

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**7:00 p.m., Monday, October 10, 2011**  
**Public Safety Building, 401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR**

*“Mission Statement: To give the citizens of Newberg a forum to voice traffic safety concerns, evaluate related issues, provide a liaison with the City and promote traffic safety within the community.”*

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Neal Klein called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members**

**Present:** Neal Klein, **Chair**      Lesley Woodruff, **V. Chair**      Doris Brandt      Karl Birky  
Dianna Cotter      Shannon Eoff      Ron Johns      James Oravetz  
Ronald Sult

**Members**

**Absent:** Student Commissioner (VACANT)

**Staff**

**Present:** Chris Bolek, Police Captain      Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer  
Mary Newell, Support Services Manager      Jennifer Nelson, Minutes Recorder

**Ex Officio**

**Present:** Mayor Bob Andrews

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A) Review and approve minutes of September 12, 2011

<p><b>MOTION #1: Woodruff/Cotter</b> to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for September 12, 2011. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No).</p>
--

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A) TSC-11-028: Villa at Laurel – Crosswalk request  
TIME – 7:04 PM

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

Commissioner James Oravetz asked if the buses are traveling north or south in the mornings when they are picking up students. Mr. Chiu replied they are traveling north and have flashing lights on, which students rely on to cross the street to get to the bus.

Chair Klein spoke of children sometimes waiting for the bus to arrive and turn on their lights before crossing Villa Road, but noted that not all children are doing that. Mr. Chiu agreed this is possible and continued with the staff report to consider providing a crosswalk or not.

Commissioner Dianna Cotter asked about the estimated costs for the crosswalk installation. Mr. Chiu estimated it could be within the two thousand dollar range; this only includes material costs, not personnel time to complete the installation. The costs would be higher if they contracted the project out.

Commissioner Shannon Eoff stated she travels there often to take her children to school and has seen a lot of foot traffic north and south, but not a whole lot of crossing there. She questioned the need for a full crosswalk with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps and everything.

Mayor Andrews spoke with staff about a missing piece of sidewalk just to the north of the driveway into the George Fox University (GFU) Villa Academic complex and on the opposite side; he suggested another crosswalk should be established in the area to the north of the proposed sidewalk and over to the complex on the east side.

Commissioner Doris Brandt said eight or nine years ago there was a request for a crosswalk going diagonally here for the medical park and it was requested for Dr. Kern to put in sidewalks, he would not do it.

Commissioner Lesley Woodruff asked what the estimated average daily traffic volume is. Mr. Chiu said it is a major collector and it would probably be more than five thousand, but he is not positive; he can bring that information to them at a later time.

Chair Klein discussed there not being a lot of children there, but the school and the First Student bus service would know better. He spoke of the old hospital being an academic building and wondered if there are many students using this area and walking to it if it might be a good idea to have a cross walk; there are no sidewalks on Laurel Drive and modified sidewalks and most college students are traveling from behind the building, not on Villa Road, probably because there is no sidewalk.

Commissioner Cotter said it does not make sense to put in a crosswalk with ADA ramps when there are not sidewalks on the eastside. Staff said according to the report from the school bus service provider's observations, it could be argued either way.

Commissioner Ron Johns pointed out that previous trainings have focused on the possibility that crosswalks may make some areas for dangerous because of the false sense of security it promotes with the pedestrians and often fatalities are higher at crosswalks.

Commissioner Oravetz said the school only reported five students using this area this year and asked about the next year, regardless of the numbers he felt the children crossing the street have nothing there to protect them.

Mayor Andrews said based on his experience driving in the mornings the buses travel north in the evenings and south on the east side in the mornings and there are no students crossing the street, they are queued up on the east side of the street but not on the west.

**MOTION #2: Cotter/Brandt** to table **TSC-11-028** and not install a marked crosswalk at Villa Road and Laurel Drive, as requested. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No).

B) TSC-11-029: N College at Mission – Crosswalk & School Zone Request  
TIME – 7:27 PM

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report using a PowerPoint slideshow regarding a request for a school zone to be pursued and briefly explained the procedure for completing this through a submittal to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) (see official meeting packet for full report).

Mayor Andrews asked the age of the students that are walking to downtown from the school; staff was unsure. He asked if the school has any frontage on N. College Street. Staff replied strictly speaking there is not any frontage on College Street and its physical address is a Mission Street address.

Commissioner Eoff said she agreed with the staff recommendation and Veritas School to wait for any motion to be made on the sidewalk since ODOT already has this in process because although it may take years, to put it together with a lack of sidewalk would have students crossing to no sidewalk. She said it does not make sense to have a crosswalk to an area where there is no sidewalk.

