

Arkansas City Traffic Safety Committee
12/17/2021 Minutes

A special meeting was held **Friday, Dec. 17, 2021**, at USD 470's Avery Learning Center. Meeting was called to order at **10:14 a.m.**

I. Roll Call: CITY STAFF MEMBERS

City Manager	Randy Frazer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire-EMS Department	Les Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management Assistant	Mike Crandall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police Department	Eric Burr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Principal Planner	Josh White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Information Officer	Andrew Lawson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Services Department	Brian Edwards*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

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

*Others in attendance were USD 470 Technology Director **Dac Call**, TranSystems engineer **Slade Engstrom***, DCCCA Traffic Safety Specialist **Jodi Pew***, State Rep. **Bill Rhiley**, and local citizens **Amy Cox**, **Kasha Kelley**, **Ken Harader***, **Harrison Taylor**, **Rob Whitford** and **Jill Wineinger**. (*Several attendees participated virtually via **GoToMeeting**.)*

II. Public Comments:

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

Brian joined the meeting in progress at **10:26 a.m.** and left the meeting at **11:39 a.m.** Ian joined the meeting prior to **11 a.m.**

III. Reports:

Slade led a discussion of possibilities for adding some kind of dedicated turning lane on North Summit Street in the existing right-of-way between Kansas Avenue and Radio Lane. The Committee did not voice support for any of the options presented.

Eric said he would really like to have a discussion about reducing the speed limit to **20 mph** or **25 mph** through that corridor.

Slade said reducing the speed limits would lessen the severity of crashes, but not prevent distracted driving accidents entirely.

Mike made a motion to recommend that the City Commission consider lowering the speed limit from **30 mph** to **25 mph** on North Summit Street from Kansas Avenue to Radio Lane. Rags seconded the motion. It was approved **11-0** on a voice vote.

Mike said neither the Arkansas City nor Winfield proposed bypass segments were added to the IKE development pipeline. We need to have more local participants the next time there is a Local Consult meeting to advocate for the project in small groups.

Andrew thanked Rep. Rhiley for being on the Local Consult call and advocating for multiple local projects to be added. He said RISE Cowley was selected by the Sunflower Foundation to participate in Trail Champion cohort training in early **2022**.

IV. Old Business:

Andrew said the scope changes that were suggested to Kirkham Michael at the last meeting have increased the proposed cost from **\$5,000** to **\$25,000** for a traffic study of the area from Kansas to Osage avenues, between C and Summit streets.

Rags asked how long the study might take. The proposal states 12 weeks. Andrew mentioned the possibility of applying to KDOT for a Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP) study. If the City is selected, KDOT would pay all the costs.

Amy Cox, 135 Stanley Drive, wanted to know if moving the midblock crosswalk on Osage, between A and Summit, has to wait until the study is done. Randy said his preference would be to wait for its findings. She advocated for moving it sooner.

Kasha Kelley, 2660 Valley View Drive, said the study was a good thing but urged the Committee to do something meaningful in the meantime because of how long the situation has been occurring. She asked if the school could arrange some sort of turnaround option to get parents off the street. Braden said it has been discussed but the area is too narrow.

Ian stated there are other concerns that need to be evaluated, including ADA considerations and school policy impacts.

Rep. Rhiley requested a copy of the traffic study when it is done and said he would back up any City application to KDOT.

He mentioned the possibility of making Osage a one-way street. Several committee members explained why that is difficult.

Rags asked what it would actually cost to install ramps at A Street and Osage if the sidewalk were moved there. Mike said he would have to research that, but Andrew estimated it would be about **\$14,400**, based on estimates for North Summit Street.

Jill Wineinger, 114 E. Poplar Ave., said there was a lot of confusion concerning drop-off of preschoolers at the crosswalk.

Randy said he will need to visit with Dr. Ballard to determine how the study would be paid for by the City and USD 470.

Eric told Kasha he can try to have ACPD step up patrol in the area, while Jefferson will do some more flyers and education.

Kasha also told Braden she would be willing to be trained as a crossing guard so she can volunteer to help.

Andrew made a motion to endorse the scope of work as presented, recommend that the City and USD 470 find a way to fund the study, and also recommend that ACPD and USD 470 work together before the spring semester to determine if anything temporary can be done to alleviate the traffic issues. Mike seconded the motion, which was approved **11-0** on a voice vote.

Kasha asked when crosswalks are repainted. Andrew said that work is done in the summer. She asked about the crosswalk at A Street and Kansas Avenue. Mike said he had asked for that to be done, but did not have the authority to make it happen.

Randy reiterated that he does not want to make any changes to any crosswalks in the area until the study can be completed.

Ian agreed it needs to be repainted, but at the usually scheduled time of year. Kanyon defended City staff, who she said are hard workers and often understaffed. She reminded everyone that this is an advisory committee that has no budget authority.

IV2. Multimodal Transportation Master Plan Update:

Andrew said he is still waiting on the Kansas Department of Transportation to roll out its new Multimodal Planning Toolkit.

City staff viewed a preview of the draft toolkit on a recent webinar and think it will be a valuable tool to help with the plan.

V. New Business:

There was no New Business discussed at this meeting.

VI. Other Miscellaneous Items:

Andrew said the idea of realigning the street lanes on West Radio Lane won't work because the shoulders were not built to sufficient thickness to bear vehicles. It would be more expensive to pursue this option than to just build a new sidewalk there.

The local FFA chapter is still working with the district office to get approval for the project and to use Legacy Foundation.

Everyone wished Mike well with his new job, as this is his last meeting. His City retirement will be effective **December 31**.

Ian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andrew seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was approved **10-0** on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at **11:45 a.m.** The next regular meeting of the Traffic Safety Committee will be at **10 a.m. Jan. 21, 2022**.