



MEMO TO TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Agenda Topic on the Transportation Commission Agenda

From: Miranda Carson, Coordination Planner

Meeting Date: July 10, 2023

Topic: Staff Communications

Below are summaries of relevant correspondences received by City Staff since the last TC meeting.

McMillan Right of Way Preservation

City Council heard from Caleb Hood on June 29th regarding the Transportation Commission's recommendation to request McMillan be preserved for 5 lanes. There is a letter being drafted to ACHD for Council to sign.

Celebration / Cinema Parking Request

Prompted by the Transportation Commissions letter the Mayor's Office has been in communication with ACHD Director regarding removal of the parking restriction on Cinema Dr.

Records at River Valley

We received the following correspondence from Meridian resident Stacia Clark:

I'm reaching out to report a very dangerous intersection. It's located at the corner of N Records Ave and E River Valley St, a 3-way stop by Kleiner Park regulated with stop signs. Constant reckless driving is happening here. A traffic light and regular police presence is direly needed. My children and I have almost been hit using the crosswalks here multiple times in the past year. Cars run the stop signs here regularly and often are aggressively speeding ahead of walkers in the crosswalks. Today I was almost hit twice in the same crossing (in the crosswalk). Both times the drivers looked at me, sped up, and waved for me to get out of the way while crossing during rush hour. One of the drivers almost hit my legs.

It's extremely dangerous on this road, and my children can't use the crosswalk without danger. Additionally, their buses drop off on the side of the street where they have to cross this road, and it is extremely dangerous for them to do so in this unregulated and dangerous situation. There is way too much traffic here, rushing to speed through the neighborhood, and a light system and regular police ticketing are absolutely necessary.

Please do something about this. We have almost been hit too many times at this intersection. We don't want someone to have to be hit in order for this change to happen. Please do something ASAP.

I responded to the resident:

We last discussed this area in early-2022. At that time the Transportation Commission requested ACHD do a speed study, crosswalk evaluation, and evaluation of a need for a feedback speed limit sign.

Shawn Martin at ACHD sent the following response: Records Way is signed for 30mph, between Fairview and River Valley, has an 85th percentile speed of 33mph and an average speed of 30mph. Between River Valley and Ustick, Records has an 85th percentile speed of 38 mph and an average speed of 34 mph. ACHD is not recommending any speed limit changes at this time. The roadway segment between River Valley and Ustick is on the list to get radar speed feedback signs this year and will be installed once the current order arrives (end of summer 2022 estimated).

The Mayor pursued the speed limit change and was successful in getting ACHD to lower it to 25mph.

Our next Transportation Commission meeting will be on July 10th at 3:30pm at City Hall. I will have this communication in the packet for the team to review and determine what if any further action can be taken. I will follow up with their response afterwards.

Belltower and Coppercloud Concerns

I followed up with the Ms. McMillan based on the Commissions discussion of her concerns at Belltower and Coppercloud:

I wanted to reach out and update you on the conversation our Transportation Commission had on this with an ACHD representative.

A couple concerns on the stop signs: 1. Putting in stop signs here would necessitate removing the crossing signs. And 2. Stop signs are not traffic calming devices, but rather installed based on analysis of traffic volumes, crashes, pedestrian/cyclist volumes, children crossing, and sight distance at the posted speed. ACHD has evaluated this intersection for an all way stop, and it did not warrant one.

That said there was concern among the group at the meeting that the visibility of the crossing and signs may be hindered by the trees. ACHD will send a crew out to evaluate if trees need to be cut. ACHD will coordinate with Bridgetower HOA if they need to be trimmed.

Finally, this is an area that could be evaluated for an enhance crossing sign (call a rapid rectangular flashing beacon or RRFB) or a speed limit feedback sign. We are still working through a new process for residents to request these types of devices. Please let me know if it is something you would like to pursue, and I will help navigate that process.

Ms. McMillan responded:

I don't think trees are an issue for those driving north into the intersection it's more of a blind turn that it driven at a high rate of speed. A stop sign would make it easier for kids to cross and not have to worry about the traffic barreling down the road while they are still in the crosswalk.

My response to Ms. McMillan was as follows:

I understand your frustration. Since at this time a stop sign is not warranted per the traffic engineer, it will not be installed.

Would you like me to pursue the evaluation for an enhance crossing sign (called a rapid rectangular flashing beacon or RRFB) or a speed limit feedback sign? We are still working through a new process for residents to request these types of devices, but I am happy to help navigate it.

Ms. McMillan responded:

Sure anything would be great.

Also in June, Chair Steed provided the following update on this issue via email:

Sometime since the google earth picture we saw at TC the trees have been limbed. Also there is a ped crossing sign back to the east right after the next street. Please report in next Transportation Commission update, and I think this one can be closed.

