

TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES December 3rd, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Todd Cormier, Walt Willett, Gene Wade, Trina White, Capt. R D Harper

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sondra Baker

STAFF SUPPORT: Terry Smith, Erin Claunch, Zach Heid

GUESTS: None

BUSINESS MEETING:

Call to order: Todd Cormier called the meeting to order at 12:12 pm in the conference room of the Public Works Building, 2224 Montana Avenue.

Minutes: Motion for approval of the October minutes by Gene Wade, seconded by Todd Cormier. Motion carried on a voice vote.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STAFF REPORTS:

Rimrock Road Project: Erin gave a quick update on the Rimrock Road project. The road is open and classified as substantially complete. There are some minor details such as cleaning out manholes and inlets as well as final landscaping. Terry was wondering if there were any comments about the newly installed traffic signal. Erin said he hasn't had any major comments or concerns. Erin mentioned that the project looks like it will finish under budget.

Inner Belt Loop: Terry notified the board that work on the first phase of the Inner Belt Loop has started; extending Wicks to Alkali Creek Rd. Grading and gravel has been completed and the Alkali Creek crossing still has to be built. A piece of Wicks needs to be tore out and re-aligned. Captain Harper was curious where the Alkali Creek connection would be physically located. Trina White asked what the distance was for the first phase. Terry thought it was around a mile. Terry mentioned that the project is moving along quite well. Captain Harper asked if the project was going to be paved next summer. Terry thought it would be paved in the spring when the hot mix plant starts up.

New Signal Controllers & Software: Erin informed the board that the City has been upgrading the traffic signals around the city to bring them online with more functionality and be able to communicate with the signals and controllers. The controllers that are in place now were made in a way that they do not break down; however, they are no longer being made. The City has gotten under contract with a signal supplier to slowly incorporate new signals throughout the city on various corridors on an annual basis. With the incorporation of new signals comes new software which will keep inventories and communication of all the new signals on line. We have already replaced five intersections on 32nd St W in order to start moving traffic in a more fluid movement since the corridor backs up with traffic. Once all the new controllers are on line we can coordinate the signals and move traffic more fluidly. All of the new signals are able to be monitored remotely with the new software, if the controllers are communicating correctly. Terry mentioned that the goal in the next five to ten years is to get all the signals in the city upgraded and online. The software would be able to count cars with the correct detection devices in place. Reports can be run and can notify the signal technicians if an intersection is running at an optimal range or if it needs to be adjusted. Gene asked how much a controller cost. Erin said they usually cost just shy of \$3,000 and if the cabinet needs to be replaced that would cost \$14,000.

BOARD REPORTS:

Planning Board: Todd mentioned that the last committee meeting was held 2 weeks ago. Kittelson and the City County Planning are still working on land use projections once that is complete they will be developing the 2035 traffic projections. The next meeting will be in January. Erin wanted to put another plug in for the Long Range Transportation Plan web site (www.billingslrtp.com). It is very interactive and very useful since this is where the document comes from for future projects.

OLD BUSINESS:

Charter Amendment: The Charter Amendment was not approved which means that boards and commissions will continue to be advisory only.

Special Events in ROW: Todd requested from the board that if there is anything that the board would like to advance as suggestions for Debi Meling to take to City Council. Todd mentioned that it would be discussed for January's meeting.

TCB Member Positions: Terry wanted to thank Walt Willett for his years of service since this would be his final meeting. Terry mentioned that there are three openings for the Traffic Control Board as of the end of the year. Gene Wade has turned in his application for another term.

NEW BUSINESS:

Billings Crosswalk Compliance Study: Terry shared a presentation on crosswalk compliance on arterial road-ways in Billings. The crossings are on King Ave W, Monad Rd, Central Ave and Broadwater Ave paralleling the BBWA or about 29th St W and Shiloh Rd north of Poly Dr. The Student ITE chapter in Bozeman, Mt took on the project of collecting and analyzing data of pedestrian and vehicle encounters at crossings.

Board Comments: Walt asked if there was any consideration of adding a WB right turn lane on Grand Ave onto Rehberg Ln. Terry stated that on a minimal level there has been consideration to a right turn lane. To do it right, the signal pole would need to be relocated due to large trucks scraping signal heads.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.