

DES MOINES TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

March 11, 2008

MINUTES

The Des Moines Traffic Safety Committee met at 7:30 a.m. on March 11, 2008, in the Conference Room of the Traffic and Transportation Division, lower level of the Armory Building, 602 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines, Iowa 50309. Those members in attendance were:

Gary Fox
John Morrissey
George Robinson

Bob Saf
Jim Windsor

Members Absent: Mark Barkley, Jack Beardsley, Mary Conlow, Mary McBride, Carl McPherson, and Kevin Williamson

Staff Present: Mike Ring, Mark Garrett and Michelle Schomer

SUBSTITUTE CHAIRPERSON GEORGE ROBINSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:40 A.M.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Minutes of December 11, 2007 Meeting

MOTION was made by Bob Saf to approve the minutes as mailed; seconded by Jim Windsor. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Status Report

Staff met with area neighborhood group regarding proposed 3-way STOP at 42nd and Forest. It was decided at that meeting not to pursue the 3-way STOP at 42nd and Forest because of perceived possible backups in traffic due to other STOP signs along Forest.

Sign Shop staff removed STOP sign on Scandia at the "T" intersection with SE 7th.

3. Other Old Business

There was no Other Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for Two-Sided Parking Restriction— E 35th from Arthur to Thompson and Arthur from E 34th to E 35th

Gary Fox presented this item as follows:

The City received a concern from a resident that the streets were too narrow for two-way traffic due to recent grading of the ditches by the City Public Works Department. A field review of E. 35th Street between Arthur Avenue and Thompson Avenue and Arthur Avenue between E. 34th Street and E. 35th Street found that at the widest point the streets were 25 feet wide, but at the narrowest point the streets were 11 feet wide. "One Lane Road Ahead" signs were installed after the field review to warn drivers of the narrow road conditions.

Currently parking is allowed on east side of E. 35th Street between Arthur Avenue and Hull Avenue and on the south side of Arthur Avenue between E. 33rd Street and E. 35th Street. If a car were to park on the 11 feet wide section of the street, the street would be blocked to traffic. As a result, staff supports the restriction of parking on both sides of E. 35th Street and Arthur Avenue to

improve vehicle access to the neighborhood, emergency vehicle access to the neighborhood, and mail delivery.

Staff recommended that parking be restricted on both sides of E. 35th Street between Arthur Avenue and Thompson Avenue and on both sides of Arthur Avenue between E. 34th Street and E. 35th Street.

MOTION was made by Bob Saf to approve staff recommendation; seconded by Jim Windsor. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Election of Officers

MOTION was made by Bob Saf to defer election of officers until next meeting; seconded by Jim Windsor. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Proposed 2008 Traffic Safety Committee Budget

Mike Ring presented the Traffic Safety Committee budget as follows:

DES MOINES TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

BALANCE: December 31, 2007 \$ 11.62

PROPOSED 2008 BUDGET

INCOME: Balance on Hand \$110.00
2008 Dues – 11 @ \$10.00

Total Income \$121.62

EXPENSES: Meeting Costs 8 @ \$10.00 \$ 80.00

Miscellaneous Costs \$ 41.62

Total Expense \$121.62

Staff recommended that the proposed 2008 budget, with 2008 dues of \$10 per member, be approved.

MOTION was made by Bob Saf to approve staff recommendation; seconded by Jim Windsor. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Year 2008 Major Street Construction Projects

Mark Garrett presented this item as follows:

In January or February of each year, the City provides a news release of major construction projects that involve street closings and/or major traffic disruptions. The information is compiled by Traffic and Transportation and released through the Communications Office. The release includes the City web site address, and the Action Center places this information on the City's web site.

A report of these major construction projects involving street closings and traffic disruptions will be presented to the Committee at the meeting. A copy of the 2008 Construction Project listing is attached and made a part of these minutes.

This item is for informational purposes only. No action was required.

George Robinson was impressed by the look and drivability of I-235. Gary Fox said traffic still backs up in West Des Moines from 22nd Street to about I-35/80.

Gary Fox reported that the Parking Wayfinding Sign project in the downtown was a success during tournament time.

Jim Windsor asked how often lines are painted on the streets.

Gary responded that many pavement markings are repainted each year on city streets in the City of Des Moines. He mentioned that high-performance wet weather markings will be installed on I-235.

Bob Saf asked if any of the projects would be cut due to budget constraints. Gary responded that the budget is already approved, and all projects that were to be cut have already been cut.

George Robinson complained about the island markers being difficult to see. Gary explained there are several reasons for this . . . first, headlights point down and to the right and make it difficult to see signs mounted at the left; second, the signs get dirty from road spray; and third, older drivers do not see as well at night as they used to with the same level of light.

George said Ingersoll is now too narrow to support the angle parking in the business area. Gary agreed that the lanes are narrower due to snow piled along the curbs, etc.

George informed staff that the new overlay on E 18th Street between Walnut and Court has failed.

5. Proposed "Complete Street" City Council Policy Regarding the Consideration and Addition of Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities on Street Projects Within the City of Des Moines.

Gary Fox presented this item as follows:

See the City Council Communication, which gives good background information, and also the draft "Complete Streets Policy". Both documents are attached and made a part of these minutes.

This item is for discussion purposes only at this meeting. The Committee will consider a staff recommendation at a future meeting.

6. Committee Members Discussion Time

Jim Windsor asked for a good speed enforcement plan.

George Robinson expressed his dislike for the back-in angle parking spaces downtown.

7. **Other New Business**

There was no Other New Business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Schomer
Recording Secretary

DES MOINES TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MARCH 11, 2008

OFFICIAL VOTE COUNT

	OLD Item 1		NEW Item 1		NEW Item 2		NEW Item 3	
	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
Mark Barkley								
Jack Beardsley								
Mary Conlow								
Gary Fox	X		X		X		X	
Mary McBride								
Carl McPherson								
John Morrissey	X		X		X		X	
George Robinson	X		X		X		X	
Bob Saf	X		X		X		X	
Kevin Williamson								
Jim Windsor	X		X		X		X	