

TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES

January 24, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brent Krueger, Walt Willett, Steve Zeier, Capt Bedford, Todd Cormier, Walt Willett

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sondra Baker

STAFF SUPPORT: Terry Smith, Erin Claunch, Lora Mattox, John Gibson

GUESTS: None

BUSINESS MEETING

Call to order: Chair Steve Zeier called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm in the conference room of the Public Works Building, 2224 Montana Avenue.

Minutes: A motion for approval of the December minutes as distributed was made by Walt Willett, seconded by Todd Cormier. Motion approved on a voice vote.

Open Public Comment: None

Council Activities Related to Transportation: No report

STAFF REPORTS:

Accidents & Intersection Control

Terry distributed some material from a ranking of intersections based on the number reported traffic accidents for calendar years 2008 thru 2010 (3 years). There were 119 intersections which averaged 3 or more reported accidents per year during the three year period. Summarized by the type of intersection control, these 119 intersections include:

1. All-way Stop 2.5%
2. Minor Street Stop 19.3%
3. Roundabout 1.7%
4. **Traffic Signal 75.6%**
5. Uncontrolled 0.8%
6. Yield control 0%

A listing of the top 50 intersections contains only four that are not signalized intersections. Terry noted that staff often receives citizen requests to install a traffic signal to reduce or eliminate accidents. Nationally it has been found that the total number of accidents occurring at an intersection often goes up after signalization. Typically this is a result of an increase in rear-end type accidents. Depending on traffic volumes and the severity of accidents occurring, installation of a signal may still be justified because it reduces the number of right angle accidents which often result in more severe injuries than other types of accidents. Terry noted the fact that a large proportion of accidents occur at signalized locations also reflects that these intersections carry higher traffic volumes. None the less, it is a common misconception that installing a traffic signal will result in fewer accidents.

Board Reports:

Planning Board: Lora distributed a summary of the requests received for Community Transportation Enhancement (CTEP) funding. Processing of applications has been delayed in part due to the uncertainty of available funding. Congress has not approved a full multi-year federal transportation funding bill, but instead keeps extending the existing funding for short periods of time.

- **Shiloh Conservation Area**

This project would construct a hard surfaced, ADA accessible path around the first pond of the Shiloh Conservation Area. This application is for the first phase of trail development which will be just over 4,000 lineal feet around a seven acre pond.

CTEP Funds: \$357,802 City of Billings/Local Match: \$55,460 Project Cost: \$413,262

- **Hillner Lane Sidewalk and Highway 87 Crossing**

This project would construct a hard surface, ADA accessible concrete sidewalk approximately 5 feet wide and 1,900 linear feet long, in the existing right-of-way of the northern side of Hillner Lane, from Hemlock Drive to Piccolo Lane. ADA accessible ramps will be provided at each intersection and a marked pedestrian crossing on Old Highway 87. The Highway 87 crossing will include in-pavement lighting and a rapid flash beacon.

CTEP Funds: \$109,957 Yellowstone County/Local Match: \$17,043 Project Cost: \$127,000

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Education**

This project is sponsored by Riverstone Health on behalf of Healthy By Design to create a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian safety educational campaign using mass media. It will include education to bicyclist and pedestrians, as well as motor vehicle users, about right-of-way etiquette and how to safely navigate roadways and trails within the city limits of Billings.

CTEP Funds: \$88,017 Riverstone Health/Local Match: \$11,851 Project Cost: \$99,868

- **Aronson Connection**

This project would construct a hard surface, ADA accessible, 10-foot wide hard surfaced trail for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. The trail is approximately 1,500 linear feet in length. This connection will provide a trail link from the trail on the west side of Swords Park north to the sidewalk just east of Swords Lane on the north side of Airport Road.

CTEP Funds: \$205,498 City of Billings/Local Match: \$31,852 Project Cost: \$237,350

- **Will James Middle School Connection**

This project would construct a hard surface, ADA accessible, 10-foot wide trail for bicycles and pedestrians. This connection is approximately ½ mile long. This connection will provide the link to Will James Middle School from the programmed CTEP trail project along the north side of Broadwater Avenue from Zimmerman Trail to Lillis Park.

CTEP Funds: \$112,554 City of Billings/Local Match: \$17,446 Project Cost: \$130,000

TOTAL F.Y. 2011 CTEP APPLICANT REQUESTS

\$ 873,828

F.Y. 2011 CURRENT CTEP DOLLARS AVAILABLE

\$544,211.00

OLD BUSINESS:

Open positions on the Board. Terry stated the two openings on the Board have not been filled and the Mayor's Office is still accepting applications. Terry reported he has not received an official response to his inquiry about whether Steve Zeier can be reappointed to the Board since he is now a City employee. Steve reported that he did submit an application to be reappointed for a second term.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of a new Chair and Vice-Chair. Elections for a Board Chair and Vice-chair were postponed in hopes that the Board vacancies will be filled by the February meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.