

TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES

September 23, 2015

APPROVED AS AMENDED

MEMBERS PRESENT: Todd Cormier, Pierre Jomini, Jerry Dunning,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gene Wade, Sondra Baker, Trina White, Capt. Harper

STAFF SUPPORT: Terry Smith, Debi Meling, Lora Mattox, Erin Claunch

GUESTS: None

BUSINESS MEETING:

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

Minutes: Pierre offered the following additions & corrections to the August minutes:

- Under STAFF REPORTS Overlays second sentence:
 - Final pavement markings, including reflective **snowplow mountable** pavement markers will be installed on Broadwater after the new asphalt cures. **Pierre commented that some agencies had abandoned the use of snowplow mountable pavement markers due to adhesion problems. Erin responded that these problems had been solved.**
- Under “Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)”: Please spell out the acronym EBURD.
- Under OLD BUSINESS Kari Ln, second sentence:
 - Pierre stated that ~~the street is~~ **the travel lanes as striped are** too narrow to have parking on both sides with the center turn lane.

Motion for approval of the August minutes, as amended, by Jerry Dunning. Seconded by Pierre Jomini. Motion carried on a voice vote.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STAFF REPORTS:

- **6th Avenue North HAWK signal:** Erin gave a report on the pedestrian signal under construction on 6th Avenue North.

BOARD REPORTS:

- **Planning Board:** Lora reported on the Rims to Valley trail corridor study, the west end traffic modeling project, and the Community Traffic Safety Study

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Traffic Signing Questions:** Pierre thanked staff for following up on many of the signing issues identified at last month’s meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Access to new Middle Schools (Board Inquiry):** Terry gave a presentation about access to the two new middle schools near Bench Blvd & Barrett in the Heights and at 56th St. West & Grand Avenue on the west end.
- **Guide signing at Alkali Creek Road/Aronson Avenue/Airport Road:** Erin made a presentation on possible changes in guide signing at Alkali Creek Road and Aronson Avenue. There was a general discussion following the presentation and staff asked Board members to send any suggestions directly to Erin
- **Right Turn lane, Westbound Grand Avenue at Rehberg Lane (Jomini):** The Board and staff discussed the feasibility of implementing a westbound right turn lane on Grand Avenue at Rehberg Lane.
 - As a related item, Todd asked staff to see if a “no left turn” sign was missing at this same location.
- **Lane Configuration 24th St. West between BBWA bridge & Colton Boulevard (Jomini):** Pierre asked about the feasibility of striping 24th Street West between the BBWA bridge and Colton as one southbound lane, a center turn lane and two northbound lanes. The Board discussed various options. Staff will review whether changes to the lane layout are feasible the next time this section of street is scheduled for an overlay or chip seal.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Pierre asked about combining the November and December meeting. Those present felt December 9th would be a good date.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 pm.

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Comments from Pierre Jomini:

1. For the record, EBURB stands for “East Billings Urban Renewal District”.
2. **6th Avenue North HAWK signal.** Add “ A discussion ensued on the need for public education/information about the operation of the HAWK signal (HAWK refers to **H**igh-intensity **A**ctivated cross**W**alk). City staff has done outreach programs and taught the new HAWK signal operations to the police officers.”
3. **Access to new Middle Schools.** Add “The traffic impact studies have been completed. In the Heights, Barrett Road has been widened to three lanes. There is a Bench Blvd project under way by MDT (Montana Department of Transportation) and a planned trail connection. In the West end, the school site is presently in the County. There is a potential widening project on Grand Avenue in the area of 54th Street West to 56th Street West. Todd inquired about speed reduction for the new middle school on Grand Avenue, presently signed at 50 MPH. The City staff indicated that traditionally there are no speed reductions at middle schools but the policy may change. A HAWK signal or a rapid flashing beacon may be installed for the Grand Avenue school crossing.”
4. **Lane configuration 24th Street West between BBWA bridge & Colton Boulevard.** Add after “The Board discussed various options”. “Terry reported that this section of 24th Street West is a candidate for on-street bike lanes. Debi suggested to check if the northbound lanes on 24th Street West, South of Grand Avenue, could be revised to two left turn lanes, one through lane and one right turn lane, thus avoiding the merge conflicts North of Grand Avenue.”