

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER & RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

MINUTES

On September 23, 2019, 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 the Regular Meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
Joe Chris Rodriguez	No	26	14
Tim Ingalls	Yes	27	25
Ed Commons	Yes	26	25
Steve Rogers	Yes	23	17
Howard Smith	Yes	20	19
Angela Harney	Yes	7	6
Joe MacInnis	No	5	2
NON-VOTING MEMBER			
Michael Schoenberg	Yes	2	2

City of Amarillo staff members attending were:

Donny Hooper	Assistant Director of Public Works
Kyle Schniederjan	Director of Capital Projects & Development Engineering
Michael Padilla	Transportation Superintendent
Courtney White	Assistant City Attorney
Travis Muno	MPO Administrator
Michelle Ramirez	Recording Secretary, Traffic Field Operations
Dawood Alani	Traffic Engineer
Lt. James Clements	Amarillo Police Department
Michael Schoenberg	Traffic Operations Technician
Cody Balzen	MPO Senior Planner

REGULAR MEETING

ITEM 1: Call to Order.

Committee Chairman Ingalls called the scheduled regular meeting of the Amarillo City Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Advisory Committee to order at 11:07 a.m.

Review of Minutes from Last Meeting.

Committee Chairman Ingalls asked if there were any changes to make for the approval of the August 12, 2019 minutes. Committee Member Harney questioned the third sentence in the second paragraph. (Item 2, Page 3) Committee Member Howard Smith made a motion to strike that sentence and re-clarify for the approval the minutes of the meeting. Committee Member Harney also questioned about the STRAVA press release. Staff Member Kyle Schniederjan made an amendment to the commitment of the press release on STRAVA. (Item 3, Page 2). Chairman Ingalls made a motion to approve the minutes. Committee Member Ed Commons seconded the motion, and motion carried 5:0.

ITEM 2: Receive Public Safety General Traffic Accident Statistics.

Lt. Clements discusses the top streets of Amarillo accident statistics and showed the high accident areas, along with high accident streets in Amarillo throughout the entire City. January 2019 to June 2019, APD received their information from TXDOT and crash reports. High accident streets will include Soncy, Coulter, Bell, Western and Georgia. Coulter St. showed 150 accidents and Western St. showed 147. Those will be the top 2 high accident Streets. Accidents by street comparison, Coulter and Western Street are the highest accident areas almost doubled compared to Soncy St. Lt. Clements broke them down quarterly. Coulter did show a decrease of accidents in the second quarter. The top contributing factors for all accidents on all five Streets is, failure to control speed and a failure to yield right of way. He was clear in saying that failure to control speed is not necessarily speeding. It means that the driver failed to stop or they failed to control the speed before colliding with another vehicle. 79% of accidents were due to left turns across traffic. January is a high accident month for Soncy Rd. They are consistent except for the month of June. Soncy Rd. showed accident lanes. The data shows that 77% of accidents occurred of the left lane were a failure to control speed. The driver slowed down to try to turn, getting in the center turn lane or stopping for a red light in time. Clements stated that 64% of accidents occur in the center lane were failure to control speed. There are 53% of accidents that occurred in the right lane were a failure to control speed. 72% of cars traveling in the same directions get hit from behind. Staff Member Kyle Schniederjan asked where the bike lanes are. Lt. Clements responded that the bike lanes are on the outside right and that's where most of the accidents occur. Dawood Alani, Traffic Engineer, asked that since Soncy Rd. has a 55 Speed Limit, shouldn't it have a Bike Lane or be a shared road? Kyle responded that the Texas State Standard for a bike lane is a 16ft. outside lane to meet the additional capacity of bikes. Committee Member Harney noted that she would not ride on Soncy unless she had a death wish. Data states that 24 accidents occurred between 34th and 45th St. Now, from 9th St. to Interstate 40, failure to control speed is the basic cause of most accidents in this area. Contributing factors of accidents from I-40 to 34th St. is also failure to control speed. There is a consistency of failure to control speed and failure to yield right of way. Data also shows that from 45th to Hillside, they are having issues with accidents that fail to yield right of way on left hand turns. Coulter St. will be the same issue as far as failure to control speed. 70% of accidents occurred in the left hand lane compared to the right hand lane. Member Harney asked why they are looking at these particular streets. Clements responded to her that these Intersections are the highest accidents in Amarillo. The highest accident location for Coulter is 9th St. to I-40, the Hospital District. The main Streets that are traveled, we have a common issue of a traffic access problem and a speeding problem. One of the problems is people just are not paying attention.

