

# SIoux FALLS SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



## **PATH COMMITTEE MEETING**

**September 9, 2010**

**9:00 AM**

**IPC Building, Boardroom 2-3**

### I. CALL TO ORDER/ ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Dallas Hofer, Sharon Chontos, Michelle Wolf, Teresa Boysen, Bill Smith, Darin Daby, Kerry Larson, Dave McIntire, Lt. Jerome Miller, Dennis Pottebaum, Lisa Huemoeller, Steve Natz, and Susan Foster

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

Craig Smith, Brandi Kowalczyk, Diane Hall, Marilyn Buskohl and John Snobeck

#### GUESTS PRESENT

Beth Thornton, Jessa Howes, Mary Peterson, Shannon Graber, Lori Hein, Ms. Bogdanovic

### II. INTRODUCTIONS

Beth Thornton and Jessa Howes both introduced themselves as parents of students that attend Mark Twain. Mary Peterson identified herself as the Mark Twain Principal. Shannon Graber and Lori Hein both indicated they were representing Rosa Parks PTA/Safety Committee.

### III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES

A motion was made by Dallas Hofer to approve the May minutes. Motion was seconded by Bill Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

### IV. PUBLIC INPUT

Beth Thornton and Jessa Howes requested assistance with developing a pick-up/drop-off strategy at Mark Twain. Dallas Hofer brought a site map of the school and surrounding area to show the location of where the current bus drop off area and parent pick up areas are located.

The problem is with the numerous amounts of drop-offs by parents whom then decide to park on both sides of Center Avenue, thus blocking through-traffic due to the narrow street width. It is especially dangerous in the winter, because of the snow piles, children are darting through the crosswalk that is filled with cars and children are getting in and out of cars on the snow banks, in lieu of the crosswalk.

## SIoux FALLS SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



Mary Peterson, Mark Twain principal, stated that she would prefer the cement slab, located on the east side in front of the school, be signed as a no parking zone during school hours. Dallas Hofer suggested Mary coordinate with the Lowell Elementary principal, as they have found an effective traffic control tool by utilizing volunteer adults/parents ensuring a smooth traffic flow at pick-up/drop-off times. Dallas also indicated that passenger loading and unloading only signs were also installed. If Mark Twain should choose to install this same signage, there will be no parking during the day at that location. Dallas confirmed he would meet Mary Peterson on site to decide on a strategy. Bill Smith added the biggest challenge would be implementation and educating the parents.

Dallas Hofer and the Police were thanked for assisting Rosa Parks Elementary in solving their drop-off traffic flow problem. The school painted street lines and installed additional signage which has helped in alleviating the problem.

Another issue reviewed at Rosa Parks concerned the safe path of the children that live in the trailer park near the school. These children currently walk on the north side of 26th Street to cross at 26th Street and Red Oak Drive where the majority of traffic turns. Dallas was asked to install additional sidewalk to keep the children on the west side until they can access the existing painted crosswalks to verify the safety of these children. Dallas reported the sidewalk installation is currently ongoing and is expected to be completed soon.

### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Police Department:* No Report
- *City Engineering:* The Holy Spirit crosswalk currently located at the intersection of Mission Street and Bahnson Avenue is an uncontrolled, unmanned crosswalk. Requests were made for either a traffic signal or flashing beacon. Traffic Engineering performed two observations at this intersection. The first was a speed observation on Bahnson Avenue that found 85 percent of motorists were traveling at 30 miles per hour, very few motorists traveled at 15 miles per hour. The second observation counted the number of students who used this crosswalk. Dallas reported the number of students crossing at this location included 4 from Holy Spirit and 14 from John Harris. Dallas suggested possibly eliminating this crosswalk since there are only 4 students utilizing this crosswalk from Holy Spirit. Dallas added John Harris is doing a tremendous job controlling their safe path at the 49th Street and Bahnson Avenue crosswalk with an adult crossing guard. He

## SIoux FALLS SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



recommended the 4 students from Holy Spirit use the safe path at 49th and Bahnson since it is a controlled and manned crosswalk. Bill Smith's perspective was the crosswalk should be eliminated if Holy Spirit does not provide a crossing guard at the Mission and Bahnson crosswalk. Traffic Engineering will be discussing the possible elimination of the Mission Street and Bahnson Avenue crosswalk with Holy Spirit's principal.

- *Private Schools:* No report
- *Public Schools:* No report

### VI. NEW BUSINESS

- *Police Department:* No report
- *City Engineering:* Dallas reported a request was made for a new crosswalk at 57th Street and Grinnell Avenue. This would be a quarter mile west of the currently installed traffic signal at 57th Street and Galway Avenue for Pettigrew. Parents who live on Culbert Avenue requested this crosswalk to give their children a straight path to school. Galway Avenue serves a large residential area; Culbert Avenue serves a very small area with few homes. The Path Committee previously made the decision to install the traffic signal at 57th and Galway. The City then constructed sidewalk along the entire south side to Culbert for those students heading north from Culbert Avenue. These students are able to stay on the sidewalk until they reach the traffic signal and then cross and continue their path to school. Dallas recommended this request be denied since a safe path has already been established. As more development occurs, there is a possibility that this may be a future location for a traffic signal; however, at this time it does not warrant installing a crosswalk. Bill Smith confirmed he would research and report back to Dallas the number of children that currently live south and west of the detention pond that would be impacted by this. In the future, City Engineering is reviewing a project to widen 57th Street from Marion Road to Holbrook Avenue to four or five lanes. Holbrook Avenue to the Tea-Ellis Road will be overlaid and restriped to a four lane capacity to speed up traffic which will help alleviate the morning traffic delays in this area.

Dallas also received a citizen request to remove the parking on Discovery Street between Lone Street and Justice Street during Discovery's school pick up and drop off times. Traffic Engineering observed this area twice. The day Dallas observed, he noticed a total of only three cars that were inconvenienced and had to wait, and it was only because two parents decided to park on the west side to drop their

## **SIoux FALLS SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**



children off. Dallas said he would initiate a phone call to contact the surrounding homeowners to ask whether or not they would want the parking removed, if the PATH Committee members agreed. After a brief group discussion, Dallas indicated he would be contacting Discovery's Principal, Ann Williams, to question her about this concern.

Traffic Engineering has also been getting requests for sidewalk on the north side of 41st Street just west of Sertoma Avenue for Roosevelt High School. Since this portion of 41st Street is a rural section, installing sidewalk would be very difficult. City Engineering is currently in the design stage for reconstructing 41st Street from Sertoma Avenue to the Tea-Ellis Road. The project will consist of constructing a divided boulevard with a four-lane arterial street but will not begin for two to three years. For the children who want to walk to Roosevelt and live west of Sertoma Avenue, City Engineering will be installing a painted and signed ADA crosswalk at the intersection of Sertoma Avenue and Panama Street. The buses will then be encouraged to drop the children off at the new crosswalk, in lieu of the current drop-off at Roosevelt's driveway entrance.

- *Private Schools:* No report
- *Public Schools:* No report

### VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dallas Hofer to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Teresa Boysen. Motion passed unanimously.

- The next meeting will be held October 14, 2010 at the IPC Building.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.