

Traffic Control Board Minutes
June 24, 2008

Sondra Baker
Angela Cimmino
Doug Kary ✓
Walt Willett ✓

Judge Knisely
Lt Beford ✓
Keith Lang
Steve Zeier ✓

✓ = Present

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

Guests: Bill Kemp, Street/Traffic Supt, John Strub, Traffic Signal Technician

Call to Order: At 12:16 in the Large Conference Room, 4th Floor of the Library

Minutes: Minutes of the May meeting were distributed. There were no comments on the minutes, Doug Kary stated they would stand as printed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STAFF REPORTS:

Erin Claunch reported on the following projects:

- ➤ King Avenue West, west of 32nd Street West will be opened on Friday, June 28th. The intersection of King W and 32nds will open by the end of July.
- ➤ Bids for King Avenue East will be opened 6-24-08; construction will start in July and be completed by mid November.
- ➤ Aronson Avenue extension is on schedule and will be completed sometime in November. Design work is underway on a separate project to install a traffic signal at Aronson & Governors. The signal won't be in place for the opening of Aronson.
- ➤ Bids will be opened July 1st for the bike/ped tunnel under Main Street. Main Street will not be closed for the project.
- ➤ The State will let bids on the Airport Road Project in July. This will be a 2year project
- ➤ Shiloh Road corridor is estimated at \$45 Million. The bid opening is currently scheduled for March 2009. Utility work (water, sewer and private utilities) will start this fall. This project will also span two construction seasons.
- ➤ Construction is currently underway on a State funded street overlay project, which includes Yellowstone River Road between Bench & Iristan; Broadwater from Division to 12th, and Broadwater from 29th to Shiloh.
- ➤ The State expects to bid the Rimrock Road project from Shiloh to 54th Street West, near the end of July
- ➤ The City is finalizing an agreement with MRL for installation of the updated gate arm & railroad signal equipment needed for the Quiet Zone in Downtown Billings.

BOARD REPORTS:

Planning Board:

Lora Mattox reported

- The initial phases of the Dover Ranch property subdivision have been submitted. (Located in Billings Heights generally north and east of Skyview High School.
- Trails West subdivision at Broadwater and 58th Street West is presently in the planning stages and has gone thru a concept review with staff.

Council Activities Related To Transportation:

City Council agendas can be reviewed by accessing the City's website <http://ci.billings.mt.us>

OLD BUSINESS:

Debi Meling reported that the roundabout at King Avenue West and Olympic will officially be open on Friday, June 27th. The City has hired a marketing firm to help produce a public service announcement that can be aired on local TV stations. Filming for the PSA is scheduled tomorrow (June 25). Local TV stations and the Gazette are expected to be on hand for the PSA filming as well.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Lt. Bedford presented a PowerPoint presentation on the use of cameras for red light enforcement. The Police Department is researching this at the request of the City Council. The purpose would be to reduce violations, and therefore accidents related to red light running. At this time the City Council is looking for information, no decisions have been made on whether photo enforcement for speed or for red light enforcement will go forward. The City would probably go with a vendor installed and operated system. Some issues will have to be worked out, such as tickets based on ownership of the vehicle, since you may not be able to identify who is driving. This would be a civil citation, similar to how parking tickets are now handled. No citations would be issued without a Police Officer reviewing the tapes and making a decision on each violation.

Lt Bedford asked about the speed limit on 54th Street West between Grand and Rimrock. Terry responded that this issue came up previously and the County was unable to find any records where a reduced limit was established. Terry said Engineering staff will collect a speed survey and make a recommendation.

Doug asked if State Gas Tax revenues have increased with the high price of oil & gasoline. Terry responded that the gas tax is a fixed rate per gallon—so it has not automatically gone up with increased gasoline prices. Terry noted that all gas tax funded highway work is caught in a crunch with potentially declining gas tax revenues because people are driving less, and the cost of construction materials escalating rapidly.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM