

Arkansas City Traffic Safety Committee
10/9/20 Minutes

A regular meeting was held Friday, October 9, 2020, at USD 470's Avery Learning Center. The meeting was called to order at **10 a.m.**

Roll Call:	<u>CITY STAFF MEMBERS</u>		<u>COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES</u>
	City Manager	Randy Frazer* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City Commission
	Fire-EMS Department	Les Parks <input type="checkbox"/>	Chamber of Commerce
	Management Assistant	Mike Crandall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cowley College
	Police Department	Eric Burr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Equal Opportunity Board
	Principal Planner	Josh White* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planning Commission
	Public Information Officer	Andrew Lawson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School Board / Chamber
	Public Services Department	Tony Tapia <input type="checkbox"/>	USD 470 Public Schools
			Karen Welch* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Kelly Dillner* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Matt Stone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Frances "Rags" Smith <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Andy Paton <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Jon Oak <input type="checkbox"/>
			Will Pfannenstiel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Others in attendance included Harrison Taylor, Landon West, USD 470 Public Relations Director Alisha Call, USD 470 Tech Coordinator Dac Call, USD 470 Administrative Assistant Traci Trent, Principal Lisa Holland* (Ark City Christian Academy), Principal Jeremy Truelove (Ark City High School), Principal Braden Smith (Ark City Middle School), Principal Amy Hutto* (C-4 Elementary School) and Principal Robert Onelio (Jefferson Elementary School). *Several attendees participated via GoToMeeting.*

1. Approve July Meeting Minutes:

Andy made a motion to approve the minutes of the **July 10, 2020**, regular meeting. Andrew seconded the motion, which was approved **10-0** on a voice vote. (NOTE: Matt Stone joined the meeting in progress at **10:25 a.m.**)

Will asked about the role of the attendees. Andrew and Mike clarified how the Committee is composed and how it functions.

2. ACPD Quarterly Traffic Safety Report:

Eric said there was a 10-percent decrease in non-injury accidents in the third quarter of 2020, still somewhat attributable to the ongoing novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, but there was a 28.5-percent increase in injury accidents. He said we are likely seeing the results of less or no enforcement during the Municipal Court shutdown period early in the pandemic.

There were 23 non-injury accidents and eight injury accidents just in September, the highest month of the year in both categories. Inattentive driving was the most common cause. With continued enforcement, Eric expects to see a decrease in accidents in the fourth quarter. In the meantime, DUI enforcement has already increased by 24 percent in the third quarter.

He noted that the "hot spot" has migrated back north to its usual location on North Summit Street, between Kansas Avenue and Radio Lane, from an area centered on the intersection of Madison Avenue and South Summit Street, south of downtown.

3. 15th Street / Radio Lane Intersection:

Virginia Schweitzer, 2103 N. 15th St., had requested a barrier on the west side of North 15th Street at the intersection with West Radio Lane. A new "T-intersection ahead" sign was erected on westbound Radio Lane to alert drivers of the dead end.

There was no further discussion. Schweitzer has not offered any feedback. No further City actions are scheduled at this time.

4. C Street Canal Bridge Project:

Mike said the project is completely done. The new sidewalks, fences and wing walls are a huge improvement, Braden said.

5. Four-Way Stops on Numbered Streets:

Andrew displayed a map that shows functional classifications of streets according to traffic volume, ranging from principal and minor arterials down to major and minor collectors, with local streets bearing the lowest level of traffic. Eighth and Second Streets are major collectors, Maple Avenue is a minor collector, and all the other streets in question are local streets.

In general, he said, streets with lower classifications will stop at or yield to higher-class streets, unless data dictate otherwise.

Harrison Taylor, 525 N. Fourth St., expressed his concerns about traffic and speeding on Fourth Street and other side roads.

Taylor said he is interested in creating more livable, walkable, safe and aesthetically pleasing neighborhoods in Ark City.

Eric presented several crash and heat maps for Taylor's neighborhood, which is bounded by Kansas Avenue to the north, Summit Street to the east, Spruce Avenue to the south and Eighth Street to the west. Most accidents are on Eighth Street, but Eric noted a "warming trend" on Fourth and Fifth streets, south of Birch Avenue, that may need to be looked at more closely.

