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CITY OF AMARILLO

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL

ON this 15th day of September, 2010, the Amarillo Traffic Commission convened in regular session in the City Commission Chambers in the Municipal Building.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS	PRESENT TODAY	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED SINCE APPOINTMENT
Mr. Rob Ledwig	Yes	23	19
Mr. Rudy Mediavilla	No	23	10
Mr. Kenneth Graham	Yes	11	9
Mr. Bob Balliett	No	8	6
Mr. Wes Reeves	Yes	8	5
Mr. Leon Church	Yes	2	2
Ms. Ellen Robertson Green	Yes	2	2
Ms. D. J. Stubben	Yes	2	2

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Taylor Withrow	Traffic Engineer
George Gallegos	Traffic Operations Technician
Karen Watkins	Recording Secretary
Lt. Michael Miller	Amarillo Police Department

Commissioner Ledwig presided as chairman. He established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The following items of business were conducted:

ITEM 1. Invocation:

Commissioner Stubben gave the invocation.

ITEM 2. Election of Chairman:

Commissioner Church made a motion to nominate Commissioner Ledwig for Chairman of the Amarillo Traffic Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Graham, and motion carried 6:0.

ITEM 3. Approval of the minutes of the July 21, 2010, Meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2010, meeting of the Amarillo Traffic Commission was made by Commissioner Stubben and seconded by Commissioner Graham. Motion carried 6:0.

ITEM 4. Traffic Engineering Study: Two-Way Street, S.E. 17th Avenue between Bolton Street to Spring Street:

Mr. Withrow reported that the Traffic Engineering Department had received a request from Moona Urenda, 4108 S.E. 17th Avenue, to restore two-way traffic operation on S.E. 17th Avenue from Bolton Street to Spring Street. Ms. Urenda had stated that the one-way westbound restriction on S.E. 17th is too restrictive and many drivers disregard it.

He stated that traffic studies indicate a daily traffic volume of 190 vehicles per day, which is too low for the one-way street to be self-enforcing.

The streets around Benton Park were made one-way in January 1993 to reduce traffic problems around the park caused by drivers circling the park. The one-way restriction was placed initially as a way to eliminate "cruising." Since that time, Benton Park traffic problems have subsided.

On June 15, 2010, the Traffic Engineering Department sent a letter of inquiry to fifteen residents along S.E. 17th Avenue. The letter requested input from residents that would be affected by any change in traffic operation. The traffic staff received no replies to the letter, but recently was contacted by two residents who were in favor of restoring two-way traffic.

In March 1995, South Roberts Street on the east side of Alamo Park was returned to two-way operation at citizen request. The three other streets around the park remained one-way. Since that time, no complaints regarding the change have been made, and traffic movement at the park is unaffected.

The Traffic Engineering staff believes that two-way traffic operation to S.E. 17th Avenue will have little or no direct impact on traffic operations at Benton Park considering the low traffic volumes. The change to two-way operation will improve the daily lives of adjacent property owners by making vehicle ingress/egress simpler, less time consuming, and more fuel efficient.

The Traffic Engineering Department recommends that the Traffic Commission forward to the City Commission a recommendation to revise Section 16-3-1001 of the Amarillo

Municipal Code, Schedule A, One-Way Streets to eliminate the westbound one-way restriction of S.E. 17th Avenue between S. Bolton Street to Spring Street.

Lt. Michael Miller, Amarillo Police Department, stated that traffic problems had subsided around Benton Park in recent years, and with the one-way restriction remaining on Vernon Street, Lake Street, and S.E. 14th Avenue, "cruising" around the park would remain difficult. He did not have a problem with the two-way designation on S.E. 17th Avenue, but felt it should be open for reconsideration if traffic conditions warrant.

Commissioner Church made a motion to make such a recommendation to the City Commission with a review in one year. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Reeves, and motion carried 6:0.

ITEM 5. Miscellaneous Discussion:

Mr. Withrow stated that he expected the City Commission to approve the Hike and Bike Master Plan in the near future.

He reported property owners have petitioned the city to remove the four-way stop at Hayden Street and S.W. 32nd Avenue and replace it with a two-way stop. The City Commission will conduct a public hearing at 3:00 p.m. on October 19, 2010, to consider repeal or modification of the traffic control on South Hayden Street at S.W. 32nd and S.W. 33rd Avenues and Ong Street and S.W. 32nd Avenue.

Mr. Withrow reported that recent state legislation provides cities the option to enact and enforce banning use of cell phones in school zones, and he reported that he has received numerous requests to carry out the restriction. He stated it would be the City Commission's decision to consider the restriction. If approved by the City Commission, he stated signs would need to be posted in school zones to enable police enforcement.

Commissioner Robertson-Green stated she was in favor of the restriction and questioned if it could be included as a future agenda item for the Traffic Commission. Commissioner Reeves agreed that it should be a priority.

Commissioner Church expressed doubt that legislating safety would be effective, and he cited there are numerous other driver distractions.

Commissioner Graham stated that as president of the "Share the Road" organization, he and the organization are in favor of the restriction. He suggested city staff contact other cities in Texas who have implemented the restriction for input and statistical information.

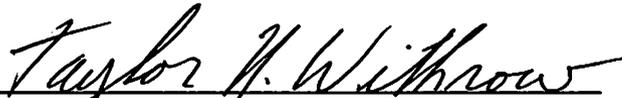
Lt. Michael Miller stated that school traffic safety is a priority for the Amarillo Police Department. He said they patrol the high volume schools as regularly as possible with their limited personnel.

Commissioner Graham stated that it is his understanding that the organization of a Bicycle/Pedestrian Sub-Committee had been approved by city staff and is in the planning stages.

Mr. Withrow reported that two hundred "Share the Road" signs had been ordered and will be installed.

Dean Downey, 2601 S.W. 26th Avenue, appeared and expressed his appreciation for the decals that were placed on bridge signs last year and for the purchase of the "Share the Road" signs. He also commended the City Commission, Mayor McCartt, the Amarillo Police Department, and other city officials for their support of motorcycle safety.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Taylor N. Withrow". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Taylor N. Withrow
Traffic Engineer