

City of Lawrence
Traffic Safety Commission Agenda
July 1, 2013-7:00 PM
City Commission Room, City Hall

MEMBERS: Dan Harden, Chair; Edwin Rothrock, Vice-Chair; Stuart Boley; Ryan Devlin; Cody Howard; Tracy Russell; Chris Storm; and John Ziegelmeier Jr.

Anyone who wishes to be notified when an item will be heard by the City Commission must provide their name and a telephone number or an e-mail address.

ITEM NO. 1: Review and approve the minutes of the Traffic Safety Commission meeting, May 6, 2013.

ITEM NO. 2: Consider request to establish a CROSSWALK and PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON on Bob Billings Parkway at DeVictor Park.

Staff Report:

1. Bob Billings Parkway is classified as an "arterial" street, paved four (4) lanes wide with bike lanes (approximately 59 feet) and a posted speed limit of 40mph.
2. Traffic data collected April 24-25, 2013, found approximately 5225 vehicles in a 24-hour period with an 85th percentile speed of approximately 53 mph. In addition, an interchange with K-10 will be let in 2014 with opening currently scheduled for late 2015 or early 2016.
3. Based upon this data, a pedestrian crossing the street would have to see a vehicle approaching from 1555 feet in order to completely cross the street without conflicting with traffic.

4. A comprehensive study of approximately 2000 crosswalks nationwide found that under existing traffic conditions, if a crosswalk was marked at this location, where no pedestrian refuge area is available in the center of the street, there is a 32% reduction in the crash rate for a marked crosswalk compared to an unmarked crosswalk; however, when the traffic volume on Bob Billings Parkway increases to greater than 12,000, the crash rate for a marked crosswalk is four (4) times higher than for an unmarked crosswalk.
5. Therefore, if a pedestrian crossing is provided, it is recommended that a pedestrian hybrid beacon also be provided.

ITEM NO. 3: Consider request to establish RESERVED PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES in front of 3924-3926 Overland Drive.

Staff Report:

1. City policy has been to establish RESERVED PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES spaces outside the Central Business District upon request by the adjacent resident.

ITEM NO. 4: Public comment.

ITEM NO. 5: Commission Items.

ITEM NO. 6: Miscellaneous.

City of Lawrence
Traffic Safety Commission
July 1, 2013 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Harden, Chair; Stuart Boley; Ryan Devlin; Cody Howard; Tracy Russell; Chris Storm and John Ziegelmeier, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Edwin Rothrock, Vice-Chair

STAFF PRESENT: David Woosley, Public Works Department

PUBLIC PRESENT: Betty Alderson; Jerry Harper

Chair Dan Harden called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street.

ITEM NO. 1:

Review and approve the minutes of the Traffic Safety Commission meeting, May 6, 2013.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BOLEY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING, MAY 6, 2013; THE MOTION CARRIED, 4-0-3.

ITEM NO. 2:

Consider request to establish a CROSSWALK and PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON on Bob Billings Parkway at DeVictor Park.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

Jerry Harper, 1516 Fountain Drive: I live in an area called The Villas that consists of 65 homes occupied primarily by people who are approaching, at, or beyond retirement age; although I'm a licensed attorney, I'm not retained to do this, I'm not being compensated, I'm doing this because I happen to live out there; I do speak on be-half of my neighbors; we seek your help in helping us to be able to cross Bob Billings Parkway safely and use what is really a wonderful

nature trail in DeVictor Park; it truly is like going for a walk in the country without leaving the city limits; some of us use it now, many more would use it, but for the difficulty in crossing the street as it exists now; it is no small challenge to cross Bob Billings Parkway; the nearest traffic signal is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile away at Bob Billings & Wakarusa; I've learned a couple of new terms, Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon and HAWK (High Intensity Activated Crosswalk); one of the reasons I like these is that there has been a Federal Highway Administration Study that shows that installing these type of lights for crosswalks reduced pedestrian crashes by 69%; the staff report points-out that the speed limit is 40mph and another study I ran across says that if you are a pedestrian and you get hit by a car going 40mph, you have an 85% chance of dying; the staff study also noted that the speed at the 85th percentile is 53mph; I think if there is a crosswalk with signals, it will draw people to that point instead of crossing everywhere as they do now; what concerns me the most is that when the Trafficway interchange opens, estimated traffic is as high as 28,000 cars a day, so there is going to be a huge traffic increase; the required sight lines for a pedestrian do not exist today, you just can't get across the street without running a real chance of getting hit; that makes it crystal clear that if we're going to use that park, we've got to have some way to get across that street; in addition, it is difficult for cars to see the entrance to the park; the University of North Carolina study also pointed-out that pedestrians age 65 or older are more likely to be involved in a pedestrian crash than other age groups; slower walking speeds, the eyes are as good, the hearing isn't as good, etc.; the study also notes that in most cases, marked crosswalks are best used in combination with other treatments, such as a beacon, or a HAWK or a crossing island in the middle; the report also states that "Pedestrians are legitimate users of the transportation system and they should, therefore, be able to use the system safely and without unreasonable delay. Pedestrians have a right to cross roads safely and planners and engineers have a professional responsibility to plan, design and install safe and convenient crossing facilities"; it makes sense to put a crosswalk in with signals of some kind so pedestrians can cross and use DeVictor Park; it almost seems to me without doing that, especially with the opening of the Trafficway, this park, instead of being a park, becomes an attractive nuisance; that is why we are requesting a crosswalk and a beacon or whatever it takes to make it safe to cross there.

Betty Alderson, 1400 Lilac Lane: I have friends that live on both sides of Bob Billings Parkway; there certainly needs to be some way for pedestrians to get across the street.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Devlin asked if there was any data on the pedestrian traffic in the area; Woosley advised that there was not.

Commissioner Russell: I live out in that area and I was glad to see this request; there is a problem for pedestrians getting across Bob Billings; I know it is used

by residents on the north and the south side; I would want to make sure that a signal was timed properly for pedestrians to safely cross.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER STORM, TO RECOMMEND ESTABLISHING A CROSSWALK AND PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON ON BOB BILLINGS PARKWAY AT DEVICTOR PARK; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

ITEM NO. 3:

Consider request to establish RESERVED PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES in front of 3924-3926 Overland Drive.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

None.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer asked if there was room for two (2) cars between the driveways; Woosley advised that there was probably only room for one (1) at a time.

Commissioner Russell: I know Mr. Curtis through my profession and I know that he is bound to a wheelchair now and it would probably assist him; I believe now he is strictly using the "T" for transportation and he also has a caretaker that works overnight for him; so I know this would probably assist him in getting cars in-and-out.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BOLEY, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, TO RECOMMEND ESTABLISHING RESERVED PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN FRONT OF 3924-3926 OVERLAND DRIVE; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

ITEM NO. 4:

Public Comment:

None.

ITEM NO. 5:

Commission Items:

None.

ITEM NO. 6:

Miscellaneous:

Election of Officers for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HARDEN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, TO ELECT EDWIN ROTHROCK CHAIR OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2013 TO 30 JUNE 2014; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HARDEN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BOLEY, TO ELECT JOHN ZIEGELMEYER, JR. VICE-CHAIR OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2013 TO 30 JUNE 2014; THE MOTION CARRIED, 6-0-1.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Monday, August 5, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Woosley

David E. Woosley, P.E.
Transportation/Traffic Engineer