

Traffic Control Board Minutes
September 23rd, 2008

Members Present: Doug Kary, Keith Lang, Walt Willett, Steve Zeier, Sondra Baker, Captain Bedford

Members Absent: Angela Cimmino, Judge Knisely

Staff Support: Terry Smith, John Gibson, Erin Claunch

BUSINESS MEETING

Call to Order: 12:18 pm

Minutes: Motion for approval by Walt Willet, 2nd by Doug Kary. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS:

Terry reported on the following projects:

1. An overlay was recently completed on 1st Avenue North between North 9th and North 18th Streets. As part of the overlay, a center two-way left turn lane was implemented between 9th & 17th. On-street parking was removed to implement the center turn-lane.
2. The Aronson Avenue extension project should be complete by mid-November.
3. Construction bids for a new traffic signal at Aronson and Governors will be opened September 30th.

The staff report on traffic signal warrants was delayed until the October meeting.

Doug asked if the State was considering placing a temporary signal at Alkali Creek Road and Aronson when the Airport Road project begins construction. Terry stated a signal and other options are being discussed.

Erin reported that the construction related closure of Shiloh Road between Poly and Colton has created some problems. Additional signing will be placed in an attempt to discourage people from creating their own shortcuts around the construction. In response, Capt Bedford stated that Officers are patrolling the area.

BOARD REPORTS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Red Light Cameras. Capt Bedford stated that there are some legal considerations to be worked out before the City Council can vote on the use of photo enforcement for red light running.

- Criminal or civil violation
- Establishing fines
- Need for changes in local and State laws

Bozeman is proceeding with implementation of their “Red Light” photo enforcement program. Billings will probably rely on the legal research that Bozeman has completed as a guide for necessary changes in our City ordinances and to make sure we are in compliance with State law.

Capt. Bedford noted that pictures from each potential violation will be reviewed by a Billings police officer and no citations will be issued until that officer has confirmed there are sufficient grounds to support a ticket.

Steve Zeier stated that the Board should support the Police Department’s proposal for “Red Light” Enforcement, but we should wait to make a recommendation until all of the information is complete and made available to the Board.

Clear Vision Zones. Terry provided handouts and explained proposed changes to the City’s clear vision requirements. These requirements cover the placement of buildings and the height of fences, hedges, and other potential sight obstructions at intersections and driveways. Board members were asked to review the proposed changes and suggest any modifications or corrections they feel may be necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

Engineering Division Move. Terry reported that as of Monday, September 29th, the Engineering Dept. will be moving to 2224 Montana Avenue. Our next TCB meeting (October) will be held at the new facility, east of the Depot.

Position Vacancy. Steve Zeier made a motion asking that Angela Cimmino’s position on the Traffic Control Board be declared vacant because of the number of meetings she has missed and that staff request the Mayor appoint a replacement. Walt Willet 2nd the motion and it passed on voice vote.

Discretionary Bussing. Terry asked Sondra how parents were notified that optional, fee based bussing was available. He indicated that he had received a recent complaint that a parent did not know fee based bussing was available in her neighborhood. Sondra indicated individual schools where that option is offered are responsible for making the information available to parents and students. Sondra also noted the fees for discretionary bussing have not increased in approximately 20 years.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:17 PM