Mr. Chiu noted the requestor was unable to attend the meeting this evening although she was invited so we do not have the benefit of further convincing arguments.

**MOTION #3: Cotter/Brandt** to table **TSC-11-029** for a crosswalk and school zone request at N. College Street and Mission Drive based on there being no frontage on N. College Street and ODOT will be doing work there in the future Motion carried ( 9 Yes/0 No).

### OLD BUSINESS

A) TSC 11-009A: Emma-Creekside – Stop Sign Request  
TIME – 7:45 PM

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report using a PowerPoint slideshow to follow up on the no decision at the last meeting. He offered several examples of options requested with estimated costs (see official meeting packet for full report).

Commissioner Cotter asked about placing a yield sign on south side of Emma Lane to eliminate the hindrance of the tree for the southbound Creekside Lane. Staff thought this would be awkward because it is not typical placement for a yield sign.

Mayor Andrews spoke about lane markers installed on Vittoria Way and Springbrook Road to extend the double lines and asked what the material costs for this would be here and why it has not been considered here. Staff replied there were some reflective devices used there which are much less hazardous than the bumps on the road, particularly for motorcyclists; he would not be opposed to this as a solution.

Commissioner Johns said the street is real narrow, so markers denoting the lanes might make this seem even narrower.

Commissioner Oravetz said he drove out there to evaluate the area again and suggested going back to square one to place a stop sign on the utility pole for Creekside Lane southbound and another for Emma Lane westbound. He felt a double stop sign install in the intersection was the only way to gain control over this.

Commissioner Johns asked staff if a stop sign can even be placed where he suggested. Staff replied it could not.

Police Captain Chris Bolek agreed and added there has only been one accident at this intersection.

Chair Klein agreed this matter has been batted around for some time now and every solution would only serve as a “band-aid” solution to the problem. Based on his discussions with the Police Chief Brian Casey they do not even think a stop sign would have prevented what occurred here. He said based on there only being one complainant and not a long history of accidents a stop sign is not warranted here.

Commissioner Oravetz wondered how long they were going to keep kicking it around without making a decision.

Chair Klein said they made a decision and there are reasons they do not want to take action. The community does not agree with the request and showed more concern for the tree over the stop sign. He did not think they could respond to every traffic accident or situation and he cannot accept taking this on if it is not a total fix.

Commissioner Woodruff stated all of these solutions are engineering solutions for a poorly engineered intersection; she suggested taking a different approach through education and enforcement as there are other ways to affect change.

Commissioner Johns agreed there does not need to be a sign added here because it would not help even if it is poorly placed. Since there is only one household desiring this request, he felt there was not a need to continue with this.

**MOTION #4: Cotter/Woodruff to table TSC 11-009A requesting a stop sign installation at Emma Lane and Creekside Lane until there are more complaints from the neighborhood. Motion carried (9Yes/0 No).**

Chair Klein requested staff to follow-up with the requestors of the stop sign.

#### **STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION**

##### A) Police Update

Mr. Chris Bolek, Police Captain, reported on the upcoming Drug Take Back event in October and gave updates on the computer crimes unit. He also spoke of coordinated efforts to complete a sweep of outstanding warrants or probation violations involving domestic violence. He also spoke of the honors Officer Chris Rasmussen has been and will be receiving regarding the officer involved shooting recently in Dundee.

Commissioner Cotter spoke of a request she received from the crossing guard at Mabel Rush Elementary school to increase patrols there because cars are speeding or not stopping when children are in the crosswalk; also cars are parking in front of the flagger there.

##### B) Engineering Update

Mr. Chiu gave updates from the engineering department on ongoing projects. He said he contacted the ODOT District 3 Manager who will be attending the November 14<sup>th</sup> work session to discuss the Newberg-Dundee Bypass Phase 1.

##### C) Items from Commissioners

Mayor Andrews spoke to commissioners about recruiting applicants for the various vacancies on city committees.

Commissioner Woodruff shared an article about the use of mimes to public scold drivers and pedestrians not following the rules of the road.

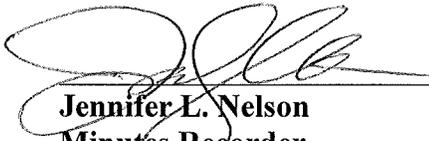
Commissioner Oravetz said he would like to have more information on the proposed Jack in the Box restaurant coming to 99W and Springbrook Road.

Commissioner Brandt spoke of plans for the December meeting at Izzy's Pizza.

**ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING**

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM until November 14, 2011.

**Approved** by the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2011.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jennifer L. Nelson**  
**Minutes Recorder**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Neal S. Klein**  
**Traffic Safety Commission Chair**