



APPROVED MINUTES

City of Flagstaff TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

4:00 PM, Wednesday, May 7, 2014

City Council Chambers

211 W. Aspen Avenue

The following link will direct you to live streaming of this meeting.

<http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/index.aspx?NID=1461>

CALL TO ORDER 4:00 P.M.

COMMISSION MEMBERS, voting:

Bob Kuhn, Flagstaff Unified School District - Present

Jeff Meilbeck, NAIPTA, Vice-Chair - Present

Bob Mullen - Present

Kevin Parkes, Chair - Present

Gary Robbins - Present

Derik Spice – Absent

COMMISSION MEMBERS, non-voting:

Lt. Frank Higgins, Flagstaff Police Department

Jeff Bauman, Traffic Engineer

CITY STAFF:

Rita Severson, Recording Secretary

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time any member of the public may address the Commission on any subject within the Commission's jurisdiction that is not on this meeting's agenda. The Arizona Open Meeting Law prohibits the Commission from discussing or taking action on an item that is not listed on the prepared agenda. Commissioners may, however, respond to criticism made by those addressing the Commission, ask staff to review a matter, or ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda.

To address the Commission on an item that is on the agenda, please wait for the Chair to call for Public Comment at the time the item is heard.

No Public Comment

REORDER AGENDA

Agenda wasn't reordered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of February 5, 2014

Vice Chair Meilbeck made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 5, 2014, motion seconded by **Commissioner Kuhn**, all in favor, motion carried.

Special Meeting of March 26, 2014

Commissioner Mullen made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 26, 2014, motion seconded by **Commissioner Kuhn**, all in favor, motion carried.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. **City of Flagstaff – Franklin Avenue Traffic Calming**

The City was contacted from residents in the area of the Franklin and O'leary intersection in late 2013. The concerns stemmed from a particular high profile vehicle crash at the intersection of Franklin and O'leary and the resident's observation that the intersection had recently seen a dramatic increase in crashes.

Staff conducted speed, volume and crash analysis studies of Franklin Avenue and it's intersections between Lone Tree Road and San Francisco Street and found that speeds were moderate to acceptable on Franklin, but that the intersection of Franklin and O'leary had a crash rate roughly twice that of it's peer intersections.

Staff has now completed the analysis of Franklin Avenue and has developed several concepts that would reduce speeds on Franklin Avenue and improve the crash rate at the Franklin and O'leary intersection.

Staff Recommendation: Action Item – review the staff presentation and discuss the project's path forward and timeline.

Logan Couch the Transportation Intern presented this item to the Commission and Public. Couch informed the Commission that the City did make notice to the Southside Neighborhood that this meeting would address the traffic concerns on Franklin Avenue.

Area:

- Franklin Avenue which is North of NAU and West of Sawmill and runs East to West

Traffic Concerns:

- Intersection crash rates
- Traffic speed and volume

Analyses:

- Area studied, east and west bound Franklin including the intersections of Franklin and Verde, Franklin and Fontaine and Franklin and O'Leary.

Background:

- The volume on Franklin had increased due to the development of the Sawmill area off of Lone Tree and the increase in the NAU student population.
- Franklin and O'Leary's intersection has had an increased crash rate because of poor site visibility at the intersection, on the street parking, poor alignment of the intersection and an increase of bicyclist and pedestrian traffic.

Study Findings and proposed solutions:

Logan then gave the Commission an overview of the crash rate and traffic volumes for Franklin Ave from data from 2010 to 2012.

- When NAU is in session Franklin Avenue carries up to 5,000 vehicles per day.
- Crash rate at the intersection of Franklin Ave and O'Leary has been projected to be 1.77, which is double the acceptable crash rate at this intersection.
- Speed doesn't seem to be an issue here it's mostly because of the volume of vehicles.