Taylor said there is a lot of through traffic on Fourth Street, much of which he contended is speeding, and he attributed this in part to the new stop signs that the Traffic Safety Committee recommended on various side streets several years ago. Eric said the data from the speed sign was collected for eight hours in the 500 block of North Fourth Street. It shows most northbound speeds were at 31 mph or less, with only 15 instances faster than 31 mph. The speeding percentage was just 13.58 percent.

Eric said ACPD will continue to monitor the area and gather data. Taylor said he blames discourteous citizens, not the police.

Andrew mentioned the need for pedestrian improvements along the Central Trail, including new stop signs and crosswalks.

6. Goff Industrial Park Parking:

Andrew asked Josh if there are any updates on the new Creekstone parking lots. He hadn't heard anything new, but they are still working on those projects. ACPD hasn't received any new parking complaints, so the new signs might be working.

7. Paris Park Plaza Proposal:

Andrew said the City Commission indefinitely tabled Deb Davidson's Paris Park plaza proposal, which would have involved vacating the streets west and north of Paris Park. A consultant is being hired to evaluate the future of the Paris Park Pool.

The Hike-Bike Trail (Phase 2) Extension Project will be designed with a Fifth Avenue crossing that could be removed later.

8. Radio Lane Crosswalk and School Zone Extension:

Mike said ACPD had concerns about lengthening the school zone, but Eric hadn't been briefed. USD 470 officials said they have no concerns at this time. No action will be taken in 2020, but USD 470 is still working on the ACHS south sidewalk.

9. Radio Lane Street Light (200 Block East):

Joe Kendrick, 230 E. Radio Lane, requested a new street light in the middle of his extended block, between A and C streets.

Mike said it would have to be at his cost because Evergy does not have a pole, transformer or wires anywhere in that area for it to connect onto. The cost would be between **\$6,000** and **\$10,000**. There was no interest in pursuing this new street light.

10. Lord Road Speed Limit Sign/Potholes:

Mike said the new speed limit sign was installed. There have been no further complaints about speeding. Andy agreed the new pothole complaint is valid. Mike will forward this complaint to Tony's department for repair work to be scheduled.

11. North Summit Street Resurfacing Project:

Andrew updated the Committee on the proposed project. The City has submitted for Cost Share funding and currently is working on a Community Development Block Grant application to fund the nearly **\$1 million** resurfacing project. It would include new concrete intersection approaches and filling in all of the existing gaps in the east-side sidewalk by early 2022.

12. Stop Sign at A Street and Stanley Drive:

Thomas Carver, 1705 North A St., requested this after filming a T-bone collision at the uncontrolled intersection. Eric said there were two recent accidents in that area. He said the police will need to collect more data in the areas of all of the schools.

The Committee discussed possible future crosswalk and sidewalk improvements as part of the new Brad Meek water lines.

13. Truck Route Signage:

Mike showed pictures of the new "Thru Truck Route" signs that the Public Services Department created. Eric said it will help.

14. Transportation Master Plan RFP:

In addition the problem areas discussed previously (Eighth Street and Radio Lane; A Street and Stanley Drive), Andrew said this plan needs to help the City develop a comprehensive strategy for fixing and replacing sidewalks, including funding ideas.

The consultant has to be hired by **December 15**. Andrew said there may need to be a special Committee meeting to help out.

15. Other Miscellaneous Items:

Mike gave an overview of street sign replacements by the Public Services Department in the third quarter of 2020. A total of **55** signs were repaired or replaced by the Street and Stormwater Division during this time frame, including **20** stop signs, **34** street signs and a "School Crossing Ahead" sign. Andrew showed pictures of the old signs, refurbishments and new installs.

Mike gave an overview of the City Connecting Links Improvement Program (CCLIP), which will be used to resurface South Summit Street in **October** and **November**. The City also was awarded a new CCLIP grant for next year on West Madison.

Andrew said RISE Cowley can bring another **\$400,000** into Cowley County over the next four years through **Phase 2** of the Pathways to a Healthy Kansas grant program. The first six months are all planning. There will be a lot of policy work after.

The City purchased and will receive 22 new LED lighting poles for Poplar Walking Trail. Installation will occur this winter.

Andrew provided an overview of the final proposed Central Trail (Phase 1) project and its two sub-phases. The final Transportation Alternatives grant application is due in **November** and he is working to finalize the application packet now.

Amy and Kelly left the meeting in progress around **11 a.m.**

Andy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Will seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was approved **10-0** on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at **11:31 a.m.** The next meeting of the Traffic Safety Committee will be at **10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8, 2021.**