



FROM Chief Jim Armstrong
TO: Traffic Commission Members
SUBJECT: October 6, 2023 Traffic Committee Meeting
DATE: October 9, 2023

The October 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved as written.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Grissom Police Department
Charles Stankovic Engineering

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Piontek City Attorney
Chad Briggs City Council
Duane Reed City Council
Jim Armstrong Police Department

VISITORS: Tony Bonastia Street Department
Andrea Lueken Engineering
Joe Renkemeyer Police Department
Justin Frankenberg Emergency Management
Doug Hagedorn Mayor
Corey Jasper 5 Riverbend Drive
Tyler King Downtown Washington

OLD BUSINESS:

4A 23-09-0031 Review of No Parking signage in the 800 block of Locust Street: A resident had asked that we assess whether or not the current signage at that location was needed. The committee revisited the issue at this meeting and noted that they no parking zone had been added after the August 7, 2020 Traffic Committee Meeting. The signage had been requested as part of the plans for the new development on Locust Street due to narrow street width. The committee agreed that since nothing has changed since then, the signage should remain in place. (CLOSED)

NEW BUSINESS:

5A 23-10-0035 Request to remove handicapped parking on 2nd near Lafayette: This request came from the new business owner at 24 W 2nd Street. The committee discussed the

history of that specific handicapped parking spot and noted that the spot was added after discussion at the January 8, 2021 Traffic Committee meeting due to a request from the business owner at that time. In reviewing that request, Engineering had completed a survey of the available handicapped parking spaces in the entire downtown area, and the committee looked at the downtown area as one “complex” for purposes of current ADA standards. The results of the survey indicated that the downtown area was actually short only one handicapped parking spot. For that reason, the request was approved and a handicapped parking space was added in an attempt to remain consistent for ADA standards. During this meeting, the committee agreed that the parking spot should remain. (CLOSED)

5B 23-10-0036 Speed bumps in alleyways: A group of residents who share a city alleyway had installed their own speed bumps in the alley. Mike Grissom made contact with the residents, who wished to petition the city to allow the bumps to remain. The residents cited speed concerns along with a drastic increase in traffic volume in their alley as a reason to approve the speed bumps. The committee discussed the issue and noted that currently, speed bumps are prohibited by city code. The committee was not comfortable setting the precedent of allowing the speed bumps, considering that it would require an amendment to city code. Mike Grissom will work with the residents to get them to remove the bumps. (CLOSED)

5C 23-10-0037 Review of no parking signs on Southbend Drive: The committee was visited by Corey Jasper, who is a resident in the area. He briefed the committee on his concerns about parking due to the new baseball fields that were installed by Washington School District. The committee agreed that parking does become quite congested a couple of times a year when WHS has very popular rivalry matchups at the baseball fields. The committee had previously designated the tight turn on Southbend Drive as “No Parking” as a result of past complaints, but did not feel it was appropriate to further restrict parking at this time. The group agreed that any long term solution would ultimately be at the discretion of the school district, as it would be up to them to provide additional off street parking. Mike Grissom will pass the complaints along to the school district so that it remains on their radar. (CLOSED)

5D 23-10-0038 Speed complaints on Sophia and High Street: This complaint was directed to Engineering by a resident in the area. Engineering will be moving our temporary speed signs to the area and the Police Department will move it’s radar trailer to High Street as well. (CLOSED)

5E 23-10-0039 Review of stop signs at Main and Jefferson: A citizen had requested that we add additional signage on Main at Jefferson indicating “cross traffic does not stop”. Engineering will look into the request as a general inquiry for the entire downtown area. Engineering will bring a recommendation to the committee that is also MUTCD compliant. (OPEN)

5F 23-10-0040 Street Closure Request: The committee reviewed and approved the street closure request for WHS Band Festival. (CLOSED)

5G 23-10-0041 Highland Meadows parking requirements: The committee reviewed a sign and ordinance recommendation from Engineering for the new development. The committee

approved the package as recommended. Engineering will send the ordinance to City Council for approval. (CLOSED)

5H 23-10-0042 Speed complaints on Stafford Street: A resident had requested a four way stop at the intersection of Stafford and Freemont due to speed concerns in the area. The committee reviewed a 2015 speed study at that location, which indicated a high enforcement rating along that roadway segment. The committee agreed that at this time a four way stop could not be added, since stop signs cannot be used as speed control devices. The Police Department will continue to monitor the situation as an enforcement issue. (CLOSED)

5I 23-10-0043 Streetlight request on Westridge Drive: Engineering received a request from a resident for an added street light. The committee noted that the current street lighting was not complaint with current standards from city code. Engineering will work with Ameren to get another light added. (CLOSED)

5J 23-10-0044 Request for modification to street closure request: Downtown Washington has made a request to modify their previously approved street closure request for the Holiday Parade of Lights. The modification will require the closure of 3rd Street between Elm and Jefferson rather than 2nd Street as previously approved. The request was approved by the committee. (CLOSED)

The next scheduled meeting will be held on November 3, 2023 at 8:00 am in City Council Chambers.

Respectfully,

Chief Jim Armstrong
Washington Police Department

CC:
Each Member
Sherri Klekamp