Crash
Reduction
Factor

Solutions considered:

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. Installation of a mini roundabout at Franklin/O'Leary and Franklin/Verde. | 100% |
| • Would reduce the severe angle left turn type crashes. | |
| 2. All way stops at Franklin/O'Leary and Franklin/Verde. | 75% |
| • Is warranted by crash volume. | |
| • Could cause traffic congestion with the volume that flows through there. | |
| 3. Left turn restrictions enforcement with only signs. | 64% |
| • Very low compliance with turning restrictions enforced with signs. | |
| 4. Left turn restriction with enforcement using signs and a raised median. | 90% |

Cost Analysis of Traffic Control

1. The all way stops provide the best cost benefit and the most crash reduction.
 - Due to the traffic counts on O'Leary this option isn't recommended because of the congestion the four ways stop would cause.
2. It is recommended by staff to construct roundabouts to keep the traffic moving at a slower pace.

Public Was Asked To Comment

Tim Clark – Inquired of clarification of where the left turn restrictions would be. Mr. Clark would also like to see a quicker solution then waiting for the construction of the roundabouts, waiting for the roundabouts would still leave time for more crashes.

Charlie Odegaard – His family owned several rental properties in the area and after observation have determined the student traffic is the concern with their higher rate of speed. Mr. Odegaard was in favor of a cheaper solution the first year to see if it would have any affects on the traffic and crash situation.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mullen asked staff, what is the desired outcome for this area; to limit traffic on O'Leary or to make the intersection safer? Jeff Bauman said the results would

make the intersection safer because O'Leary is a larger collector road and designed to take more traffic, if they limited the traffic then the smaller residential roads would start to see heavier use and problems.

Commissioner Meilbeck stated that he feels the issue isn't to reduce the traffic but to insure safety, he also added that he supports the roundabout and wasn't in favor of a four way stop as the permanent fix.

Chair Parkes was interested in trying the four way stop and to see what the outcome would be. The Chair did ask staff about the funding for the roundabouts and if there is a timing issue with the funding. Jeff Bauman told the Commission that the funding would still be there next year and would roll with the fiscal years if needed.

Commissioner Kuhn also stated he would support the roundabout but also wanted to be clear about the surrounding developments in the area and the additional traffic they may cause. Would this roundabout only fix the problem on a temporary basis and three years down the road there would be another issue to fix or maybe the warranting of a stop light. Jeff Bauman told the Commission that it would be a long time out before having to revisit this area because of the increased traffic volume and yes the Sawmill development was taken into consideration with this current study.

Vice Chair Meilbeck made a motion to approve the roundabout at O'Leary and Franklin. **Commissioner Robbins** amended the motion to approve the roundabout at O'Leary and Franklin and as a temporary solution until the roundabout is constructed to install a four way stop at the intersection. Motion was seconded by **Commissioner Mullen**.

Discussion on Motion

Commissioner Kuhn brought up the concern of the hill at the intersection with a four way stop and the weather elements in the winter. Jeff Bauman told the Commission that the westbound is the worst lane of the intersection and because of the hill and weather a four way stop wasn't recommended by staff.

Vice Chair Meilbeck suggested that instead of amending the motion he would like to take each of these items separate for a vote, first to approve the mini round about at Franklin & O'Leary and another motion on a temporary solution. The Commission was in support of this approach.

Vice Chair Meilbeck made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to construct a roundabout at O'Leary and Franklin intersection. Motion seconded by **Commissioner Kuhn**, all in favor, motion carried.

After the motion Jeff Bauman told the Commission that the actual staff recommendation was to install two mini roundabouts one at Franklin & O'Leary the other at Franklin & Verde.

Commissioner Robbins made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to construct a roundabout at Verde and Franklin intersection. Motion seconded by **Commissioner Kuhn**.

Discussion on Motion

Commissioner Mullen inquired from staff the purpose of installing two mini roundabouts on Franklin. Logan Couch told the Commission by installing this second mini roundabout it would ensure more safety in an area heavily used by pedestrian and cyclists. This roundabout would add to the safety by slowing the traffic, and then Franklin would have two roundabouts and a stop sign at San Francisco.

Commissioner Mullen asked to hear from the public on this suggestion of an additional mini roundabout. Tim Clark approached the Commission and informed them that he was in favor of the additional roundabout but all the solutions discussed this evening didn't directly address the heavy traffic north and south on O'Leary. He also added that waiting a year for the construction of the roundabout is much too long to wait and another temporary traffic calming should be implemented.

