

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL

ON this 21st day of July, 2010, the Amarillo Traffic Commission convened in regular session in the City Commission Chambers in the Municipal Building.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS	PRESENT TODAY	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED SINCE APPOINTMENT
<i>Mr. Rob Ledwig</i>	No	22	18
<i>Mr. Rudy Mediavilla</i>	No	22	10
<i>Mr. Kenneth Graham</i>	Yes	10	8
<i>Mr. Bob Balliett</i>	Yes	7	6
<i>Mr. Wes Reeves</i>	No	7	4
<i>Mr. Leon Church</i>	Yes	1	1
<i>Ms. Ellen Robertson Green</i>	Yes	1	1
<i>Ms. D. J. Stubben</i>	Yes	1	1

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Taylor Withrow	Traffic Engineer
David Szmagalski	Traffic Operations Technician
Judy Alexander	Recording Secretary
Lt. Michael Miller	Amarillo Police Department

Commissioner Balliett presided as chairman. He established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The following items of business were conducted:

ITEM 1. Invocation: None was given.

ITEM 2. Election of Chairman:

Taylor Withrow, Traffic Engineer, reported that Commissioners Lea Wright, Kevin Brennen, and Gary Gibson had fulfilled their terms on the Traffic Commission and had rotated off. He welcomed the newly appointed members, Leon Church, Ellen Robertson Green, and D. J. Stubben.

Mr. Withrow stated that the first item of business would be to elect a new chairman. He said Commissioner Ledwig and Mediavilla are the members with the most longevity, and he suggested one of them would be eligible to serve as chairman. Since neither of them was present today, Commissioners opted to defer election of the chairman to the next scheduled meeting.

ITEM 3. Approval of the minutes of the October 21, 2009, Meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2009, meeting of the Amarillo Traffic Commission was made by Commissioner Graham and seconded by Commissioner Church. Motion carried on a 5:0 vote.

ITEM 4. Traffic Engineering Study: Hike/Bike Master Plan Update:

Mr. Withrow reported that the Hike and Bike Master Plan, which was originally approved by the City Commission in 2003, had been updated for 2010. He referred to the updated handout and map of the plan and asked Commissioners to consider approval of the updated plan before submittal to the City Commission.

He introduced Larry Offerdahl, Director of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Offerdahl stated the purpose of the Hike and Bike Master Plan is to establish a system of bicycle and walking routes in the City of Amarillo. The hike and bike routes enhance the quality of life of Amarillo citizens and visitors by providing a network of hike and bike routes that connects residential neighborhoods to parks, schools, bus routes, libraries, and commercial centers and provides for increased safety and mobility of citizens and visitors that use non-motorized transportation. To implement the plan, a set of strategies that pertain to design standards, safety standards, educational and law enforcement programs, funding alternatives, and maintenance standards have been identified.

He gave a history of the plan since the 2003 initial plan, and outlined plans for the future. He said the plan currently has approximately 26 miles of trails within the city, including new routes that have been added adjacent to city parks and schools. He reported the Transit Department has recently purchased new buses, which are equipped with bicycle racks.

Commissioner Balliett asked if anyone in the audience would like to come forward to speak on the Hike/Bike Master Plan.

The following persons came forward to speak:

Margaret Harris, 2206 S. Fannin
Steve Hayward, 3510 Carlton
Mike Lindsley, 2901 Dover
Mark Garonzik, 7214 Jameson
Mike Wellborn, 19800 Hunters Run, Canyon
Don Bryan, 6209 I-40 West
Robyn Willis, 6104 Tuscany
Jesse Phrimmer, 5723 Milam

They collectively expressed concern about traffic safety for bicyclists, pedestrians, and running enthusiasts. Several of the speakers stated they were here to honor Cindy Whitney, who lost her life in a motor vehicle/bicycle accident earlier in the month. They spoke of ways to promote safety for bicyclists and pedestrians such as banning cell phone use while driving, advocating helmet use, and providing signage, HOV lanes, and public safety education.

Commissioner Graham proposed the organization of a Bicycle/Pedestrian Sub-Committee to act as an advocate for bicycle/pedestrian issues and promote safety.

Commissioner Robertson-Green made a motion to approve the 2010 revision of the Hike and Bike Master Plan. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, and motion carried 5:0.

ITEM 5. Miscellaneous Discussion:

Mr. Withrow reported that the City Commission had approved the four-way stop at Ong Street and S.W. 32nd Avenue as well as the four-way stop at Hayden Street and S.W. 32nd Avenue. Signs at both intersections have been installed.

He stated that the eastbound dual left turn at S.W. 58th Avenue at Washington Street has been installed and is working well.

He gave an update on the Red Light Cameras. He reported that the cameras have been in use for two years, and statistics indicate the number of violations issued and hearing requests have declined.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.


Taylor N. Withrow
Traffic Engineer