

Mr. Brian Casey, Police Chief, added this road is frequently used as a bypass from the downtown congestion. He would also like to see a speed survey to tell if the majority of the traffic speeding is during day or evening so he can set up a patrol car.

Ms. Haight also suggested getting a radar trailer out there too.

Mr. Chiu recommended Ms. Haight attempt to get neighborhood support with a petition. She said she would.

NEW BUSINESS

A) TSC-10-018: Request to eliminate two parking spaces, one on either side of the crosswalk on the east side of Deborah Road in front of Mable Rush Elementary School

TIME – 7:11 PM

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, presented the staff report (see official meeting packet for full report).

Ms. Shannon Stueckle, Principal for Mable Rush Elementary School, spoke to the commission about areas on Deborah Road that have been identified as needing attention and referred to photos found in the staff report. As part of the Safe Routes to School application they reviewed the routes kids were walking and ways to try to slow down traffic there. They are requesting curb painting at two of the exit routes from Mable Rush Elementary School to eliminate some parking within close proximity to a crosswalk to give the crossing guard and kids a better view of cars and to help create a better traffic flow pattern for parents picking up their children after school.

Ms. Susan Walther stated she was before the commission last spring discussing issues with parent pick-up in the afternoon. She spoke of about two-thirds of the drivers coming off of Douglass and hugging the curb to keep Deborah Road open, but she said not all parents are doing this; and a car or two parking there intermittently causes back ups as well.

Ms. Stueckle said she spoke of a homeowner in the area with a mailbox on the school side of the street who has agreed to move his mailbox to the other side to allow for more space in front of the school.

Ms. Walther added that directly across street is already painted yellow and it seems like it would be easier with there being a fire hydrant, too, and they would not have to walk across the street to get their mail.

Mr. Chiu stated this would be fine as long as the permission comes from the U.S. Post Office in writing. He agreed there have been a couple of times in the afternoon that it is hard to drive through this area and there is merit to the request for safety purposes and to allow intersections, entrances, and exits to be clear of parking for good sight distance. He also supports additional parking spaces taken away or two on each side of the entrance for 50 feet of no parking on each side of entrance or exit point.

Commissioner Ron Johns asked if there would be limited parking the whole length of the soccer field. Ms. Stueckle suggested using the same signage as in other areas to stay consistent to say “No stopping or parking on school days from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, but said the crisis time is really between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM. Discussions followed about sign language and peak congestion times.

Commissioner Lesley Woodruff asked if eliminating such significant parking would cause any problems for the neighbors and if they have you spoken to them. Ms. Stueckle said she has not spoken to anyone other than the neighbor with mailbox, but there are not many cars there other than for soccer after school.

Chair Klein asked how long pick-up time usually lasts at the end of the day. Ms. Stueckle replied about ten minutes once the students are released at 3:10 PM, but there is some gridlock with parents who arrive early and wait in their vehicles.

Mayor Bob Andrews asked about different speed signage from 20 mph to 15 mph around the curve across from Mountainview. Mr. Chiu replied this is because there is a sharp ninety degree turn there and a lack of visibility.

Discussions followed about school zone signage uniformity and clarity in the area regarding placement and language.

MOTION: Woodruff/Brandt to eliminate parking up to 50 feet north and south of the entrance/exit of the smaller staff parking lot, and eliminate parking up to 50 feet north and south of the south exit of the larger north public parking lot on the west side of Deborah Road at Mable Rush Elementary School, 1441 Deborah Road. This will be accomplished by painting the existing curb yellow. (5 Yes/0 No/2 Absent [Cotter, Oravetz]/2 Vacant) Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A) TSC-10-016: Engineering report on Sheridan-College / Traffic Review

TIME – 7:57 PM

Chair Klein spoke of the public hearing on this matter last month where the public testimony was closed. The hearing is still open to hear the final staff report.

Mr. Chiu presented staff report and made clarifications to the date collected; he recommended leaving the area as it is for the time being (see official meeting packet for full report).

Mr. Robert Soppe thanked the staff and the commission for their work on this matter and he felt it was good to see a group being responsive to a citizen's request; he added it would be useful to see a speed study in addition to the traffic on Sheridan east of College and west of College. He discussed driving patterns on wide streets, parking, and other solutions mentioned for this area before. Because of parking on one side or the other and the narrow width, speeding is not normally a problem on Sheridan.

MOTION #2: Brandt/Sult to leave the Sheridan/College Street area as it is until a major event requires further action. (5 Yes/0 No/2 Absent [Cotter, Oravetz]/2 Vacant) Motion carried.

Chair Klein recessed at 8:16 PM and reconvened at 8:24 PM.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police Update

Chief Casey spoke of recent significant traffic stops with drug and weapon seizures starting as traffic violations, the computer forensics unit's role in a McMinnville case with the nine-year-olds fighting in YouTube, and he gave updates on the new patrol canine and the auto theft case at Industrial Park. He spoke of the recent pedestrian fatality on Hwy 219 and Everest and their hopes that ODOT is responsive with the requests to fix that area.

B) Engineering update

Mr. Chiu gave updates on the Springbrook Road and Hwy 219 area being finished with plans for planting and landscaping in the spring. He also spoke of the Safe Route to School program from the traffic safety conference and the funding to enhance the Deborah Road area requiring an action plan.

C) Items from Commissioners

Mayor Andrews gave an update on the progress of the Mayor's Cabinet which will not be moving towards implementing until after the turn of the calendar year when the committees are at full membership.

Chair Klein reminded the commissioners of the deadline to complete a police ride-along before the first of the year.

Commissioner Doris Brandt discussed plans and RSVPs for the upcoming TSC Christmas party. Chair Klein spoke of special presentations that would be made to previous members that have resigned this year.

Mr. Chiu announced the new Public Works Director, Mr. Rob Charles is planning to attend the next TSC meeting.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM until January 10, 2011.

(NOTE: A regular business meeting will not be held in December. Traffic Safety Commission members will meet for an informal dinner at 6:00 PM, December 13, 2010, at Izzy's Pizza.)

Approved by the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission this 10th day of January, 2011.

Jennifer L. Nelson
Recording Secretary

Neal S. Klein
Traffic Safety Commission Chair