



MINUTES

KEIZER TRAFFIC SAFETY/BIKEWAYS/PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 18, 2024
Keizer City Council Chambers

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Saldivar called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Attendance was noted as follows:

Present: Tammy Saldivar, Chair Michael De Blasi, Vice Chair David Dempster Hersch Sangster Brenda Lamb David Philbrick Matt Myers Ethan Eggert, Youth Liaison	Council Liaison/Staff Present: Councilor Robert Husseman (7:03) Martin Powell, Police Liaison Dawn Wilson, Deputy City Recorder Council Liaison/Staff Absent: Mike Griffin, Storm Ops & Streets
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2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. **June 2024** Hersch Sangster moved for approval of the June 2024 Minutes. David Dempster seconded. Motion passed as follows: Saldivar, De Blasi, Dempster, Sangster, Lamb, Philbrick and Myers in favor.
3. **APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED PERSONS** Tammy Kunz, Greater Northeast Keizer Neighborhood Association, submitted a request for street art for traffic calming but found out that it can't be used for traffic calming. The City of Salem said it worked to slow down traffic. One area of concern was the Little League on Ridge Drive. Hersch Sangster confirmed that street art was not considered a traffic calming device, but he has received feedback about creating area pride. Chair Saldivar shared that they are bringing a street art program to the City.
 - a. **Neighborhood Association Reports**
4. **PROJECT SPREADSHEET REVIEW** Michael De Blasi wants to know about any possible cost savings for doing two studies for Lockhaven by DKS Engineering. Hersch Sangster and Michael De Blasi would contact the City of Salem's Engineer to find out how they operate their bike paint studies and the cost.

Matt Myers shared that he met with City Manager Adam Brown and Parks Division Manager Robert Johnson. He learned that the baseball fields at Keizer Little League Park are maintained by the Love of the Game, a non-profit organization. He was concerned about liability issues on the field and asked who carries the liability, the City or the Love of the Game. Mr. Brown told Mr. Myers that a French drain would be installed and then the parking lot would be paved with striped to help with the parking issue. Michael DeBlasi suggested that impervious pavers with travel lanes in between the asphalt be added within the parking spots, and he recognized that it's extremely expensive right now.

Discussion ensued on the parking alongside the road to the baseball fields. There were no incidents as a result of parking along the street.

a. Project List

5. UPCOMING MAJOR PROJECTS

There were no new major projects.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Possible Removal of the Committee and New Motion to Retain the Fire Liaisons in this Committee's Resolution, Attachment A, Section 5.

Chair Saldivar shared that the Legal Department recommended keeping the fire liaison language and that the Oregon Traffic Safety Committee no longer existed.

Chair Saldivar moved to ask City Council to remove the language listed in number 5- Serve in a liaison capacity between the City and the Oregon Traffic Safety Committee in developing the statewide highway safety program and in meeting National Highway Safety Association Program Standards. Hersch seconded. Passed unanimously as follows: Saldivar, De Blasi, Dempster, Sangster, Lamb, Philbrick, and Myers in favor.

It was noted that Chief Hector Blanco was interested in more involvement, and the Fire Department had provided helpful data and information in the past.

Chair Saldivar moved to retain the Fire Liaison as a member of the Committee. Matt Myers seconded. Passed unanimously as follows: Saldivar, De Blasi, Dempster, Sangster, Lamb, Philbrick, and Myers in favor.

b. Newberg/Lockhaven Intersection ~ Video

Chair Saldivar shared a video recorded by Griffin Walker on the Newberg/Lockhaven Intersection. Discussion ensued on the issue of cars turning around on Newberg and then turning right onto Lockhaven where there are a lot of children walking to school. Chair Saldivar shared that the gate to the school from Newberg was now locked because of children being disrespectful to the property.

Officer Powell stated that u-turns have to be made where it's visible. As far

as a traffic solution, traffic congestion at that intersection couldn't be engineered out.

