

Traffic Control Board Minutes
Tuesday, March 25th, 2008

Angela Cimmino
Doug Kary ✓
Keith Lang ✓
Walt Willett ✓
Steve Zeier ✓

Sondra Baker ✓
Judge Knisely
Capt Slade

✓ = Present

Staff Support: Terry Smith, Lora Mattox, Erin Claunch

Guests: None

Call to Order: By Doug Kary at 12:21 pm in the Large Conference Room, 4th Floor of the Library

Minutes: Minutes of the February meeting were distributed. It was noted that Keith's name is misspelled. Sondra moved for approval of the minutes with the spelling correction. Steve seconded the motion and the motion was approved on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STAFF REPORTS:

- Aronson Avenue: Sondra asked when the Aronson Extension would be completed. Terry noted the project would be completed in the fall of 2008.
- Quiet Zone: Erin reported a field diagnostic review with City staff, MDT staff, Montana Rail Link, and the City's consultant (RCL) was held this morning to identify all the improvements needed to install four-quadrant gates and implement a "quiet zone" encompassing the three downtown railroad crossings on 27th, 28th, and 29th Streets. RCL will prepare an updated cost estimate reflecting the exact equipment needed.
- Lake Elmo Road Project: Doug asked if any traffic calming features were being designed into the Lake Elmo improvements. Sondra asked when the project would be completed. Terry reported that with staff changes in the Engineering Division he was unsure of the exact status of the project. The next phase to be constructed is the segment between Main Street and Hilltop Road. Because of the need to pipe an existing irrigation lateral, Terry said the project would not start before next fall at the earliest. Terry reported that other than retaining on-street parking in some areas, there were no specific traffic calming features being designed into the project.
- Day Care on Hesper Road: Steve reported that a large daycare center was approved along Hesper Road near the proposed new GE site. He asked if they were required to perform a traffic study for the daycare. Terry reported he was unaware of the proposed daycare and had not seen or reviewed any traffic studies in conjunction with it. Both Terry & Lora indicated it was unlikely a traffic study had been required.

BOARD REPORTS:

Planning Board: Lora Mattox reported that subdivision activity has been light. There have been a lot of pre-application and concept meetings, however, so the number of formal submittals will probably increase.

OLD BUSINESS:

Traffic Calming Policy: Terry reminded the Board members that staff is interested in their comments and input on the concepts and materials distributed last month. Walt commented any policy adopted needs to be kept simple. He said some of the materials sent out earlier were too complicated. Steve stressed that there will need to be balance between neighborhood concerns and overall public needs.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Broadwater School Petition: Terry gave a PowerPoint presentation on the request for additional traffic controls near Broadwater Elementary School. The City Council directed staff to review options for improving traffic safety around Broadwater Elementary School. A petition was submitted to the City requesting the following specific changes:

- Block 4th Street West along the north side of Broadwater
- Install a flashing light at the intersection of 4th & Wyoming
- Create a 4-way stop at 4th and Wyoming.

Terry summarized the traffic, speed and accident data that staff compiled on the streets and intersections surrounding the school. Staff found that stop signs at 4th & Wyoming are not warranted based on traffic volumes or crash history. Installation of school flashers is not justified at the intersection and would be inconsistent with how they have been used elsewhere in Billings. Terry reviewed some alternatives, such as curb-bulbing or creation of a bus pull-out that could be implemented to improve pedestrian safety at 4th & Wyoming. He noted that no funds are budgeted for such improvements. Closure of 4th Street West at Broadwater is an idea that was first suggested with the "Billings Arterial Corridor Study" in the early 1980's. Implementation of a street closure would require additional input from the neighborhood and emergency services providers. The street closure would not be as simple as "putting up a barricade." Terry noted that Erin had made a similar presentation to the City Council at their March 17th work session. Council asked that staff share their findings with the PTA and the Central Terry Task Force.

Photo Enforcement: This item was delayed until next month since the Police Department was not represented at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM