

Public Safety & Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes, 6/18/10

Present: Ron Adam, Daryn Hamilton, Michael Halley, Ray Mottet, Jerry Long, Darrel Bisgard

Points of discussion

Mottet explained the work he had done as the former PS&T Committee chairman to move the handicap parking spot in front of the post office. It was agreed that it makes sense to move it to the western-most spot so that people in wheel chairs have quick access to the ramp entrance on the west side of the building.

Adam reported that Connie from Connie's Hair Salon had requested that the handicap parking spot on the north side of Broadway be re-located from its current location at the east end of the block to a space in front of her business. Because the existing handicap spot on that street is an extra-large van-accessible size it would require re-sizing all of the parking spots on the street in order to move it (repainting each line would be costly). It's also very close to a sidewalk ramp in its current location. The committee decided not to recommend moving the spot at this time.

Bisgard raised the issue of the lack of pedestrian crossings at the railroad crossings. His past efforts to work with BNSF to have crossings installed have been met with verbal assurances but no action (Burlington Northern Railway is responsible for repair and upkeep of the railroad crossings). The committee decided to have our new City Administrator Jeff Clawson work with BNSF to get the pedestrian crossings installed and to work with the Trails Council on a ped-crossing at 23rd St.

Long presented a proposed amended budget for the \$3.5 million 2010-2011 street repair project. Because some project bids came in under budget more funds have become available to do more work. Long split the remaining funds between several street reconstruction projects based on priority of needed repairs. The committee will recommend that the council accept Long's amended budget. Long proposed that the city allocate \$4,400 to install a street return at the north intersection of 10th St. and Burlington Ave. This will help maintain the new paving on Burlington by diverting water away from the road. After some discussion the committee decided to recommend this project to the full council.

Halley shared SRF's consultant Andy Mielke's preliminary recommendations for safety upgrades to our railroad crossings for establishing a quiet zone. The committee, Long, and Bisgard gave initial approval of the proposed upgrades, which included closing the 3rd St. crossing and installing medians to all other crossings except 9th St. (which would be left untreated to accommodate large agricultural equipment and other wide loads too tall to use the 2nd St. underpass). Adam wants Halley to hold public meetings in the library - including a PowerPoint presentation explaining what a Quiet Zone is and showing the proposed upgrades for Fairfield - before the full council votes on accepting SRF's final report. Long will complete (pro bono) an updated project budget based on the approved recommendations.

Bisgard recommended removing the "No right turn on red" sign for traffic on 12th St. turning right onto Burlington. That crossing has a high volume of pedestrian traffic and there have been two past accidents in which a pedestrian was struck by a vehicle turning right onto Burlington. The completion of the new Hy-Vee store will likely increase pedestrian traffic at that intersection, so the committee decided to wait until the store is complete to reassess the situation.

South Gate condo's requested that the speed limit on South Main/Hwy 1 be reduced on the stretch of road running past their subdivision. Traffic volume and speed studies have been done on that road but the data isn't available yet. The committee will review the traffic study data before making a recommendation.

Adam addressed the idea of creating a right turn lane at the intersection of Burlington and 2nd Streets for traffic traveling north on Hwy 1. It would help move traffic and prevent back-ups of traffic traveling west on Burlington. Hamilton also suggested changing the stop light programming to give priority to Hwy 1 traffic now that Burlington Ave is no longer a state highway. Long and Bisgard will work on shifting the priority of the traffic lights to see how much that helps resolve this issue before exploring the right turn lane option.

Recommendations/Actions

- Committee will recommend that the council approve moving the handicap parking spot in front of the post office to the western-most parking space.
- Committee will recommend that the council accept Jerry Long's amended budget for the 2010-2011 Street Repair Project.
- Committee will recommend that the council allocate \$4,400 to install a street return at 10th and Burlington.

Signature of Chairperson _____