

## Arkansas City Traffic Safety Committee

7/27/2021 Minutes

A rescheduled regular meeting was held **Tuesday, July 27, 2021**, at the Avery Learning Center. Meeting called to order at **3:03 p.m.**

### Roll Call: CITY STAFF MEMBERS

**City Manager** Randy Frazer   
**Fire-EMS Department** Les Parks   
**Management Assistant** Mike Crandall   
**Police Department** Capt. Jim Holloway   
**Principal Planner** Josh White   
**Public Information Officer** Andrew Lawson   
**Public Services Department** Brian Edwards\*

### COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

**City Commission** Karen Welch\*   
**Chamber of Commerce** Mark Chickadonz   
**Cowley College** Matt Stone\*   
**Equal Opportunity Board** Frances "Rags" Smith   
**Planning Commission** Andy Paton   
**School Board / Chamber** Jon Oak   
**USD 470 Public Schools** Will Pfannenstiel

*Others in attendance were USD 470 Superintendent **Ron Ballard**; Roosevelt Elementary School Principal **Pam Barbour**\*; USD 470 Technology Director **Dac Call**; TranSystems engineers **Slade Engstrom**\*, **Brett Letkowski**\* and **Shivraj Patil**\*; Ark City Christian Academy Principal **Lisa Holland**\*; Adams Elementary School Principal **Rosann Meier**\*; Ark City Middle School Principal **Robert Onelio**\*; Frances Willard Elementary School Principal **Amy Pinion**\*; **Harrison Taylor**; IXL Elementary School Principal **Kali Vickery**\*; and Kansas Department of Transportation Area Engineer **AJ Wilson**\*. (\*Several attendees participated via GoToMeeting.)*

### 1. Approve Meeting Minutes:

Mike made a motion to approve the minutes of the **April 9, 2021**, regular meeting and the **June 28, 2021**, special virtual meeting as presented. Will seconded the motion, which was approved **11-0** on a voice vote.

### 2. Public Comments:

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

### 3. ACPD Quarterly Traffic Safety Report:

Jim said that unfortunately, there was a fatality accident in the second quarter, when a bicyclist struck a semi tractor-trailer.

Overall, there were **23** non-injury accidents in the second quarter of 2021, compared to 38 in 2020 and 42 in 2019. For injury accidents, there have been **18** already for the second quarter, compared to just 12 in 2020 and eight in 2019, Jim reported.

Despite the fatality, total accidents are down to **42** in 2021, as compared to 50 each in the second quarters of 2020 and 2019.

As always, the "hottest" zone for accidents remains along Summit Street, all the way from Radio Lane to Madison Avenue.

Impaired driving citations remain up in 2021, with **41** to date, as compared to 22 in the first half of 2020 and 24 in early 2019.

However, traffic stops are down in 2021, at **1,456** to date, as compared to 1,582 in the first half of 2020 and 1,951 in 2019.

Hazardous moving violations are back up to **236** in 2021, as compared to 199 in the second quarter of 2020 and 286 in 2019.

### 4. Street Projects (N. Summit / W. Madison / W. Washington / A Street and Jackson Avenue):

Mike said the City received a KDOT grant to replace the 15<sup>th</sup> Street bridge over the C Street Canal (the City's oldest bridge), with the state paying 90 percent and the City 10 percent, plus engineering costs. He expects to let the contract **Dec. 1, 2022**.

Andrew said the City again did not receive Cost Share funding for the North Summit Street resurfacing project, but will try again a third time in the fall. City staff is frustrated by the continued failure to secure funding, but this is a competitive grant.

Mike reminded everyone about the CCLIP grant to mill and overlay West Madison Avenue/U.S. 166 from Eighth Street to Summit Street later this year. That program was used a year ago to resurface South Summit Street from Madison to U.S. 77.

He also updated everyone on the recent reconstruction of West Washington Avenue where a large stormwater pipe collapsed.

There also was a huge water main break at A Street and Jackson Avenue; the City had to contract out intersection replacement.

## 5. Trails (Hike-Bike Phase 2 / Central Trail):

Andrew said neither TA funding nor Recreational Trails funding were awarded for the Central Trail project, so it is tabled.

Andrew said KDOT will let the Phase 2 contract in **March 2022**. The Hike-Bike Trail (Phase 2) extension was designed with a Fifth Avenue crossing that could be removed later, as well as crossings on Washington, Madison and South Summit Street.

He said KDOT still hasn't released the draft toolkit for bike/ped plans, which would be very helpful for the Multimodal Plan.

## 6. Multimodal Transportation Master Plan:

Andrew began discussion of the Multimodal Transportation Master Plan scope. Some of the topics discussed included:

- What should be the overall philosophy of traffic in Arkansas City? (speed and efficiency vs. safety and livability)
- Traffic management — should lower-volume east-west avenues always yield to higher-volume north-south streets?
- Pending changes to State of Kansas residential speed limit recommendations (City expects reduction to **25 mph**)
- Providing guidance to TranSystems about possible “problem areas” to focus on in its detailed study of provided data
- What should be the frequency of Traffic Safety Committee meetings for the rest of this planning process? (Monthly?)
- Scheduling and format of public forums and/or town hall meetings — In-person? Virtual? Combination of both?
- Number and timing of community surveys? Just rely on FlashVote, or should we utilize other survey methods as well?

Slade said TranSystems is still working to get a handle on all of the City's data, as well as KDOT crash and traffic data. He recommended scheduling focused meetings with stakeholder groups, gathering feedback on social media and other ideas.

Brett suggested that a smaller, more technical group meet more frequently and this Committee serve as a steering committee.

Karen said handicapped accessibility needs to be a large priority. Andrew also mentioned the First Street and Osage corridors.

Harrison said proposed speed limit reductions will help, but it is hard for those who don't live on side roads to grasp the issue.

Mike showed a picture of reflective speed bumps he's seen that can be bolted onto roads to serve as traffic calming devices.

Josh discussed the possibility of creating an online web form or app where people can easily report sidewalk complaints.

## 7. Other Miscellaneous Items:

Mike provided an update on the planned chip sealing, starting next week around West Palmetto and East Kansas avenues.

Brian said he hopes to complete repainting sidewalks and painting the new crosswalk south of ACHS in the next few weeks.

Andy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rags seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was approved **11-0** on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at **4:53 p.m.** The next meeting of the Traffic Safety Committee will be at **10 a.m. Friday, October 15, 2021**.