

Traffic Safety Committee Meeting October 17, 2019

Committee Members Present:

City Manager Calvin Burke, Chief of Police Dennis Mulanax, Public Grounds Director Brad Beer, Water Plant Director Jose Rosales, Deputy Fire Chief Skeety Poulton, Chief Building Inspector Albert Gallegos, Traffic Safety Technician Manuel Torres, and Stacy Johnson (USD 480).

The meeting was held at City Hall on October 17, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

1) School Zones-

- a. Removal and Relocation of School Zone Signs.

The City will start removing old school zone signs this winter with any necessary concrete work being handled by the Streets Department staff. Locations discussed were Western Avenue from 15th Street to Tucker Road, Western Avenue from 2nd Street to 8th Street and the Pine Street and Pershing intersection.

For the South Middle School crossing, a reduced speed limit could be an alternative since it will be for the Recreation Center and no longer for a school. Concerns with compliance with slower speed limits were raised. The usage of traffic counters to evaluate the location of heavy traffic was discussed, as well as potential times for high traffic.

The committee members agreed that the two school zone signs on Washington should be removed. These will be donated to the City of Kismet. Old school zone signs in the areas of the former Garfield and McDermott Elementary schools will also need to be taken down.

- b. School Zone Times.

Adjusting all school zone time cut-offs in the morning to 8:10 was agreed upon, as was the purchase of stickers to correct signage.

- c. Markings- Weather will dictate when street painting can resume.

2) 8th Street Intersection –

Flashers have come in and will be installed at the 8th Street intersection and the non-functional traffic lights will be taken down. Police Department is satisfied with the flow of traffic.

The incoming Casey's General Store entrances were discussed, as was the need for the four-way stop at 8th Street and Washington. There were concerns raised about how this would affect traffic and there was a general consensus that this may need to be re-evaluated after Casey's has opened.

3) General Striping-

The current plan is to determine which locations will need to be contracted out and which ones can be done in-house. Some locations will need to be done professionally, but can be maintained by the City. Per City Engineer Pete Earles, some locations would be too dangerous for the City to attempt because of heavy traffic. Traffic control would be necessary.

4) Other Discussion/Concerns-

- a. The Committee expressed their satisfaction with the ProSeal work versus traditional Chip and Seal.
- b. The possibility of a "Right Turn Only" sign at the exit of SWMC was discussed.
- c. Crosswalk at SCCC: The grant will have to be reapplied for and then approved. Various ways to reduce traffic speed for pedestrian safety were brought up.
- d. Money for "Safe Routes for Schools" is available.
- e. Staff is in process of changing out a large amount of signs.
- f. Street name signs will all be on green backgrounds with white lettering moving forward.
- g. There was a discussion of standards for ADA Compliance with signage.
- h. Concerns about faded signs have been voiced by the public.
- i. Requests for changes to Liberal High School entrances were discussed.
- j. Concerns regarding signage located at Pine and Clay in December when school is out were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at City Hall on Thursday, November 21st at 1:30 p.m.