

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Monday, March 12, 2012
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.”

An informational work session was held prior to the meeting. Updates were given by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Safety Division on street related projects and a PowerPoint called “Introduction to Complete Streets” by the National Complete Streets Coalition was presented. All Commissioners and the Mayor were present; no action was taken and no decisions were made.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Neal Klein called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

ROLL CALL

Members

Present:	Neal Klein, Chair	Lesley Woodruff, V. Chair	Doris Brandt	Karl Birky
	Dianna Cotter	Shannon Eoff	Ron Johns	Kari Lawson
	James Oravetz	Hannah Kinney, Student Commissioner		

Ex-Officio

Present: Mayor Bob Andrews

Staff

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Review and approve the Traffic Safety Commission minutes for February 13, 2012.

MOTION #1: Brandt/Oravetz to approve the Traffic Safety Commission minutes for February 13, 2012, as presented. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Task Force Project Report

TIME – 7:34 PM

Chair Klein stated this item came up during discussions about Hayes Street and access to the theater; he spoke with the city manager for an update and they are keeping this on the agenda as a reminder.

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, presented the staff report (see official meeting packet for full report). He said the task force was created to look at city projects and determine priority levels. He reviewed several items included within the table in his report, sharing which projects have been completed, what they were and what is to come.

Commissioner Lesley Woodruff asked about the time frame for the Transportation System Plan (TSP). Mr. Chiu replied this process has taken more than a year and the initial schedule received from consultant goes through December of 2013; barring any complications they should be coming to end and providing additional information at that time as well as updates in between. Commissioner Woodruff spoke of her excitement for the “complete streets” idea discussed during the work session and wondered if there would be any interest in pursuing this further to ensure all the new projects include those principals or even on older roads. She felt the TSP process would be where they could make this happen. She realized it is up to the engineers, but thought maybe a letter of recommendation could be written to the Planning Commission to implement something. Commissioners Dianna Cotter, Karl Birky, and Shannon Eoff all offered to form a subcommittee with Commissioner Woodruff as the chair to come up with the recommendations and present it to the TSC.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Chiu wished to discuss an item that was brought up at the last meeting, but was not on the agenda this evening, regarding TSC-12-003 Everest Road and the Texaco Gas Station. The motion was made to provide a painted white box on the road to prevent cars from blocking the driveway to the gas station and was passed by ODOT. Staff worked with ODOT to come up with a rendering of what the plan is and reviewed it with the commissioners. ODOT’s only concern is if there is a vehicle larger than a regular passenger vehicle it will render the box useless, but since the owner of the gas station stated they seldom see larger vehicles here it is not anticipated to be a big problem. Staff acknowledged ODOT’s concerns and spoke with the police department and decided to go ahead with the plan for install.

Chair Klein said he understood ODOT’s concerns but agreed there are not a lot of large traffic vehicles here and even if there is on the occasion, there is a higher danger with more occurrences of the two to three vehicles blocking the driveway. He said they may not be making the situation 100% better, but they are on the right path to eliminate the problem.

Commissioner Shannon Eoff spoke of this being a good example of something that should have been taken care of during the planning phase and they should not have been allowed in an area like this, kind of like the new Jack-in-the-Box with high traffic roads and poor access.

Commissioner Kari Lawson asked Police Chief Brian Casey if the owner of the gas station decided there was still an issue and asked for police enforcement would this action be enforceable and is the city willing to commit police officers to enforce this. Chief Casey replied he did not know if this was enforceable simply because by the time a call was received, the vehicle committing the infraction would already be gone before they could get a patrol car there; he doubted they will be committing resources to watch the area, but if an officer sees a violation he could pull the driver over and discuss the matter with them. He wished to speak with the city attorney about the legality of enforcement and said he would report back.

Commissioner Karl Birky said the owner was fully aware of the situation when he bought the place and if it does not work it can always be removed.

The commission agreed to move forward with the motion as it stands based on there being no objections.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police update

Police Chief Brian Casey reported on a new community response team program implemented about a month ago, the computer forensics team, and their domestic violence response team highlighting the purpose and benefits of each.

Commissioner Woodruff asked about changes in the driving under the influence of intoxicants (DUII) laws requiring warrants for DUII arrests. Chief Casey replied the Oregon Supreme Court overruled this in the appellate court so it is no longer required to get a warrant for an arrest. He spoke of Oregon in comparison to other states with certain State laws superseding federal laws, like using a wire.

B) Engineering update

Mr. Chiu gave updates on TSC-12-007 Meridian/3rd Street and TSC-12-008 Meridian/5th Street stop sign requests from Councilor Ryan Howard with staff having collected the data which will be processed in the first week of March for a presentation at the next meeting. He will have to reschedule a meeting with Commissioner Birky to this Friday to go over the consultant's response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the College Street and Sheridan Street intersection study.

C) Items from Commissioners

Commissioner James Oravetz pointed out two misnamed streets on the city maps they were given for staff to follow-up on and also spoke of an issue he noticed of cars using the bike lane on Portland Road next to Villa Road as a turning lane. He said bicyclists cannot use the bike lane and the cars are backing up way past Huckabee's BBQ restaurant.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM until April 9, 2012.

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



Jennifer L. Nelson
Deputy City Recorder



Neal S. Klein
Traffic Safety Commission Chair