Logan Couch told the Commission that there is a variety of temporary traffic calming solutions that could be applied during the interim.

1. Do not enter signs on O'Leary which would stop traffic from Franklin from entering O'Leary.
2. Other types of signage with turn restrictions and the use of barrels or candlesticks.

After discussion on the motion the Commission all voted in favor of the recommendation from staff to construct a mini roundabout at Verde and Franklin. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Mullens made a motion to advise staff to implement temporary traffic calming for Franklin & O'Leary.

No second on the motion.

Commissioner Robbins made a motion to direct staff to apply appropriate traffic calming in the intersection of Franklin & O'Leary until the build outs of the two mini roundabouts.

Vice Chair Meilbeck told the Commission that he wouldn't support any direction to staff at this time because staff does have the discretion to implement traffic calming without the Commission direction. **Commissioner Robbins** asked staff if that was the case and a motion or direction from the Commission wasn't needed. Jeff Bauman

informed the Commission that yes staff is able to implement traffic calming without direction from the Commission. **Commissioner Robbins** then withdrew his motion.

III. OLD BUSINESS – None

None

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Reports

1. Report from the Bicycle Advisory Committee:

<http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/index.aspx?nid=1822>

Martin Ince the City's Liaison told the Commission that at this time this Committee is looking at additional bicycle parking and bike ways planning.

2. Report from the Pedestrian Advisory Committee:

<http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/index.aspx?nid=1824>

Martin Ince the City's Liaison told the Commission that at this time this Committee is also looking at a sidewalk plan and how to add more in the future. This Committee will then consider crossings and streetscapes in the future too.

3. Status of Transportation Engineering Program Projects

- General update presentation on several projects and work orders performed by Transportation Engineering Staff

Jeff Bauman updated the Commission:

1. The three mini circles to be installed in the Plaza Vieja neighborhood are under construction with a completion at the end of May. These will be left dirt topped with the city and neighborhood completing the landscaping.
2. Fourth Street pedestrian crossing – Council had a discussion on this and has directed staff to look at possibly adding two to four additional pedestrian crossings to North Fourth Street. This study should be completed this summer. Council also directed staff to consider realignments of two intersections one being 7th and 6th and the other intersection would be Fourth/Cedar & Lockett. Council also seen the need to have the sidewalks filled in where missing on Fourth Street and the desire to see some beautification.

B. Informational Items to/from Commissioners and Staff

1. Commissioner discussion

Chair Parkes shared his experience from attending the NAU's engineering programs presentations; he found it to be very interesting and encouraged all the Commissioners to attend next year.

Chair Parkes also told everyone that the ideas of roundabouts are so new to Flagstaff he would suggest that a drive through Chino Valley or Oak Creek Village would be a good way to experience a roundabout and how it keeps the traffic flowing.

Vice Chair Meilbeck asked to have an agenda item in the future that would address the Commission's roles and responsibilities.

Commissioner Robbins would like to add an agenda item to discuss the Bow & Arrow neighborhood stop signs and the history there.

Chair Parkes told the Commission and staff that he was very encouraged to hear that Council is back in discussing the distracted driver issues in light of what the County is now enforcing. **Commissioner Mullens** added that what studies have shown is the distraction comes from all devices hands on or not and he wanted the Commission to be aware of that. **Commissioner Kuhn** added that there is still some work to do with this the way the County's is worded it will also restrict the school buses drivers from using their radios which is also a safety risk.

C. Next Meeting

1. **Regular Meeting: August 6, 2014**

Tentative Agenda Items:

1. Transportation Tax and Capital Program Updates
2. Franklin Avenue Traffic Calming Project
3. Commission Roles & Responsibility Overview
4. Bow & Arrow History
5. Temporary Traffic Calming on Franklin
6. ADOT/McConnell Dr Road Safety Update

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kuhn made a motion to adjourn at 5:45 P.M. Motion seconded by **Commissioner Robbins**.