

On January 19, 2011, the Amarillo Traffic Commission Sub-Committee met at 2:00 p.m. in Room 305 in the Municipal Building. Members present were Gary Angell, AISD Amarillo High School Cluster Director, Doug Loomis, AISD Caprock High School Cluster Director, Kevin Phillips, AISD Palo Duro Cluster Director, Stan Chatman, AISD Tascosa High School Cluster Director, Dean Downey, Motorcycle Advocate, Kenneth Graham, City of Amarillo Traffic Commissioner, and Ellen Robertson-Green, City of Amarillo Traffic Commissioner. Staff members present were Taylor Withrow, Traffic Engineer, Jihad El Eid, Traffic Engineer, Michael Rice, Director of Public Works, David Szmagalski, Traffic Operations Tech, and Lt. Michael Miller, Amarillo Police Department.

Ellen Robertson-Green was selected as Chair and Dean Downey was selected as Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee.

Taylor Withrow distributed to the committee four city maps indicating locations of motorcycle accidents during the last two-years (2009-2010), proposed locations of the Share the Road motorcycle signs, proposed locations of the Share the Road bicycle signs, and proposed locations of both motorcycle and bicycle signs. Dean Downey passed out a list of proposed locations for the motorcycle Share the Road signs to supplement the list of locations he previously submitted and asked for their consideration.

Mr. Withrow said that 100 of each motorcycle and bicycle Share the Road signs were ordered and are in stock. There are 69 proposed locations indicated on the maps for Share the Road motorcycle signs and 75 proposed locations for Share the Road bicycle signs. He stated that he would like to keep some of the signs in reserve for replacements or additional locations.

Mr. Graham said that the list of proposed locations for Share the Road bicycle sign locations had been submitted before any discussion about cell phone restrictions in school zones. If cell phone usage in school zones is banned, he said that some of the signs designated for school campuses may not be needed and possibly could be best used in alternate locations.

Jihad El Eid stated that his recommendation is the signs should be placed on roadways with high use by motorcyclists or bicyclists. Otherwise, he stated they will not be heeded and or accepted by the public. He suggested that 75 signs of each initially be put up, leaving a reserve for future locations after receiving feedback from the public.

Kenneth Graham suggested several additional appropriate locations, including arterials and the Central Business District, for the bicycle signs he had gathered with input from members of the Share the Road Organization. He stated he would like to see 90% of the signs be put up.

Mr. Downey stated his list of appropriate locations for motorcycle Share the Road signs had been reduced from 93 to 69. He referred to his handout of 24 additional proposed locations and requested consideration for their inclusion.

Mr. Withrow suggested that the locations needed to be scrutinized to decide if a motorcycle or bicycle sign would be more appropriate for a specific location. Mr. El Eid said the locations would be analyzed for the most appropriate sign and to identify any overlap. Michael Rice suggested members go forward with the project. He stated additional signs could be added at a later date.

Mr. Graham made a motion to recommend to the Amarillo Traffic Commission they accept the proposed locations for the bicycle and motorcycle Share the Road signs with consideration given to the additional locations as discussed in today's meeting. His motion included the recommendation the installation of the signs begin as soon as possible. Mr. Downey seconded the motion, and motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Withrow stated the second responsibility of the committee is to consider cell phone restrictions in school zones as authorized by the State Legislature under HB 55 and make a recommendation to the Amarillo Traffic Commission. The restriction would involve installation of 322 signs on poles and 103 signs on mast arms in existing school zones. Other issues for consideration are what school zones should be included in the restriction and their priority, the cost of implementation, the time frame necessary to complete the project, the determination if a universal time frame of school zone speed reduction in school zones is necessary, consideration of additional school zones, and future actions of the State Legislature.

Mr. Rice stated that the legislation allows cell phone restrictions only in school zone areas with speed reductions. He said that staff leans toward high schools receiving priority, but some of the roadways near high schools are not presently school zones. Members discussed the expansion of school zones such as Bell St. near Amarillo High School and Western St/Wolflin St. near Tascosa High School. Ellen Robertson-Green stated that Amarillo College is in favor of the restriction for their campus.

Members were in consensus that speeding is the primary issue in school areas. Lt. Michael Miller stated that there are not sufficient motor officers to enforce speeding violations as diligently as they would prefer. He stated that cell phone and texting violations will be difficult to enforce and prosecute, but they intend to do the best they can.

Consensus among members was to expedite the cell phone restriction in school zones and not wait for any further legislation. Mr. Chatman made a motion to recommend that signage be installed as soon as possible to restrict cell phones beginning with high schools and continuing until all schools within the city limits are signed. He added in his motion that the restriction would be effective immediately upon installation of the signage. Mr. Loomis seconded the motion, and motion passed 7:0.

Plans were made to schedule another sub-committee meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building. At that time, members would consider expansion of school zones.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.