Michael DeBlasi confirmed with Officer Powell that u-turns right at the intersection was legal. Mr. DeBlasi asked about an entrance to the school campus from Lockhaven to be for school busses only. Everyone else would come from Chemawa to the campus because there's a traffic light there and everyone would be turning right.

Hersch Sangster sees this issue as something that could be resolved by the School to only have busses enter from Lockhaven.

Officer Powell suggested a stop light with a left turn, but it would require a partnership with the school.

No solution was determined, and this would be added to the Project List for further analysis.

c. Red Light Cameras

Chair Saldivar said that Mayor Clark asked that this Committee discuss the highest crash areas, such as River Road and Lockhaven to possibly have red light cameras. Officer Powell said that the most serious crashes are River and Chemawa. David Dempster said that the photo red light company assessed the intersection a few years ago and said it wasn't worth the cost to install and operate the system.

Michael DeBlasi suggested that the traffic lights on River Road be set on a regular schedule, so there's a feeling of less wait time. Chair Saldivar said that Mayor Clark shared that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) no longer has control over where photo red lights are installed, and Cities now have that control.

The Committee agreed that staff should conduct research again on the cost and effectiveness. This item would be added to the September Agenda for further discussion.

Officer Powell said that the most dangerous traffic lights are at the intersection of Stadium and Lockhaven.

d. Bike Rack Installs

Chair Saldivar shared that there wasn't anyone available to do the bike rack installs. Mr. Sangster said the City was going to ask Eagle Scouts were going to do the installs, but there are no Eagle Scouts currently in Keizer. Kevin Dial at The REC might be able to find a enough children to do this project. Mr. Sangster would also ask the Rotary to do the installs because the bike racks are there.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER INPUT

Mr. Sangster shared a helmet fitting tomorrow at St. Edwards at the Fun Friday event. ServeFest would be coming up on August 18th and would have helmets. Marion County Rural Transportation System Plan was using a

consulting firm to update its traffic Safety Plan and would tie it in with Salem-Keizer Area Transportation Study (SKATS) Traffic Safety Plan. There are at least forty-four Marion County intersections that would be reviewed. He reached out to several people on the Safe Routes to Parks, but no one knew about the national program at this time. He attended a parks meeting and hopes to partner with Oregon Parks Forever to receive donations for outdoor activities and transportation to take children to parks.

Matt Myers shared that the Keizer Art Association would participate in the KeizerFest, so parking was likely to increase.

Michael DeBlasi shared that “Killed by a Traffic Engineer” was about thousands of traffic studies. Traffic engineering was not like structural engineering, traffic engineering tends to be piecemealed together over decades. He encouraged everyone to take a look at the book. Traffic engineers make some decisions on shaky foundations. He also mentioned that urban trees help with traffic safety and requested that this Committee take this idea to the City Council.

Chair Saldivar shared that the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program would be finalized shortly. She asked for topics for the Planning Director to address at an upcoming meeting.

- a. Bike Helmets & Fittings ~ Now on the City's Website:** The Members were good with the new landing page on the City's website.
<https://www.keizer.org/BikeHelmets>

8. STAFF REPORT There was no staff report.

9. POLICE LIAISON REPORT Officer Powell shared that there wasn't anything big with traffic, but there were struggles with electric scooter drivers who were not following directions on the bike lanes.

10. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT Councilor Robert Husseman reported that the City Council authorized a contract for the flashing beacon on Lockhaven at McNary High School. ODOT was looking at hiring a state-wide bicycling staff person, and they would be intimately familiar with traffic and bicycling concerns in Keizer and an advocate to make the streets better. He expressed appreciation for the Keizer Public Works Fair and the professional, competent, and comprehensive staff and operation.

11. ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned: 7:22 p.m.

Minutes approved: 08/15/2024

“Agenda Management Services are being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number 21.019 awarded to City of Keizer by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.”