

Arkansas City Traffic Safety Committee
4/12/19 Minutes

A regular meeting was held Friday, April 12, 2019, in the City Manager's Office at City Hall. Meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Roll Call:

CITY STAFF MEMBERS

City Manager	Nick Hernandez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire-EMS Department	Bobby Wolfe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police Department	Jim Holloway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Principal Planner	Josh White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Information	Andrew Lawson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Works Dept.	Mike Crandall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

City Commission	Karen Welch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chamber of Commerce	Paisley Howerton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cowley College	Matt Stone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Planning Commission	Andy Paton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
School Board / Chamber	Jon Oak	<input type="checkbox"/>
USD 470 Public Schools	Jeri Crumbliss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. Approve January Meeting Minutes:

Karen moved to approve the minutes of the **Jan. 11, 2019**, meeting. Andy seconded the motion, which was approved **8-0**.

2. Crestwood Drive Bridge Update:

Mike said all of the concrete has been poured for the bridge, but they still have to pour the downstream wing walls. The project should be done and accepted by the state within the next two weeks, but the solar lights will be installed later.

Fire Chief Bobby Wolfe and Matt Stone joined the meeting in progress at **10:05 a.m.** and **10:06 a.m.**, respectively.

3. Roosevelt's Request for Crosswalk at C Street and Chestnut Avenue:

ACPD Capt. Jim Holloway, filling in for Chief Ward, reported that the speed monitoring sign was operated for nine days (**Feb. 13-21**) in the 300 block of East Chestnut Avenue. It measured 8,067 cars westbound, 7,631 of which observed the posted speed limit of 30 mph. Of those speeding, 407 were **30-35 mph**, 28 were **35-40 mph** and only one was **40-45 mph**.

Jim presented a picture showing the near proximity of the "End School Zone" sign to the start of the 20-mph downtown zone and suggested it might create confusion. He and Josh suggested moving the 20-mph sign closer to the A Street intersection.

Karen made a motion to move the 20-mph sign closer to A Street and table any further discussion on the crosswalk request until **July 12**. Jim seconded the motion, which was approved **10-0** on a voice vote.

4. Frances Willard Elementary School:

Matt said he was concerned that there are no lighted school zone signals at Chestnut Avenue and Fourth Street, just crosswalks and the traffic light. There was some question about whether Chestnut Avenue is actually in a legal school zone.

He raised concerns related to drop-offs on Chestnut, foot traffic and perceived speeding in the area. The committee consensus was to discuss the matter further **July 12**, once more information is known and the Frances Willard principal can be present.

5. Summit Street (Kansas Avenue to Radio Lane):

Nick gave a brief overview of how the City got to this point with Summit Street and why it wasn't addressed with the 2009-2014 street sales tax. The reconstruction project stalled over whether to do two sidewalks and then there was a City overhaul.

While the project was stalled and before Nick arrived as city manager, the funding stream changed drastically and rendered the planned project unfeasible. He then reviewed the TranSystems study again and said the City was working to publicize it.

At this time, Nick wants to let the idea circulate in the public consciousness for several months before taking any actions.

Jim said accident rates on Summit between Kansas and Radio are up 50 percent so far in 2019, even as they are going down elsewhere in Arkansas City. The committee's concern is that new development such as Burger King will make this worse.

Nick said any restriping would be done in conjunction with a microsurfacing project that will make the asphalt look newer.

6. Road Diet Policies:

Nick said that with the road diet approach, he can almost guarantee those accident rates will go down. Jim pointed out the U.S. 77-U.S. 166 roundabout was unpopular when it was installed, but there hasn't been a single fatality since it was built.

Sid Regnier, 1326 North C St., asked questions about the Summit Street proposal and registered his concerns with the idea.

He said he thinks it could create more dangerous situations, due to the north and south flow being reduced to just one lane apiece. Nick said there would be a transitional zone to allow for safe merging and expansion of the lanes.

Sid asked about utility closures. Mike said flagging would have to be used, as with any other two- or three-lane road in town.

Sid also raised the issue of backed-up traffic due to Jefferson Elementary School. Nick said it has worked well in other cities.

Nick said that if the three-lane alignment is chosen for Summit, it can always be taken back to four lanes if it doesn't work out. But if it does work well, he wants to do the same thing on West Kansas Avenue to alleviate the sight-line problems there.

Matt left the meeting in progress at **10:37 a.m.**

7. Other Miscellaneous Items:

Andrew, Mike and Nick said the City did receive a Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant from KDOT for the hike-bike trail extension project. Nick said Cowley College's and Westar's contributions take care of the entire local match requirement.

Mike reported that in the last quarter, the Street and Stormwater Division replaced 19 stop signs (and repaired four more), six 20-mph school zone signs (and updated the times on the middle school's signs), 80 street signs, and nine "no parking" signs.

He said the "T intersection" sign at First Street and Maple Avenue was replaced due to graffiti. A 30-mph sign was replaced near City Ball Park on South Summit Street. Nick said 26,000 pounds of asphalt have been used so far in pothole patching.

The speed monitoring sign will be placed on First Street behind the proposed Burger King location to assess the local traffic.

Jim gave an update on the "Operation: School Bus Safety" enforcement program conducted recently by School Resources Officers Chase Hobart and Matt Mayo. During the course of three days of riding school buses, they documented numerous stop-arm or inattentive driving violations, as well as seat belt violations. Enforcement and citations began after the third day.

Jeri praised the school bus traffic enforcement program and thanked the School Resource Officers for putting it together.

Nick explained the City's police chase policy, which requires a felony or other serious crime to have been committed before a chase can be authorized. Police must obtain approval to initiate a chase. ACPD does not initiate chases for traffic infractions.

This issue was highlighted by a recent high-speed chase — initiated north of Ark City by the Cowley County Sheriff's Office and Winfield Police Department due to a traffic infraction — that reached speeds of 60 mph through downtown Ark City.

Nick said ACPD was not involved in this chase, other than attempting to deploy a spike strip, which was not successful. He said he and Chief Ward are very concerned about this trend and will be working the county sheriff to address their concerns.

Karen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andy seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was approved **9-0** on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at **10:48 a.m.** The next meeting of the Traffic Safety Committee will be at **10 a.m. Friday, July 12, 2019.**