

# SIoux FALLS SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



## **PATH COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 14, 2010**

**9:00 AM**

**IPC Building, Boardroom 2-3**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER/ ATTENDANCE**

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Snobeck, Heath Hoftiezer, Dallas Hofer, Bill Smith, Lisa Huemoeller, Darin Daby, Sharon Chontos, Craig Smith, Lt. Jerome Miller, and Michelle Wolf

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Steve Natz, Teresa Boysen, Brandi Kowalczyk, Diane Hall, Marilyn Buskohl, Kerry Larson and Susan Foster

#### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Patty Vincent

### **II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Patty Vincent, Principal of John F. Kennedy Elementary

### **III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES**

A motion was made by John Snobeck to approve the September minutes. Motion was seconded by Jerome Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. PUBLIC INPUT**

### **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- *Police Department:* No Report

- *City Engineering:* Dallas Hofer and Mary Peterson, Principal at Mark Twain, coordinated after last month's meeting to develop a less congested pick-up/drop-off strategy on the east side of Center Avenue. Mary took the opportunity to travel to Lowell Elementary to observe the traffic flow at the passenger loading and unloading signed area on 17th Street. Mary said she would also like to utilize this type of operation at Mark Twain. City Engineering assisted in resolving Mark Twain's problem by establishing a signed passenger loading and unloading area on Center Avenue from the north edge of the school at 28th Street to 29th Street. Adult

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teachers are also being utilized to help ensure a smooth traffic flow at this location.

Dallas reiterated the information he told the PATH members in last month's meeting in regards to the observation of the unmanned Holy Spirit crosswalk located at the intersection of Mission and Bahnson. Very few students from Holy Spirit use this crosswalk that is located in the exiting driveway of their parking lot; however, there seems to be several students from John Harris that use this unmanned crosswalk. The principals at Holy Spirit and John Harris both approved of removing the unmanned crosswalk; however, Nancy Hagen from John Harris preferred the removal be delayed until after the school year. After a brief group discussion, the PATH members decided since it was noted as an unsafe crosswalk it should be immediately removed. A motion was made by Michelle Wolf to immediately remove the crosswalk at Mission Street and Bahnson Avenue; motion seconded by Bill Smith. Motion passed unanimously. City Engineering will be updating and distributing new PATH maps for Holy Spirit and John Harris once the removal of the crosswalk has been completed. Bill Smith said that he would be contacting staff at John Harris to have them communicate this in their newsletter.

Dallas reviewed some parents' requests last month to establish a new marked and signed crosswalk at 57th Street and Grinnell Avenue. This would allow their children that live south of 57th Street on Grinnell/Culbert a straight path to Pettigrew. Before Pettigrew opened, this location was previously considered but was not chosen because Culbert Avenue serves a very small residential area; Galway Avenue serves a large residential area. The City then constructed new sidewalk along the entire south side of Culbert for those students heading north from Culbert, which takes them directly to Galway where they cross at the signal. Therefore, the decision was made to deny the request for a marked and signed crosswalk at 57th Street and Grinnell Avenue. Bill Smith reported the number of students that currently live south of 57th within the JFK and Pettigrew boundaries. Bill stated one option the school system is seriously considering is bussing the students that live in these areas, beginning next year.

Dallas reported that he had contacted Discovery's Principal, Ann Williams, about the request to remove the parking on Discovery between Lone St. and Justice St. Ann confirmed she had not been notified of any parking problems. Dallas said during a recent observation he made, he did observe a few parents coming from the north of 22nd Street decide to park on the west side of Discovery and walk their child to the school. During that time, traffic was slower coming out of the exit driveway to turn south. Ann told Dallas she would observe this area to alert the parents that are blocking the traffic to park further north on Justice Street to alleviate this problem.

- *Private Schools:*

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- *Public Schools:*

### VI. NEW BUSINESS

- *Police Department:* Lt. Miller reported that he was very pleased with the outcome of a planned and executed role playing exercise the Sioux Falls police officers recently participated in. This live exercise was held to better train the officers in the event a school shooting would ever take place. The police practiced relocating students from point A to point B, and included indentifying, interviewing and returning them to their parents.
- *City Engineering:* Heath Hoftiezer provided a flashing beacon study handout detailing the information the engineers observed at the following locations: 57th Street and Holbrook and Bahnson Avenue from 16th to 18th Street. The studies were done in response to public requests received by the traffic engineers. The current speed limit on 57th Street is 40 mph. While the students were present waiting to cross at the 57th and Holbrook intersection, 85th percentile of the motorists speed in the AM was 27 mph; PM speed was 35 mph. In order to warrant installing a flashing beacon one of the requirements is that 30 students in a 30 minute period must cross the intersection. In the AM 13 students crossed; PM revealed 28 students crossed. In one hour's time, a total of 869 vehicles drove on 57th Street in the AM; PM revealed 797 vehicles. As of this time, only three of the four warrants were met at the 57th and Holbrook intersection. In the near future, Heath indicated 57th Street from Holbrook to Marion will be widened to four lanes. There will be a four lane section on 57th Street with a turning lane at the 57th and Holbrook intersection which will assist in alleviating the morning traffic congestion currently occurring. The future plan is to install left turn phasing also at this intersection. FHWA is heavily encouraging flashing yellow arrows which will be considered at this location. The Federal Highway Administration recently conducted studies in which they asked drivers about their response to different traffic light scenarios and also field tested them. Their results discovered that more drivers understood what to do when they saw the flashing yellow arrow better than when they saw green ball indications. The eastbound and northbound through traffic and the southbound left turn lane on 57th Street currently have the largest capacity issues.

Patty Vincent attended today's meeting to inquire about getting a four-way stop installed at the corner of 53rd Street and Holbrook near John F. Kennedy. The Holbrook traffic is backing up the 53rd Street traffic and Patty reported school safety patrol has had two near misses trying to get the students across the crosswalk.

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There is adult supervision that assists the safety patrol on 53rd Street the majority of time. Dallas recommended possibly using the same type of operation that John Harris uses at 49th Street and Bahnson with the adult controlling the traffic with a stop paddle. Patty also stated another problem they are having is with speeding traffic on Holbrook coming from 57th. Officer Pottebaum has been there on numerous occasions to assist with the portable speed trailer. In 2009, there were new MUTCD federal standards put in place that now allow municipalities more flexibility to use the four-way stops. One of the options available is when there is a residential collector street with a high pedestrian generator nearby, such as a school, through an engineering study you have the flexibility of installing a four-way stop. Dallas indicated his staff would do a study analysis and report back to the committee next month.

Heath continued with the details of the flashing beacon study results at Bahnson Avenue from 16th to 18<sup>th</sup> Street. This intersection only met only two of the four warrants that are required to install a flashing beacon. Heath commented that Cleveland may have too many crosswalks. Traffic Engineering will perform a site survey at Cleveland.

- *Private Schools:*

- *Public Schools:*

### VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by John Snobeck to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Craig Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

- The next meeting will be held November 18, 2010 at the IPC Building.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.