

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
Monday, June 11, 2012, 7:00 PM
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.”

A work session was held prior to the meeting. A presentation was given by former State Traffic Engineer Edward Fisher on bicycle and pedestrian programs and features. All members were present; no action was taken and no decisions were made.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Neal Klein called the meeting to order at 7:22 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Members

Present:	Neal Klein, Chair	Karl Birky	Doris Brandt	Dianna Cotter
	Shannon Eoff	Ron Johns	Kari Lawson	James Oravetz
	Lesley Woodruff	Hannah Kinney, Student Commissioner Mayor Bob Andrews, Ex-Officio		

Staff

Present:	Brian Casey, Police Chief	Mary Newell, Support Services Manager
	Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer	Jennifer Nelson, Deputy City Recorder

Others

Present: Councilor Ryan Howard

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Review and approve meeting minutes of April 9, 2012

MOTION #1: Brandt/Cotter to approve the Consent Calendar including the Traffic Safety Commission minutes for April 9, 2012, as presented. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No).

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. TSC-12-013 General Traffic Order - Temporary Street Closures for Farmers' Market

Mr. Brian Casey, Police Chief, presented the staff report (see official meeting packet for full report).

MOTION #2: Oravetz/Brandt to approve TSC-12-013 Temporary Street Closures for Farmers' Market and TSC-12-015 Temporary Street Closures for Tunes on Tuesday. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No).
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2. TSC-12-015 General Traffic Order - Temporary Street Closures for Tunes on Tuesday

This item was approved with TSC-12-013 and noted directly above.

3. Presentation on “Newberg Version of Complete Streets”

TIME – 7:26 PM

Commissioner Lesley Woodruff presented the report as planned to be given to the Planning Commission and City Council including a PowerPoint (see official meeting packet for full report). The topics outlined within the presentation are listed below:

- Definition of complete streets.
- Current streets in Newberg are inadequate.
- Benefits to communities.
 - Safety and ease; it’s not just traffic, or adding more bike lanes and signals, it changes how people work and live; better health; improve capacity; economic growth; lower emissions; reduce costs; smarter growth; and provides choices.
- Before and after pictures of Hwy 219 at Everest.
- Pictures of E. 2nd Street between Hwy 219 & Springbrook Road (bio-swailes).
- Pictures of Villa Road overpass and Springbrook Road south of Crestview Drive (problems in Newberg in need of improvement).
- Enhancing economic competitiveness, example pictures of Washington D.C.
- Complete street policies
 - To ensure right of way plans, change practices, and to integrate the needs of all road users everyday
 - Examples of Newberg’s complete street designs
 - Traffic circle at Springbrook Road and Crestview Drive
 - East 2nd between Hwy 219 and Springbrook Road
- Results seen in Seattle, WA
- National Complete Streets Coalition – Steering Committee and Partners
- Copyright & Use

Commissioner Woodruff gave credit to Commissioner Dianna Cotter for creating the slideshow.

Mayor Andrews suggested focusing on the concepts of public health and safety and what the ultimate results in that area are. He said this is not just about the bikes and pedestrians, but studies show when there are more people in an area there is less crime,. It’s more than just safety when walking on the street, it provides a safer community. He asked if they had any conversations with the Newberg Downtown Coalition (NDC) yet. Commissioner Woodruff stated they had not spoke with NDC yet, they are still planning the next phase of action. Mayor Andrews suggested speaking with NDC after the next steps for transportation plans, in the future with the Planning Commission, and also to consider speaking with other service clubs as well.

Chair Klein spoke about communicating this concept through a joint effort with the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) and the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Shannon Eoff added there was verbiage in Mr. Fischer’s presentation during the work session about safety and awareness in numbers they may wish to include.

Commissioner Karl Birky suggested using Corvallis, OR as a model for example rather than Seattle, WA because Newberg does not seem to like big city ideas as much as those from smaller and more relative cities.

