

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
November 18, 2015

COMMISSION PRESENT: Frank Pyles, Fred Davis, Mike Kilkenny, Jim Bishop & Donna Lawrence

ABSENT MEMBERS: Chuck Covert and vacant position

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Barrier – Transportation Manager, Russ Brown – Council Representative and Cindy Keever – Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT: Clyde Keizur

Mike Kilkenny made a motion to approve the October minutes. Jim Bishop seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/PRESENTATIONS:

Clyde Keizur spoke to the Commission regarding the need for stop signs at the 10th & Court Streets intersections. When he is stopped on Court and is attempting to turn left it is especially difficult, but when turning left it is also difficult to see oncoming traffic. He said there are several reasons for the problem. During school hours the streets are lined with student's cars and students are using the crosswalks. 10th Street is heavily traveled and the large tree on the West side of Court is very large and difficult to see around.

A discussion was held regarding the issues at this intersection. Everyone agreed it is a difficult intersection, but they compared it to many other intersections like it around town. Driver must stop then creep out enough so visibility and safety can be achieved. It was felt adding stop signs on 10th Street would cause congestion issues and create more problems overall.

Bill Barrier will check the area and make sure there is a painted yellow area back from the sidewalks and he will conduct a clear vision triangle study. He will present his findings at the December meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Request for Stop Sign on 10th Street at Snipes Intersection

The Transportation Division has yellowed out part of the curb on the east side of that intersection so vehicles can't park too close and block visibility. No further action needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Request for Speed Reduction on East 9th between 4th Street Grade and Brewery Grade

A request was made to lower the speed limit from 25 mph to 15 mph because of the narrow streets and the frequency of accidents and mirrors being knocked off of parked cars along E 9th Street. The Commission members discussed the request for the speed reduction but felt there are many other similarly narrow streets around town and could not justify reducing the speed limit to 15 mph. Suggestions were made to offer the use of the radar gun for gathering evidence on the exact speeds cars are going, mounting the radar/camera on a pole in the area or look into the possibility of installing "Slow Narrow Road" signs.

2) Possible Center Line Adjustment on Washington between 11th and 12th Streets

Clyde Keizur asked if something could be done on Washington between 11th and 12th Streets. Head in parking happens on the west side and when long vehicles park in those spaces it forces the driver heading up the hill to cross the center line to avoid hitting the back of the parked vehicle. Bill will take measurements and look at moving the centerline over or possibly painting a boxed in area for the pull in parking so drivers will know if their vehicle is too large to fit into that space.

3) Downtown The Dalles Trick or Treating during Halloween

Mike Kilkenny told the Commission the Lions Civic Group is concerned about the safety of all the children and adults who visit the downtown area to trick or treat the merchants during Halloween. The Lions are concerned about the people who are crossing the street without using the pedestrian lights or designated walking areas. Mike asked if traffic could be redirected onto 4th Street during the event. Suggestions were made to involve the Chamber of Commerce, merchants and the Main Street Coordinator to see if some kind of solution can't be reached to keep everyone safe. No further discussion at this time.

4) Visibility Problems at 14th and Union

It was noted while heading east on 14th and a driver is stopped at the stop sign at the Union Street intersection that the vehicle on the NW corner parks too close to the corner and makes it very difficult to see oncoming traffic. Bill will look at possibly painting the curb yellow for one parking space on that corner. The NE corner has shrubs on that corner that cause visibility issues too. Bill will take a look at both areas at the intersection.

5) Potholes on 12th Street

It was reported that 12th Street between Thompson and Morton has deteriorated and is full of potholes. The City is aware of the issues and Bill is in the process of doing cost comparisons for different types of repairs.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Donna moved to adjourn. Mike seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Cindy Keever
Administrative Secretary
City of The Dalles

Final approval

Frank Pyles