

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER & RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

MINUTES

On December 18, 2017, the Amarillo City Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Advisory Committee met at 11:00 a.m. in the Simms Municipal Building, 808 S. Buchanan St., Room 203, for a Regular Meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
Joe Chris Rodriguez	No	12	5
Tim Ingalls	No	12	10
David Szmagalski	Yes	12	12
Austin Collins	No	12	4
Stephen Hayward	Yes	11	10
Ed Commons	Yes	11	11
Steve Rogers	Yes	9	7
Howard Smith	Yes	5	5

City of Amarillo staff members attending were:

Jared Miller	City Manager
Kyle Schniederjan	City Engineer, Capital Projects & Development Engineering
David Szmagalski	Traffic Operations Technician
Gary Holwick	MPO Director, Urban Transportation Planning
Courtney White	Assistant City Attorney, Legal Dept.
Judy Alexander	Recording Secretary, Traffic Engineering
Michelle Ramirez	Administrative Assistant, Traffic Field Operation
Alexis Sandoval	Traffic Intern

Other persons attending the meeting were David Rich and Cole Camp.

ITEM 1: Call to Order. Committee Member Commons established a quorum and called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Amarillo City Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Advisory Committee to order at 11:05 a.m.

ITEM 2: Review of Minutes from Last Meeting.

Committee Member Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2017, meeting. Council Member Smith seconded the motion, and motion carried 4:0.

ITEM 3: Discussion with Jared Miller, City Manager, on revisions to Section 2 of Resolution 7-12-16-2, the resolution establishing the committee.

Kyle Schniederjan, City Engineer, stated that members of the committee were interested in revisions to the resolution establishing the committee and expanding their purview, and he had asked Jared Miller, City Manager, to speak to the committee concerning their request. Mr. Miller stated that the Traffic Advisory Board is charged with making traffic infrastructure recommendations to City Council, and he

was concerned it would create a conflict of duties for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Advisory Committee to bypass them. He stated there is ample opportunity for the committee to have input and work with the Traffic Advisory Board to enhance pedestrian and bicycle connectivity and safety. Members discussed the existing bicycle lanes within the city and on the state highways. Mr. Miller stated he thought it was imperative the City develop a new transportation plan that will comply with current best standards, including those for multi-modal transportation. He recommended incremental steps in implementing changes and pursuing public support would be more successful in the long run for the goals of the committee. He said the costs for re-striping roads would be negligible when coordinated with road maintenance projects.

Committee Member Hayward reminded the Committee ~~stated~~ that a Hike and Bike Master Plan was developed in 2003, and it was to be reviewed and updated every five years. ~~The plan was updated in 2010.~~ Additionally, the 2010 City of Amarillo Master Plan stated that the Hike and Bike Master Plan had not been reviewed and updated and recommended that it be caught up to date. Mr. Hayward recommended members of the committee review the existing plans before taking any action. Since there is an existing Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (The 2003 Hike and Bike Master Plan) and additional bicycle and pedestrian recommendations were stated in the 2010 City of Amarillo Master Plan, Mr. Hayward did not see a need to write a new plan but rather, the Committee should review the recommendations in the 2003 Hike and Bike Master Plan and the 2010 City of Amarillo Master Plan. Mr. Schniederjan agreed that would be a good place to begin, and he stated the plan could be a future agenda item.

ITEM 4: Discussion on the Invitation List for the Road Diet Workshop with the Federal Highway Administration.

Kyle Schniederjan reported that a tentative date of February 1 had been chosen for the Road Diet Workshop. Room 275 in the Sims Municipal Building has been reserved for the workshop unless a larger room is needed. Mr. Schniederjan stated that a list of city staff as well as City Council and Traffic Advisory Board members will be prepared for the invitation list. He said Panhandle Regional Planning Commission will be involved in the invitation list. Others suggested invitees were the cities of Canyon and Pampa as well as West Texas A & M University, Amarillo College, the Homebuilder's Association, and the Chamber of Commerce.

ITEM 5: Update on road use issues in the Mrs. MD Oliver-Eakle Subdivision.

Mr. Schniederjan reported that he had met with representatives of the Mrs. MD Oliver-Eakle Subdivision. He stated that the association is primarily concerned about traffic speeds in the subdivision. He reported that Timothy Ingalls had given a presentation to them about road lane modifications including adding bicycle lanes and parking issues. Mr. Schniederjan stated that he will give a presentation to the association at their public meeting on January 9th at 7:00 p.m. at Polk Street Methodist Church. He stated that the purpose was to inquire about the goals and objectives of the association.

Traffic studies taken by the Traffic Engineering Department staff indicate that Harrison Street carries approximately 1600 vehicles in a 24-hour period, and the 85th percentile speed was 34-35 miles per hour, indicating that approximately 50% of drivers are exceeding the speed limit of 30 miles per hour. Suggested road modifications to reduce speeds include reducing Harrison to one lane southbound, modifying parking restrictions, and adding a bicycle lane. Mr. Miller stated that road modification projects can present a balancing act between the neighborhood residents and those traversing through.

ITEM 6: Discussion of a policy for bringing Amarillo Police Department accident reports to the committee.

David Szmagalski, Traffic Operation Technician, reported that he had spoken with Amarillo Police Department representatives about examining accident reports involving pedestrians and bicyclists. They informed him that recent accidents may be under active investigation with possible pending charges. Mr. Szmagalski said the records were private and would not be available until the case was closed. Council Member Smith stated that perhaps it would be prudent to examine any intersection that had had multiple accidents in a short period of time. Mr. Schniederjan suggested that looking at pedestrian and bicycle accidents on at least an annual basis would be prudent.

ITEM 7: Discuss items for future agendas and schedule next meeting date.

Members agreed to schedule the next meeting on January 22, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. in a room to be determined.

The following were suggested agenda items for future meetings:

1. Revisions to Section 2 of Resolution 7-12-16-2, the resolution establishing the committee.
2. Bike lane enforcement by the Amarillo Police Department.
3. Review of the 2003 and 2010 Hike and Bike Master Plan.
4. Bulletin board for bicyclists on the City of Amarillo website.

ITEM 8: Public Forum.

Cole Camp stated he is interested in bicycle safety and connectivity. He had several suggestions for the committee to consider: (1) Scheduling the committee meetings later in the afternoon, if only once a quarter, would allow more interested citizens to attend; (2) Consider improvements to the bike lane connecting Olsen Blvd./I-40 northbound on Avondale Street to Plains Blvd./Rail Trail; (3) Consider connectivity between the Rail Trail and Medical Center Park; and (4) Consider the addition of more bike lanes in east Amarillo.

David Rich stated that many of the bike lanes are not bicycle friendly, citing heavy traffic or rough pavement.

ITEM 9: Adjournment. There being no further business, Committee Member Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Hayward, and the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. This meeting was recorded and all comments are on file with the City Traffic Engineering Department.



[Name], Chairman

ATTEST: 

[Name], Board Secretary