Staff member Kyle Schniederjan mentioned one of the initiatives and in fact funded through the Proposition I Capital funding program for the Traffic Department is Access Management. They have some capital dollars set aside specifically for Access Management Projects. The locations have been sporadic. The area of focus would be on Coulter from 34th to 45th and Georgia from I-40 to 45th.

ITEM 3: Receive Public Safety Update on Pedestrian and Bicycle Statistics.

Between 2014 and 2019, there have been a total of 460 pedestrian accidents. 31 were not injured. 2 of them didn't know if they were injured or not. There were 94 serious injuries. There were 152 non-incapacitating injuries. There were 148 possible injuries. There were 33 pedestrian fatalities from 2014-2019.

The high accidents that involved pedestrians location is 45th & Coulter with 5. Many of the pedestrians are not using the crosswalks or not yielding to traffic. There were 5 at I-40 & Whitaker. A lot of them are solicitors and homeless people taking money from cars. Amarillo Blvd is the highest accident area with 3 on Nelson, 3 on Grand, 3 on Charlotte and 3 on Garfield.

Member Harney inquired about the monitoring and maintenance on the Pedestrian lights. There are 280 intersections in Amarillo and the Traffic Dept. receives 20+ calls a day. Michael Padilla let her know that when the Dept. gets a call on a particular intersection, it's taken care of. Every 6 months, Traffic checks all intersections to see if everything is on and running well. Traffic Dept. has a 30 minutes response to a call. Harney noted that at Georgia and Austin the pedestrian signal just ran for two seconds and husband could never get across. Chairman Ingalls crosses at 22nd & Washington, it turns into a pedestrian crossing for him. At 24th, it's much slower. Michael says it just depends on the phase at the intersections. Donny Hooper mentioned the new 24-hour Traffic Control Management Center. All accidents are mostly reported at night. The problem is that the pedestrian is not using the crosswalks including bicycles. Committee member Commons says that Olsen and Western is a problem too. Committee member Harney asked about a certain standard of practice that can be used about more informed decisions. She mentioned Soncy. For example, Soncy functions as a highway. The only place you can cross is at the Mall, 34th, 45th.

Lt Clements discussed the Pedal cyclist's accidents. There were 136 total accidents between 2014 and 2019. There was one fatal on Coulter St. There were 18 suspected injuries. There were also 35 possible injuries. There were 24 non injuries. There were 56 non-incapacitating. There were 2 unknown injuries.

The highest accident intersection data is shown to be 10th & Georgia with 3. The bike trail is close to that intersection. There were 2 at I-40 & Western. There were 2 at I-40 & Georgia. There were 2 at Olsen & Hobbs. There were also 2 at SW 16th & Georgia. Amarillo has the highest per capita in the State in fatalities. Starting from January 2014 to December 2018 there were 5,821 citations issued for cell phone violations.

ITEM 4: Receive Staff Liaison Update.

Kyle has been the acting Liaison for the Traffic Engineer. Dawood Alani is the new Traffic Engineer. There will be a transition period. Our plan will be a six month time period and Kyle will transition out and Dawood will transition in. Donny Hooper, the Assistant Director of Public Works will be the new Liaison before Dawood officially makes the transition.

ITEM 5: Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date.

Harney would like info to be broken down by quarter and year on distracted drivers and citations. She would also like information about traffic accidents compared to other cities. Ingalls suggested that Seal Coating should be addressed. He inquired more specifically about Georgia to 10th & Julian Blvd. to Sunset Center. He wants to know the design set about the Bike Lanes. Commons would also like to talk about Olsen & Western.

Ingalls would like to discuss restriping as top coating happens. Harney would like to add the discussion on the pamphlet that was emailed out to the group named Places for Bikes on August 30, 2019.

Members agreed to schedule the next meeting date on October 28th

ITEM 6: Public Forum.

Alina Martin was present with her sons. They reside in Wolflin. Her husband loaded up them up in the bike and bike trailer and drove them down to Austin Park and played. On their way home they were coming up 24th St. passing through Ong St. A lady turned left without signaling looking over her right shoulder, running into their bike trailer clipping the back end. One of the comments made by an officer is that this neighborhood is pedestrian and bike heavy as well as, strollers everywhere. There are people who drive through that neighborhood very quickly. There are no stop signs. There are a couple yield

signs. She would like to know what could be done in this neighborhood. Stop signs? Yield signs? Perhaps higher traffic fines? Committee Member Harney inquired about the speed limit.

Kyle Schniederjan let her know that this could be an agenda item to be discussed at a future meeting.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Committee Chairman Ingalls adjourned the meeting at 12:33 p.m. This meeting was recorded and all comments are on file with the City Traffic Engineering Department.



[Tim Ingalls], Chairman

ATTEST:



[Michelle Ramirez], Board Secretary