along 38th. It was asked if a raised median to narrow travel lanes and therefore reduce speed could be considered. Terry responded it could, but impacts on parking would have to be considered because of on-street parking demands related to the park and ball fields.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:11 PM