

Arkansas City Traffic Safety Committee
11/19/2021 Minutes

A special meeting was held **Friday, Nov. 19, 2021**, in the Water Treatment Facility classroom. Meeting was called to order at **10 a.m.**

I. Roll Call: CITY STAFF MEMBERS

City Manager	Randy Frazer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-EMS Department	Les Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management Assistant	Mike Crandall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police Department	Capt. Jim Holloway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Principal Planner	Josh White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Information Officer	Andrew Lawson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Services Department	Tony Tapia	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

City Commission	Karen Welch*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chamber of Commerce	Paisley Howerton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cowley College	Matt Stone*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Equal Opportunity Board	Frances “Rags” Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Planning Commission	Ian Kuhn	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Board / Chamber	Jon Oak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
USD 470 Public Schools	Will Pfannenstiel*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*Others in attendance were USD 470 Superintendent Dr. **Ron Ballard***, TranSystems engineer **Slade Engstrom***, Kirkham Michael engineer **C.W. Harper***, Ark City Christian Academy Principal **Lisa Holland***, DCCCA Traffic Safety Specialist **Jodi Pew***, USD 470 Director of Curriculum and Instruction **Braden Smith*** and RISE Cowley Pathways Coordinator **Lindsay Wilke***. (*GoToMeeting)*

II. Public Comments:

There were no public comments for items not on the agenda.

III. Reports:

Mike said KDOT currently plans to let a contract for the Hike-Bike Trail Phase 2 Extension project sometime in **May 2022**.

Mike reminded everyone about the CCLIP grant to mill and overlay West Madison Avenue/U.S. 166 from Eighth Street to Summit Street, as well as the CDBG grant to help to resurface North Summit Street from Kansas Avenue to Radio Lane. The City also was awarded a Cost Share grant from KDOT for this **\$910,000** project, reducing our local cost to just **\$227,500**.

Summit Street will be let for bids in **March 2022** and the 15th Street bridge replacement project sometime after **January 1**.

Andrew applied for **\$55,000** in matching funds from the Sunflower Foundation for the Central Trail (Phase 1A) and he applied again to the KDWPT Recreational Trails Program for the remainder of the cost, which would be about **\$180,000**.

He shared KDOT’s anticipated increases in funding from the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including **\$89 million** in additional highway funding, **\$45 million** more for bridges and **\$8 million** for electric vehicles.

IV. Old Business:

Andrew introduced C.W. Harper, with Kirkham Michael, which has submitted a bid for a **\$5,000** traffic study of the Osage Avenue area. Staff is concerned the initial scope of the study is insufficient for the complexity of all the factors at play.

All of the Committee members were provided with an opportunity to speak to Kirkham Michael about the study’s scope.

Dr. Ballard agreed this needs to be an “open” study with all of the additional items raised by City staff included in the scope.

He is especially concerned about pedestrian traffic along C Street, from Kansas to Osage avenues, and said it needs included.

Braden echoed this, adding there is a lot of pedestrian and vehicular traffic from Jefferson to the middle school and vice versa.

Lisa agreed with Braden and Dr. Ballard that the middle school produces the majority of the pedestrian traffic in the area. She does not have any safety concerns about the crosswalk at A Street and Kansas Avenue. ACCA students cross at C or Summit.

Jim asked Lisa if most of ACCA’s traffic is vehicular drop-off and pickup. Lisa said yes. She said she doesn’t see public school students crossing there very frequently, either.

Andrew asked USD 470 if Jefferson can poll students/parents about their mode of transportation and route(s) of approach.

Depending on how COVID-19 progresses, a public meeting to hear area stakeholder concerns at Jefferson might be in order.

Braden suggested doing that in conjunction with a future Site Council meeting at Jefferson, either in person or virtually.

C.W. explained his concept for a walking trail or access road along the C Street Canal extending from Jefferson to C Street.

Andrew pointed out safety concerns along the canal, which is currently unfenced, as well as traffic impacts along C Street.

C.W. asked if the schools would be open to staggered pickup/drop-off times. Braden said that is already under discussion.

Mike said the estimate to add protected left turns at C Street and Kansas Avenue comes to **\$27,134**, with just cameras on the traffic lights, but it would be **\$32,620** if radar detection units are added as well. He said Tony is working to get other quotes.

IV2. Multimodal Transportation Master Plan Update:

Andrew said he is concerned that the plan will not be completed by the original projected date of **January 10, 2022**. He is still hopeful it can be wrapped up by the end of **February**, though. Work remains to be done on both Task 1 and Task 2.

The City is starting to work on inventory and assessment, especially of its sidewalks, but public engagement has been delayed mainly by COVID-19, but also because the State of Kansas has yet to roll out its new Multimodal Planning Toolkit.

Slade presented some crash “heat maps,” which are in pretty good alignment with what the Police Department has observed.

He noted all of the four elementary school areas show up on this map, so those regions need to be a planning priority for us.

Slade said Summit Street causes about 98 percent of all problems, including fatality, injury and pedestrian-related accidents.

He said the plan needs to look at pedestrian routing in general and make sure there are safe crossing options at intersections.

Jim said the heat maps matching what ACPD is seeing. He asked Slade about the overall crash numbers and said they seemed high. Slade said he had determined there were some bad data in his initial dataset that were from outside the City limits.

Andrew showed different examples of “speed tables” that Slade had sent, including portable rubber and permanent concrete.

IV3. Sidewalk Condition Evaluation Update:

Rags asked if the North Summit Street project will improve sidewalks. Mike said it will be completed on the east side only.

Andrew showed the web form Josh created to report sidewalk concerns. He explained how Rags’ board hopes to utilize it.

V. New Business:

There was no New Business discussed at this meeting.

VI. Other Miscellaneous Items:

Andrew showed the proposed route of the sidewalk at ACHS that the local FFA chapter proposes to raise funds to help to construct. He said FFA surveying of their student peers found that almost every pedestrian traveled along West Radio Lane.

The City has asked Chris Meinen for construction estimates and also to evaluate the possibility of realigning the street lanes.

Slade asked if the City looked into KDOT bridge funds to replace the bridge. Mike said it’s not eligible and is in good shape.

Andrew made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rags seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was approved **9-0** on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at **11:37 a.m.** The next special meeting of the Traffic Safety Committee will be at **10 a.m. December 17.**