

Traffic Control Board Minutes Tuesday, September 25, 2007

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

Capt Vladic ✓
Sondra Baker ✓
Judge Knisely

✓ = Present

Staff Support: Terry Smith, John Gibson, Lora Mattox

Call to Order: At 12:15 pm by Doug Kary

Minutes: It was noted that Keith's name is misspelled in the minutes. Walt moved for approval of August minutes with the spelling correction. Seconded by Sondra Baker. Motion carried on voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

STAFF REPORTS:

Zoo Drive & Gabel Traffic Signal: The contractor started work on this project September 24th (yesterday). The signal should be operational by mid-November. Permanent pavement markings will not be placed until next spring because of the need for warmer temperatures.

King Ave West, 31st to Shiloh: This project will widen King Avenue to five lanes between 31st Street West and Shiloh Road. Bids for this project will be opened at 2 PM today (9/25). Work will start on underground utilities this fall (water, sewer, and storm drain), with the majority of the actual road work taking place next construction season.

School area requests:

- School signing and a cross walk at Columbine and Elaine Street have been installed for Beartooth School. Traffic data was collected at the intersection of Bitterroot and Elaine to evaluate a request for school flashers.
- Rimrock School has reopened as a kindergarten center serving several west end elementary areas. Most of the students are bussed to the school. City staff is working with the School District to investigate how to create additional bus loading areas at the school and reduce congestion and conflicts with private cars and pedestrians.
- Rose Park School is experiencing parking issues along the north side of the alley, west of 19th Street West. Even though the alley is posted NO PARKING, parents are parking in the alley and blocking access to garages along the south side of the alley. School signing was relocated to avoid confusion with the no parking signs for the alley. Adjacent to the school frontage, the alley signs were changed to read "NO STOPPING, STANDING, OR PARKING."

TJ asked if consideration could be given to establishing a marked crosswalk on Governors in front of Castle Rock School. Many parents stop on the west side of the street to drop off their kids to avoid the congestion in the parking lot.

Aronson Avenue Extension:

If right-of-way issues are resolved, this project will be bid in December. The BBWA canal crossing needs to be completed in the winter before water is turned into the ditch next spring.

Major MDT projects:

- Plans for the Airport Road Project should be completed by April of 08, with a bid opening scheduled for July of 08
- MDT is pushing to have a construction contract awarded on Shiloh Road by early 2009.
- The design for the Rimrock Road Project from Shiloh to 54th Street West is completed; a multi use trail will be included along the north side of Rimrock with the project. The project is currently stalled while the City and the State resolve how to make up the shortfall between currently budget funds and the estimated construction costs.
- Because of funding issues it may be necessary to split the Bench Connection project (roadway from 6th Avenue North thru Metra to Bench Boulevard behind the Target complex) into two separate projects.
- A public meeting is scheduled for the North Bypass on October 4th at 7:00 pm.

BOARD REPORTS:

Planning Board: Lora Mattox stated the City Council has approved annexation of 400 acres from the Dover Ranch property located north of the Lake Hills area in Billings Heights. At full build out this could include as many as 1300 more homes based on preliminary development plans for the area.

OLD BUSINESS

Lewis Avenue Traffic Calming. A public meeting was held regarding the Lewis Avenue Traffic Calming Project from 8th Street West to 24th Street West. Staff proposed stripping for bike lanes as a way of narrowing the travel lanes and therefore reducing traffic speeds. This would require removal of parking in some locations along Lewis Avenue. Residents attending the meeting were divided on the proposal. A ballot will be mailed to all property owners along Lewis so staff can get a more accurate measure of their preference.

Lake Elmo Drive reconstruction. Sondra asked when the reconstruction of Lake Elmo Drive was scheduled. The School District needs to know what bussing will be needed for the 2008-09 school year by Dec. 31, 2007. Terry said he would check.

NEW BUSINESS

2nd Avenue North and N. 27th. Walt asked if there were any plans to add a left turn arrow for southbound traffic on N. 27th Street at 2nd Avenue North. He said he as observed long lines waiting to make that left turn on several occasions lately. Terry indicated there was nothing planned at this time, but that it could be evaluated. Because of the short blocks in the downtown area traffic progression along 27th is very difficult and adding special phases for left turns can take time away from moving thru traffic.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 PM