

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 9, 2017

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson: Theron Roschen, City Engineer

Committee Members: Francisco Mendoza-Gonzalez, Planning Designee
Mike Miller, Director of Public Works Designee
Michael Stephenson, Fire Chief Designee

Absent: Jacob Struble, Police Chief Designee

C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Resident SCOTT CAMPER expressed his concerns and frustrations with the current detour route for the M Street Bridge project, specifically citing increased traffic volume and speed along Rambler Road and Ardell Drive.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Traffic Committee Minutes of March 14, 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and file.

Michael Stephenson Moved, Theron Roschen Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Theron Roschen, Francisco Mendoza-Gonzalez, Mike Miller, Michael Stephenson

Absent: Jacob Struble

Clerk's Note: Staff recommendation approved.

E. REPORTS

1. Committee Member Reports

(At this time, it is appropriate for any Committee Member to give an informational report of any work completed, training, or other item to share with other members. Please be brief, and no action may be taken on these items.)

Chairperson ROSCHEN gave an update on the “College Streets” neighborhood traffic analysis, informing the committee a special meeting would be called once the analysis has been routed for comment.

F. BUSINESS

1. Request #17-002 – Request for a Four-Way Stop at West 23rd Street and Canal Street (Kathy Friesen / Merced County)

(Merced County Employee is requesting a four-way stop at West 23rd Street and Canal Street due to their concern of vehicle collisions at the intersection. Continued from the January 10, 2017 meeting.)

Chairperson ROSCHEN reviewed the traffic analysis prepared by Interwest Consulting, noting the intersection does not meet traffic warrants at this time.

Committee Member MENDOZA-GONZALEZ questioned the method of collecting the traffic data. Chairperson ROSCHEN explained the data was collected in March during a weekday and that the data would be representative of average traffic at the intersection.

MOTION: To deny the request for a four-way stop intersection due to a lack of warrants.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Theron Roschen Moved, Mike Miller Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Theron Roschen, Francisco Mendoza-Gonzalez, Mike Miller, Michael Stephenson

Absent: Jacob Struble

2. Request #17-008 – Request for Removal of Stop Sign on East South Bear Creek at Parsons Avenue (Peter Padilla)
(Citizen is requesting the removal of a stop sign due to their opinion the stop sign was installed without meeting requirements and as a result created a dangerous corner.)

Resident PETER PADILLA was present and detailed his concerns. Mr. PADILLA insisted the City did not follow the established procedure for installation of stop signs, and as a result the stop signs should be removed by the City. Mr. PADILLA also stated the stop signs were requested by a single resident who does not live near the intersection, and further that the stop signs have created a dangerous intersection.

Committee Member MILLER and Chairperson ROSCHEN explained the intersection is not under City jurisdiction, but belongs to the County; as such, the City cannot remove the stop signs.

Mr. ROSCHEN further explained that the stop signs were requested through the City's Traffic Committee and approved by Ordinance at a City Council meeting. At the time of initial installation, the City mistakenly believed the intersection was under their jurisdiction. Once the mistake was realized, the stop signs went through a separate approval process at the County Board of Supervisors.

Resident KARL LIBSCH stated he frequently walks the neighborhood and asked a few residents that live in the neighborhood if they would be in support of removing the stop signs. Mr. LIBSCH stated that of the residents he polled, none were in support of removing the stop signs.

Committee Member MENDOZA-GONZALEZ asked whether the Parsons Avenue Corridor Project, specifically the bridge portion, would be built in the future. Mr. PADILLA expressed his extreme objection to the Parsons project. Chairperson ROSCHEN explained the City Council had put a stop to the project at this time, so the future of the bridge was uncertain.

Chairperson ROSCHEN went on to state he would send a letter to the County explaining Mr. Padilla's request and that it would be up to their Board whether the stop signs would be removed.

MOTION: To have the City Engineer send a letter to the County of Merced communicating the request for stop sign removal received by the City.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Theron Roschen Moved, Mike Miller Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Theron Roschen, Francisco Mendoza-Gonzalez, Mike Miller, Michael Stephenson

Absent: Jacob Struble

3. Request #17-009 – Request for an All-Way Stop at Lake Road and Yosemite Avenue (Shara Bigelow)
(Citizen is requesting the addition of an all-way stop due to their concern of vehicle collisions at the intersection.)

Chairperson ROSCHEN explained the City is currently reviewing plans for a development adjacent to the intersection. The City is requiring the developer install a traffic signal at Yosemite Avenue and Lake Road as part of the development. Committee Member MENDOZA-GONZALEZ stated the development was on a “fast-track” and the signal installation could happen as early as the end of the year.

MOTION: To inform the requesting party the intersection will be signalized as part of a development currently in plan review at the City.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: None at this time.

Michael Stephenson Moved, Theron Roschen Seconded

Vote: 4-0

Voting Aye: Theron Roschen, Francisco Mendoza-Gonzalez, Mike Miller, Michael Stephenson

Absent: Jacob Struble

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 pm.

By:



Jamie Cruz
Secretary II/Recording Secretary

Approved:



for Theron Roschen
City Engineer/Chairperson