

TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES

April 22, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Todd Cormier, Gene Wade, Capt. R D Harper

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sondra Baker, Trina White

STAFF SUPPORT: Terry Smith, Zach Heid, Erin Claunch

GUESTS: None

BUSINESS MEETING:

Call to order: Todd Cormier called the meeting to order at 12:13 pm in the conference room of the Public Works Building, 2224 Montana Avenue.

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

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STAFF REPORTS:

Traffic Engineering Webpage: Erin gave a presentation on the updates to the Traffic Engineering webpage on the City's website. Erin talked about Flashing Yellow Arrows on the traffic signals which will be implemented this summer. He showed the HAWK signal page and what the driver sees compared to what the pedestrian sees. See the link to the Traffic Engineering webpage: <http://ci.billings.mt.us/index.aspx?NID=565>

Zimmerman Trail: Erin shared with the Board a presentation that was given at City Council about the rock fall project which will occur along Zimmerman Trail. A consultant was brought in to analyze the stability of the rock formations on the Rims above Zimmerman Trail. The contractor will remove multiple large rocks from the rims and in several other areas rock will be scaled off in smaller pieces so as to not endanger anything below. The final plans are due April 25th, advertising starts on April 30th, bids open May 8th with notice to proceed by May 19th. The rock fall project will last about 3 weeks. Then City crews will go in and repair the roadway and guardrail.

BOARD REPORTS:

Transportation Plan Update: There have been a couple of public meetings and some updates to the land use and population employment data which was needed to update the future traffic model. The state received the updates two weeks ago and returned the updated traffic model last week.

Highway 3 Corridor Study: Sanderson Stewart was selected to conduct a study on the Highway 3 corridor between the Airport intersection and the Indian Cliffs subdivision entrance. A scoping meeting with staff and the consultant is coming up soon. The study will look at access, storm drainage, non-motorized uses (bicycles, pedestrians, trails), recreational & aesthetic opportunities along the corridor, and parking improvements.

Trail Counters: The City of Billings received a grant from Rails to Trails to place two permanent trail counters on two trails in the Billings area. Billings was one of twelve cities in the U.S. to receive a grant. Rails to Trails will be involved with monitoring the data for three years and after that the counters will be the City's. One trail counter is located north of Wicks Lane on the Kiwanis Trail and the other counter is located on the Descro Park Trail east of Meadowlark School.

One of the reasons Billings was selected for this grant is due to the extensive trail count program already in place. Street-Traffic crews worked with the Planning Department to install the counters.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Special Events in Public Rights-of-Way: Terry put together a list of potential topics for discussion about special events in the public rights-of-way. Todd asked those present at the meeting to think these over and be ready to discuss the issue at the next meeting. Captain Harper brought up concerns with events using different routes and locations. He suggested having a standard route for runs or events would help review and management efforts. If there was a standard run plan then anytime someone wanted to have a run in the right-of-way, there would be a list of typical requirements such as enforcement, traffic control, or cleanup that would be the same for events of certain size. Todd reiterated he would like the Board to come prepared to talk about guidelines, criteria, or thoughts for special events at the next meeting even if it is just a vote of confidence from the Traffic Control Board.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.