

SIoux FALLS SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



PATH COMMITTEE MEETING

March 11, 2021

8:30 a.m.

Conference Rooms 1&2

I. CALL TO ORDER/ ATTENDANCE

Heath Hoftiezer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Troy Miller, Heath Hoftiezer, David Heinold, Todd Vik, Nicole Barnes, Lt. Jon Thum, Sgt. Travis Olsen, Officer Robert Draeger, Todd Thoelke, John Snobeck, Lisa Lewis-Huemoeller

MEMBERS ABSENT

Moria Beznoska, Marilyn Buskhol, Nancy Hagen, Danaca Schettler, Mike Munzke

INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENT S/DISCUSSION:

Heath had everyone introduce themselves due to the large number of Ben Reifel Middle School parents attending the meeting for the first time.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Heinold to approve the January 14, 2021 meeting minutes. Second by Snobeck. Roll call: Yeses - Troy Miller, Heath Hoftiezer, David Heinold, Todd Vik, Nicole Barnes, Lt. Jon Thum, Sgt. Travis Olsen, Officer Robert Draeger, Todd Thoelke, John Snobeck, Lisa Lewis-Huemoeller. No - None. Motion approved.

III. PUBLIC INPUT: None

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Police Department:* Police are continuing to work with School Bus Inc. regarding their top problem locations. No update from School Bus Inc. on whether they want to continue the project. Vik will share contact information for the new general manager with Sgt. Olsen to facilitate communication during the transition in leadership for School Bus Inc.

Police are continuing work on a plan to provide "pedestrian safety kits" with 3M adhesive reflective strips to downtown residents, shelters, and schools to help with pedestrian crossing safety. The reflective strips would be placed on coats, backpacks, etc. to increase pedestrian visibility.

- *City Engineering:* None
- *Private Schools:* None
- *Public Schools:* There were a number of parents of future Ben Reifel Middle School (BRMS) students that attended the meeting to provide comments on the bus routes and crossing safety of Veterans Parkway. The parents expressed thanks for listening to their concerns and allowing them to be part of the solution.

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They were happy with the temporary solution of providing a shuttle bus at Harmodon Park near the intersection of 41st Street and Manifold Avenue for those students who were not eligible for traditional bussing. They also emphasized that it is a temporary solution and want to continue to be involved as the City, PATH committee, and School District work towards a more permanent fix. Vik stated that parents should remain engaged through the school principal as a liaison with the PATH committee.

Some of the ideas and concerns that were brought forth by parents included:

- Making sure that the shuttle bus option is included on the website for new parents that are searching for school bus eligibility.
- Request to install a bike rack near the shuttle bus location.
- Consider additional students in the shuttle bus category for other bus routes that are closer to their homes if those routes have space.
- One parent shared information regarding the effects of speed on stopping distance and accident severity.
- One parent stated that the high speed corridor Veterans Parkway was designed to be is not necessarily compatible with a school crossing and rather than trying to make them compatible, we should separate them either physically or by eliminating the need to cross through bussing, long-term shutting, etc..

Hoftiezer shared several actions that the City of Sioux Falls is planning to increase safety for pedestrians, including:

- Establishment of school zones on 41st Street around the crossing at Manifold Avenue and the crossing at Faith Avenue.
- Installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) at the Faith Avenue crossing.
- Installation of programmable 20MPH advisory speed limit signage with flashing lights that would be in operation 20 minutes prior to school start and 20 minutes after school release.

Hoftiezer also noted that school zones for the Brandon Valley elementary school will be established at a later date when more information is known regarding school boundaries and transportation options for students.

Miller noted it is important to keep in mind any students choosing to cross Veterans Parkway will be crossing at a signalized intersection with stopped traffic and the addition of the advisory speed signage should help to draw more attention to the traffic signal.

Hoftiezer stated due to the start and end times of Sioux Falls middle schools, the pedestrian crossing will be occurring outside of peak traffic hours, which will also help the situation.

Heinold suggested the possibility of reducing the speed limit to 45 MPH with a 35 MPH speed limit during school crossing times. Hoftiezer stated at this time, the road has not been turned over to the City; we only have the authority to make changes to an advisory speed limit. However, more options may be available in the future.

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Motion to approve by Officer Draeger to implement the school zones at Manifold Avenue and Faith Avenue, along with the RRFB installation at Manifold Avenue, and installation of advisory speed limit signage on Veterans Parkway. Second by Vik. Yeses: Troy Miller, Heath Hoftiezer, David Heinold, Todd Vik, Nicole Barnes, Lt. Jon Thum, Sgt. Travis Olsen, Officer Robert Draeger, Todd Thoelke, John Snobeck, Lisa Lewis-Huemoeller. Noes - None. Motion approved.

The PATH Committee will continue to revisit and discuss this.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- *Police Department:* Sgt Olson stated that the police department is working with Mike Grigsby, Director of Innovation and Technology for the City of Sioux Falls, and making some forward progress on downtown issues and looking at some technology-based solutions for noise control, speeding, and pedestrian-vehicle accidents. They have been focusing some efforts with Office of Highway Safety Grant funds to post officers downtown on Friday and Saturday nights to focus on downtown traffic enforcement. Focusing between Sixth Street and 14th Street and Minnesota Avenue and Second Avenue, with some additional effort on pedestrians along Cliff Avenue.
- *City Engineering:* Hoftiezer discussed some opportunities for pedestrian improvements around Lowell Elementary that David Heinold inquired about regarding the street construction projects scheduled in the area. Specifically, the intersection of 17th Street and Summit Avenue and how the City is planning to reduce the radii on the corners, install new pedestrian ramps, and repaint crosswalks.

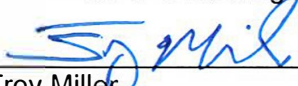
Heinold asked that the safe routes to Lowell Elementary be re-studied having some concerns about the crossing of Grange Avenue in particular. He also asked to look at 14th Street, Summit Avenue, and Prairie Avenue for potential inclusion in the safe routes to school for Lowell Elementary. Hoftiezer will review the current routes and have a conversation with the principal to see if there are any needed changes.

Hoftiezer also discussed a City overlay project that will be affecting Hughes Avenue and Connie Avenue in the area of Harrisburg Explorer Elementary. He met with the project team to discuss potential pedestrian upgrade opportunities at the intersections of 77th Street, 81st Street, and 82nd Street with Hughes Avenue. A big opportunity identified was realigning the midblock crosswalk on Hughes Avenue just north of 81st Street and potentially adding bump-outs or chicanes to reduce the crossing width and/or help address speeding complaints.

- *Private Schools:* None
- *Public Schools:* None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m. Next meeting will be May 13, 2021 in North Rooms C&D at the IPC Building located at 201 East 38th Street.



Troy Miller
Public Works/Traffic Engineer