Commissioner Klein asked how much buy-in or oversight the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has regarding 1st Street, Hancock Street, and Hwy 99W, which is where most of our commercial uses are. Mayor Andrews replied ODOT has very little buy-in and are more difficult to persuade as their interest lies in moving vehicles (other than the 1% concerning bicycles). Mayor Andrews mentioned ODOT did recently receive their Record of Decision regarding the Newberg-Dundee Bypass and there will ultimately be discussions regarding jurisdictional transfer; so there may be a possibility of Newberg being able to take back its downtown area sometime in the future; he suggested mentioning this to the NDC in terms of a vision as ODOT may not need to be directly involved.

Commissioner Birky stated he has worked with ODOT and does not believe they are as adverse to this as they may seem. He said Ed Fischer did a lot to promote bicycles and safety while he worked there. He suggested they may need to take an approach to start away from the highways, and when the bypass is done and a lot of the traffic has been removed from the thoroughfares downtown, we may just need to create bicycle paths through the downtown at that point.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Kari Lawson asked for an update on the Texaco gas station decision. Mr. Chiu replied the owner has decided to continue with business so they will implement the decision as soon as public works can place it into the schedule.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Police Update

Chief Casey reported the police department is gearing up for a busy summer Special Olympics, the Old Fashioned Festival, the Dundee Marathon, Tunes on Tuesday, and the Newberg Farmers' Market. There has been an increased police presence during First Friday ARTwalk because of issues with pedestrians being hit by bicyclists and other issues. He also spoke of the success of fundraising efforts for the canine programs and the Tip-a-Cop event held recently.

2. Engineering Update

Mr. Chiu reported planning and engineering applied for an ODOT grant for Villa Road sidewalks on the east side with bike lanes and a rest/bird watch area just before the railroad trestles; 20 million dollars is to be distributed statewide, but there is steep competition. The College Street and Sheridan Street area neighborhood studies with the consultant are coming up; a report will be presented later. Survey work still needs to be completed for the College Street area by the railroad crossings with sidewalk and pedestrian improvements; some right-of-way acquisition may be required for the new sidewalks later this summer.

3. Log of Decisions

Ms. Mary Newell, Police Support Services Manager, displayed the updated TSC Log of Decisions for review/corrections and none appeared. It is only required she provide the log, no decisions for approval needed.

4. Items from Commissioners

Mayor Andrews discussed the ceremonial groundbreaking for the bypass.

Commissioner Woodruff reported the bicycle and pedestrian route through Newberg has been completed along with way finding signs and spoke of the recent month long Walk/Bike Challenge.

Commissioner James Oravetz asked if police are citing bicyclists for not yielding to traffic control signals. Chief Casey replied they do cite and will continue to although they allow discretion and lenience because of studies that show it is actually sometimes safer for bicyclists to maintain control of their bikes while they are moving, rather than when they are at a complete stop.

Mayor Andrews noted there have been some bicycle touring groups riding around his neighborhood with no regard for any traffic control devices; he wondered if the police department had received any notifications of this. Chief Casey said they did get a heads up before some of the tours and they did more patrolling in some areas along the route, but it is too extensive to be everywhere.


Commissioner Eoff asked about plans to meet with the Planning Commission for the complete streets presentation. Commissioner Woodruff said plans were not definite and will be discussed with staff.

Chair Klein mentioned discussions with the city attorney to change the TSC elections of officers to November instead of January. He would like to open the discussion up for anyone interested in becoming the Chair or Vice-Chair or to consider the idea of a roving gavel, like the Mayor does at City Council meetings.

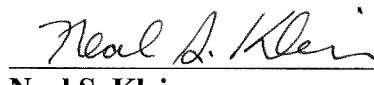
IX. ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM until July 9, 2012.

Approved by the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission this 9th day of July, 2012.



Jennifer L. Nelson
Deputy City Recorder



Neal S. Klein
Traffic Safety Commission Chair