

**Arkansas City Traffic Safety Committee**  
1/10/20 Minutes

A regular meeting was held Friday, January 10, 2020, in the City Manager’s Office at City Hall. Meeting called to order at 10 a.m.

Roll Call:	<b><u>CITY STAFF MEMBERS</u></b>		<b><u>COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES</u></b>			
	<b>City Manager</b>	Nick Hernandez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>City Commission</b>	Karen Welch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Fire-EMS Department</b>	Bobby Wolfe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Chamber of Commerce</b>	Mark Chickadonz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Management Assistant</b>	Mike Crandall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Cowley College</b>	Matt Stone	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Police Department</b>	Dan Ward	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Planning Commission</b>	Andy Paton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Principal Planner</b>	Josh White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>School Board / Chamber</b>	Jon Oak	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Public Services Dept.</b>	Tony Tapia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>USD 470 Public Schools</b>	Jeri Crumbliss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*Others attending included Public Information Officer **Andrew Lawson**, USD 470 Director of Business and Operations **Will Pfannenstiel**, Principal **Jeremy Truelove** (Arkansas City High School), and Principal **Braden Smith** (Arkansas City Middle School).*

**1. Approve October Meeting Minutes:**

Karen made a motion to approve the minutes of the **October 11, 2019**, regular meeting. Andy seconded the motion, which was approved **10-0** on a voice vote.

**2. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Kansas Avenue Guardrail:**

Tony said the guardrail had been installed on the south side of the intersection as instructed. There was no further discussion.

**3. C Street Canal Bridge Guardrails:**

Tony said he presented Nick with a cost estimate of **\$30,000** for this work. There were no plans for the City to proceed at this time. Jeri and Will said the cost to replace the ACMS pedestrian bridge will be anywhere from **\$70,000 to \$100,000**.

Nick said the bridge guardrail bid could be presented to the City Commission on **January 21** for possible approval.

**4. Cost Share (Round 2) and North Summit Street:**

Mike recapped where things stood after the City Commission voted 3-2 not to make an application for the Round 1 deadline.

Mike said Round 2 originally was going to be announced in March, but that has been pushed back until April with a deadline sometime in mid-May. About \$10 million remains in the Cost Share fund for 2019-2020. Nick said that isn’t much money.

Nick said the plans developed by TranSystems can be maintained for future use. Further discussion was tabled until April.

**5. Kansas Avenue “Road Diet”:**

Mike floated the idea of converting Kansas Avenue to three lanes as a “test run” before looking at that option for North Summit Street. Nick said this can be done the next time the road surface is scheduled for a mill and overlay in a few years.

**6. Radio Lane School Zone:**

Andrew said the Traffic Safety Committee’s recommendations from October, in response to former Commissioner Jim Sybrant’s requests, were on a City Commission agenda, but were tabled. As a result, this particular item did not advance.

The Committee decided to wait until summer to make this change between school years. Nick said flashing stop signs can be added at the intersection of Eighth Street and Radio Lane. The crosswalk dead-ends around 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> Streets, and this needs to be addressed, according to Nick. The City also needs to look at the crossing area between the baseball fields and ACHS.

**7. Skyline and Eighth Street Parking:**

Tony said the “no parking” signs have not been placed yet. Nick said Creekstone is finalizing plans for a permanent truck parking lot to the west of Eighth Street, north of Goff Industrial Park Road. Box truck parking also will be added to the east.

The Committee discussed waiting on the signs until the lots are completed. Utility locates could be called in, in the meantime, and both Chief Ward and Chief Wolfe urged Nick to consider proceeding with installing the “no parking” signs anyway.

#### **8. West Taylor Avenue Safety:**

Mike said citizens have raised concerns about pedestrian safety along West Taylor Avenue, between South Sixth Street and Veterans Memorial Lake, due to the increased traffic to and from the lake and Lake View Estates. The road surface also is in pretty poor condition. One citizen requested posting a speed limit sign and adding speed bumps to slow traffic there.

Nick said the solution is probably to repair the road surface and allow a safe pedestrian area. Tony’s crews also will work to clear the trees to the north of the road. Dan suggested a “slow for pedestrians” sign and lowering the speed limit to **15 mph**.

Karen made a motion to approve the above measures. Andy seconded the motion, which was approved **10-0** on a voice vote.

#### **9. Other Miscellaneous Items:**

Mike gave an overview of street sign replacements by the Public Services Department in the last quarter of 2019.

A total of 61 signs were repaired or replaced by the Street and Stormwater Division during this time frame. Tony said sign replacements occurred mainly on Eighth Street from Chestnut to Maple avenues, including some stop signs. Two “no parking” signs were moved at the northeast corner of Roosevelt Elementary School and a stop sign pole was replaced.

Andrew said he is still working on an application for RISE Cowley funds for a transportation master plan process in 2020-21.

Will gave an update on the grant application process for improved lighting at the ACMS track through the Pathways grant.

Dan gave a year-end traffic safety report for 2019. Unfortunately, there was an uptick in non-injury accidents for the last two quarters of the year, which he attributed to lower staffing due to turnover and ongoing training of new officers. The numbers at the end of 2019 were nearly back to end-of-2018 levels. Also disappointing was a consistent rise of injury accidents through 2019, with around 20 logged in the fourth quarter. The fourth quarter in 2018 saw a large decrease in injury wrecks.

Nick left the meeting in progress. Dan also shared the “crash hot spots” map. There were 39 accidents on Summit Street from Kansas Avenue to Radio Lane, predominantly between the hours of **11 a.m. and 6 p.m.**, 10 of which were injury accidents.

Ten of the accidents occurred at intersections, while 29 were side-swipe, rear-end or angle impacts. Despite 70 percent of ACPD’s enforcement efforts being concentrated here, 21% of all injury and 14% of all non-injury accidents occurred here.

The secondary hot spot Dan discussed is downtown on Summit from Walnut to Washington avenues, between A and Second streets. This area had 29 accidents, but only one was an injury accident. Four were intersection-related and the rest were side swipes, backing violations or angle impacts. Downtown had just 2% of all injury accidents, but 13.5% of all non-injury ones.

Dan finished with this analysis, which indicates non-injury accident rates are directly correlated to department staffing levels:

- In **2014**, when ACPD was short four officers, there were 3.22 injury and 18.53 non-injury crashes per 1,000 citizens.
- In **2015**, when ACPD was short three officers, there were 4.96 injury (but 17.04 non-injury) crashes per 1,000 citizens.
- In **2016**, when ACPD was short two officers, there were 3.72 injury and 16.41 non-injury crashes per 1,000 citizens.
- In **2017**, when ACPD was short one officer, there were 3.92 injury and just 15.6 non-injury crashes per 1,000 citizens.
- In **2018**, when ACPD was fully staffed, there were 3.2 injury and just 14.8 non-injury crashes per 1,000 citizens.
- In **2019**, when ACPD was short three officers in the third and fourth quarters of the year, injury accidents spiked back to 4.32 per 1,000 citizens and non-injury crashes ended their four-year decline with 16.48 per 1,000 citizens.

Josh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeri seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was approved **9-0** on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at **10:49 a.m.** The next meeting of the Traffic Safety Committee will be at **10 a.m. Friday, April 10, 2020.**