

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL

ON the 18th day of June, 2014, the Amarillo Traffic Commission met at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall on the third floor in Room 303 in the Conference Room for review of agenda items and consideration of future agenda items.

The Amarillo Traffic Commission met at 1:45 p.m. in regular session in the Council Chamber located on the third floor of City Hall at 509 S.E. 7th Avenue.

Traffic Commissioners present were D. J. Stubben, Dean Downey, Barbara Richardson, Craig Gualtiere, Walt Kelley, Mark Nair, and Frank Nelson. Steve Rogers and Charlie Graham were absent. Staff members present were Jerry Bird, Traffic Engineer, David Szmagalski, Traffic Operations Technician, Lt. Ken Albright, Amarillo Police Department, Bob Cowell, Assistant City Manager, and Judy Alexander, Recording Secretary.

The invocation was given by Mark Love, Central Church of Christ, and Commissioner Nair led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Nair established a quorum and called the meeting to order. The following items of business were conducted:

1. **Approval of the May 21, 2014, Minutes:**
Commissioner Kelley made a motion to exclude the last sentence of Item No. 4, **Consider a Process for Requesting Agenda Items for Future Meetings**, of the May 21, 2014, minutes and approve the minutes as amended. The sentence to be excluded is: **If the Traffic Commission has a consensus on the item, the item could be put on a future agenda.** Commissioner Stubben seconded the motion, and motion carried unanimously.
2. **Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility:**
Jerry Bird, Traffic Engineer, gave a Power Point presentation on an overview of the City of Amarillo Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities. The presentation outlined the current goals and objectives to facilitate bicycle and pedestrian mobility by the Traffic Engineering Department as specified in their scope and charge, the Planning Department as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 4 Mobility, and the Parks and Recreation Department as outlined in the Hike & Bike Master Plan. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Mr. Bird summarized some of the accomplishments that have been made to improve bicycle, pedestrian, and traffic safety since the Hike and Bike Trail Advisory Committee was organized in 2002 and the Hike and Bike Master Plan was adopted in December 2003 by the City Council.

Bob Cowell, Assistant City Manager, continued with the "Next Steps" portion of the presentation. He stated that the presentation would be given to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Park Commission in an effort to get all three groups to the same point of understanding. Each group could then examine their goals and

objectives unique to their charge. He stated that that he understands the City intends do more to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle mobility, predominately through establishing a network of specific corridors. He recommended focusing on the Rails to Trails Corridor since the City has already made a considerable investment in it. He stated the expansion of the Rails to Trails Corridor seems feasible since the corridor is already used for recreational and commuting purposes. He suggested a subcommittee be formed comprised of members of the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Park Commission, and the Traffic Commission to study the issue and work on a proposal to submit to the City Council.

Mr. Cowell suggested other short term projects such as an educational program could be studied as a possible recommendation. Discussion was held on if there are funds available in the city budget for mobility projects. Mr. Cowell stated he thought smaller, short-term projects would have a better chance of receiving funding. He said he would prepare a list of ideas for possible projects for distribution at a future meeting.

Commissioner Kelley made a motion to move forward on the current path on bicycle and pedestrian mobility issues with the ultimate goal of a recommendation to the City Council. Commissioner Stubben seconded the motion, and motion carried unanimously.

3. **Traffic Lane Width:**

Mr. Bird stated that when city streets are rebuilt or resurfaced present an opportunity to change the lane width striping. He stated an option would be to reduce the inside and through lanes slightly to provide for a wider outside lane, which would be more conducive to a shared lane with bicycles and vehicles. Commissioner Stubben asked if the lane changes would be used on arterial roadways. Mr. Bird said a decision would need to be made whether or not to include arterials with safety in mind. Mr. Bird suggested the risk versus benefits would need to be considered. He said there is no need for an immediate decision, but he said he wanted to present the lane width option.

Commissioner Kelley stated he would like to have more information before any action was taken on changing lane size. He requested that perhaps a draft policy including visual aids would be helpful. Mr. Bird said that he would provide more information at a future meeting.

4. **Public Forum:**

Commissioner Nair asked if anyone would care to speak on any traffic engineering issue. No one came forward to speak, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

~~Mark Nair, Chairman~~

~~CRAY GUALTIERE Vice Chairman~~