

Arkansas City Traffic Safety Committee
10/15/2021 Minutes

A regular meeting was held **Friday, October 15, 2021**, in the Water Treatment Facility classroom. Meeting called to order at **10 a.m.**

I. Roll Call: CITY STAFF MEMBERS

City Manager	Randy Frazer	☐
Fire-EMS Department	Les Parks	☐
Management Assistant	Mike Crandall	☒
Police Department	Eric Burr	☒
Principal Planner	Josh White	☐
Public Information Officer	Andrew Lawson	☒
Public Services Department	Brian Edwards*	☒

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

City Commission	Karen Welch	☒
Chamber of Commerce	Paisley Howerton*	☒
Cowley College	Matt Stone	☐
Equal Opportunity Board	Frances "Rags" Smith	☒
Planning Commission	Ian Kuhn	☒
School Board / Chamber	Jon Oak	☐
USD 470 Public Schools	Will Pfannenstiel	☒

*Others in attendance were USD 470 Superintendent **Ron Ballard**; TranSystems engineers **Slade Engstrom*** and **Shivraj Patil***; Ark City Police Department Capt. **Jim Holloway**; Ark City Middle School Principal **Robert Onelio***; Jefferson Elementary School Principal **Lauren Rosales***; Ark City High School Principal **Jeremy Truelove**; and citizens **Glenda Brantley**, **Amy Cox**, **Josiah Cox**, **Ken Harader**, **Chris Naylor**, **Harrison Taylor** and **Jill Wineinger**. (*Several attendees participated virtually via **GoToMeeting**.)*

II. Consent Agenda:

Karen made a motion to approve the minutes of the **July 27, 2021**, regular meeting as presented. Rags seconded the motion, which was approved **9-0** on a voice vote. Rags then made a motion to approve the minutes of the **September 10, 2021**, special meeting as presented. Karen seconded the motion, which also was approved **9-0** on a voice vote.

III. Public Comments:

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

IV. Reports:

Eric presented the Arkansas City Police Department's quarterly traffic safety report for the third quarter (July to September).

Overall, there were **38** total vehicular traffic accidents in the third quarter of 2021, as compared to 68 in 2020 — **six** in July (down from 20 in 2020), **17** in August (same as in 2020) and **15** in September (down from 31).

Impaired driving citations are trending back down in 2021, with **18** in the second quarter and just **nine** in the third quarter, as compared to 14 in the second quarter of 2020 and 23 in the third. Traffic stops are also down considerably in 2021, with **872** in the second quarter and **568** in the third, as compared to 1,063 in the second quarter of 2020 and 1,588 in the third quarter.

Eric attributed these statistics mainly to reduced staffing. He is down to **12** sworn officers currently, whereas there were 14 for much of 2020. Additionally, total call volume to date is up slightly from 2020 levels and mental crisis calls are up **140%**.

Ian asked about recruitment. Eric said ACPD does better than other agencies with applications; it's just hard to qualify them.

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

He said there is a plan to repair the railroad crossing on South Summit Street/U.S. 166, near KanPak, which will involve closing all four lanes of the highway for several days and detouring U.S. 166 traffic north on Summit Street to the bypass.

V. Old Business:

Andrew presented Jefferson Elementary School's request for a crosswalk at A Street and Osage Avenue. He said City staff have met with school district administration and both entities plan to work together to fund a traffic study of the whole area.

Amy Cox, 135 Stanley Drive, spoke about and presented photos of the issues she and neighbors have with on-street parking.

Amy is concerned about the crosswalk that opens into her neighbor's driveway. She thinks the crosswalk was moved at least 10 years ago from the intersection of A Street and Osage Avenue. Her back driveway opens onto Osage behind her house.

Jill Wineinger, 114 E. Poplar Ave., requested repainting of a crosswalk at A Street and Kansas Avenue and flashing signals.

Harrison Taylor, 525 N. Fourth St., echoed both women's concerns and said the issues should've been addressed years ago.

Amy, Harrison and Jill all complained about the way their concerns have been addressed by the Public Services Department.

Lauren Rosales, Jefferson Elementary School principal, explained how she has addressed Amy's concerns and the steps she has taken to mitigate issues. She thinks the crosswalk can be moved east to the intersection with some school policy changes.

Slade Engstrom, with TranSystems, expanded on his prior general recommendation to locate crosswalks near intersections.

Rags and Dr. Ballard said they agree with the idea of moving the crosswalk east, if only to improve ADA accessibility for it.

V2. Multimodal Transportation Master Plan:

Slade provided an overview of the crash data that he has been analyzing, but cautioned that the state has some "bad data." He said these instances are infrequent enough that the overall trends he found are probably still valid, with only minor changes.

With the errors removed, he found that **29 percent** of total crashes were injury or fatality, while **71 percent** were property damage only. Just **2 percent** of total crashes involved pedestrians. Only about one-third of these occurred at intersections.

Slade recommended eliminating overlaps in the red-yellow-green light cycle at signalized intersections. (This has already been done at Chestnut Avenue and Summit Street to eliminate "running the yellow" crashes that were occurring too frequently.)

He said bicycle-involved accidents at intersections might be a bigger area of concern than even pedestrian-involved crashes.

Mike asked Slade what are the most effective ways he has found to slow down traffic in residential areas. Slade mainly recommended reducing residential speed limits and placing speed tables or other traffic calming devices in areas of concern.

He said speed tables need to be spaced out at least every 1,000 feet, but they can be combined with "raised intersections."

Glenda Brantley, who lives near Birch Avenue and Fourth Street, said she is concerned about speeding in the area of that intersection. She cited one specific vehicle, but she was unable to provide a description as it usually drives by at nighttime.

Harrison Taylor, 525 N. Fourth St., again objected to the overall philosophy of traffic management in Arkansas City. Slade there are now national standards for when a two-way stop or four-way stop is more appropriate at a given intersection.

Andrew asked Slade for the next steps in the Master Transportation Plan process. Slade said he will work on some maps next.

Andrew detailed his plans to generate citizen engagement with a citizen response booth he hopes to set up during Arkalalah.

Paisley left the meeting in progress at **11 a.m.** and Rags left the meeting in progress at **11:14 a.m.** Will left the meeting briefly at **11:05 a.m.** but returned at **11:08 a.m.**

VI. New Business:

There was no New Business discussed at this meeting.

VII. Other Miscellaneous Items:

Ken Harader, 1313 N. First St., requested additional signage in the 1300 block of North First Street that prohibits left turns into Family Dollar. There are two "no left turn" signs now, but he wants to add a "Do Not Enter" sign on the "pork chop."

Andrew made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was approved **7-0** on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at **12 p.m.** The next meeting of the Traffic Safety Committee will be at **10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 19, 2021.**