

**Traffic Control Board
Minutes
September 28th, 2010**

Members Present: James Knox, Walt Willett, Steve Zeier, Capt. Bedford

Members Absent: Brent Krueger, Sondra Baker

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

Guests: Kirk Spalding, Sanderson Stewart; Brad Sperry and Mike Tuss, CTA Architects

BUISNESS MEETING

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:14 pm by Chair Steve Zeier

Minutes: Motion for approval of the August minutes by Walt Willett. Motion was approved on a voice vote.

Open Public Comment: None

STAFF REPORTS:

Terry reported the City Council awarded a construction contract for a traffic signal at Wicks and St. Andrews to Ace Electric. Signal poles and mastarms removed from Grand & Shiloh will be re-used, so it is expected the new signal will be operational yet this calendar year. Work on the eastbound right turn lane at Grand Avenue and 24th Street West is on schedule.

Terry commented on the recent accident at Poly Drive and 38th Street West involving a vehicle running off the end of Poly Drive and hitting Arrowhead School. This is the second accident in approximately 14 months where a car has hit the school building. The School District is working with Kirk Spalding of Sanderson and Stewart to design a temporary barrier to reduce the likelihood of errant vehicles hitting the school again. The School District has indicated a willingness to reduce their exit driveway to a single lane which allows some options that were previously ruled out. Long term options might include relocating the exit drive so that it doesn't directly align with Poly Drive.

Erin stated that the work is expected to start as early as next week for striping of on-street bike lanes along six corridors throughout town:

- Briarwood Boulevard: Blue Creek Road to Cardiff Road
- Nutter Boulevard: Hilltop Road to Tam O'Shanter Road
- Poly Drive: 13th Street West to 32nd Street West
- 6th Avenue South: South 27th Street to South 34th Street
- South 28th Street: 2nd Avenue South to 11th Avenue South
- North 30th Street: 6th Avenue North to 12th Avenue North

BOARD REPORTS:

Lora Mattox reported the first public meeting was held approximately two weeks ago on the *Billings Area Bikeway and Trail Master Plan*. This was formerly known as the *Heritage Trail Plan*.

OLD BUISNESS:

Bike/Skateboard Stencils on Downtown Sidewalks (status update): Terry reported the proposal for stenciling a message at sidewalk corners downtown reminding people that skate boarding and bicycling is not allowed on the sidewalk within the central business district will not be moving

forward. The decision is a result of further discussions on the topic between Dave Mumford and Greg Krueger.

NEW BUISNESS:

One-alley designation, Block 53, Foster's Addition: Terry reported the Engineering Division received a request from Sanderson Stewart, on behalf of Stockman Bank, to designate a portion of the existing alley north of 4th Avenue North between North 28th and North 29th Streets as a one-way southbound. Stockman Bank is constructing a new bank building at the northwest corner of 4th and N. 28th. The request is to make the extreme south end of the alley adjacent to the proposed drive up teller and ATM lanes one-way southbound. The remainder of the alley between the drive up lanes and the Library would remain two-way. Terry noted that the alley south of 4th (between 3rd & 4th Avenues) is already one-way southbound. The proposed one-way designation is consistent with the direction solid waste trucks currently drive for trash pickup. Terry noted this would not be the first one-way alley in Billings associated with a drive up facility. The former Wells Fargo drive up bank between 2nd & 3rd and N. 25th and N. 26th exited on the alley and designated portions of the alley as one-way southbound out to 2nd and one-way northbound out to 3rd to reduce traffic conflicts. Terry indicated he recommends that the one-way designation not be implemented until the bank is ready to open for business.

Mike Tuss with CTA presented a site plan and a sketch of the proposed bank building. Mike said the one way alley was not essential to the bank operation, but would reduce conflicts where the alley & the drive-up lanes exit onto 4th Avenue. Mike noted the bank had acquired some property from the City to construct additional parking north of the bank building. The alley would remain two-way adjacent to the bank's parking and the existing Library parking to allow better circulation between the parking aisles. If the one-way alley designation is approved the bank will seal coat the church parking lot on the west side of the alley and re-stripe the angle parking so the lot circulation works with the one-way alley. The bank has obtained concurrence in the one-way designation from the church and from the Library. The current construction schedule calls for the bank to be completed by December 2011 or January 2012. Mike concurred in the recommendation to delay actual implementation of the one-way designation until the bank was almost ready to open.

Captain Bedford asked if there was any significance to the fact that no mention was made of concurrence from the Dude Rancher. Mike Tuss reported that in initial contacts with the Dude Rancher their manager had indicated it would be okay. Later the owner contacted them and indicated she was opposed to it because it would eliminate one potential means of accessing their facility. It was noted that access to the Dude Rancher was still available from 4th Avenue via North 29th or by coming up North 28th and cutting through the library parking lot. The request needs to go to City Council for final approval. Walt Willett moved the Board recommend approval of the one-way alley designation as presented, to the City Council. James Knox seconded the motion and it carried on voice vote. Steve Zeier indicated he would attend the City Council meeting on behalf of the Board when this issue is considered by the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:53 PM