

PORA ROADS, SAFETY & TRAFFIC, COMMITTEE

Minutes - April 27, 2011 Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members: Merlyn Carlson, Harry Abramowski, Jo-Anne Jones, Jerry Alton, John Merkel, James West, Del Young

MCDOT Representatives: John Counts, Brenda Zambelli, Dan Clements

PORA: Marie McDermott

Guests: Marshall Oaks, Robert Hanson, Larry Lyon, Jim Brya, Ed Gallardo, Lowell Coulson, Harold Kuhn, Bob Carlson, Gail Carlson, Robert Baron

Merlyn Carlson introduced himself as the new chairman of the committee. He acknowledged Bob Jones, the past chairman, for his many years of leadership and service to the community.

Approval of Minutes

The PORA Roads, Safety and Traffic Committee met at 1:30 PM, on April 27, 2011, at PORA. The minutes of the March 30 meeting were amended as follows:

On page 2, regarding John Merkel's comments re New El Mirage Road, the following words were added: "southbound at Bell Road."
The minutes were approved as amended.

II. Updates from County and Local Representatives

John Counts -- MCDOT

- Although requested, Warrants indicate that left turn lanes at 135th and Stardust are not required at this time.
- All revamped signals on R.H. Johnson have been completed and adjusted except for the intersection with Camino Del Sol. The pedestrian crossing there needs further adjustment. There is an audible chirp as well as an audible voice signal to assist those with limited sight. Members of the MCDOT signal division will meet with Marion Monks and members of the Pedestrian Safety Committee to discuss how the system will work.
- At Spanish Garden and Camino Del Sol construction to repair the problem causing the water ponding will begin on May 2.

Harry thanked John for the adjustments requested for the new signal at 135th

and Stardust. Traffic moves very well now.

Dan Clements -- MCDOT

- The milling and rubberized asphalt overlay work has begun, primarily on roads off of Meeker and Stardust. The work should be completed by the end of June.

Brenda Zambelli -- MCDOT

- Brenda and Dan Clements are working with the SCW Recreation Centers to renew the maintenance agreement between MCDOT and the RCSCW Board. The collaboration has been in existence for 17 years and is renewed on a regular basis.

John Merkel -- SCW Posse No new report.

III. Old Business

Communications Subcommittee Report

Harry Abramowski reported that his committee has met to look at the final design of the safety brochure prepared by Adultcare Assistance. They are expecting to finalize the brochure in the next weeks. The goal is to get this brochure into every home in SCW. Since the POSSE does a mailing to all homes twice a year, he has requested, through John Merkel, that the brochure be included in the fall mailing. Copies will be available throughout the community as well. He thanked Jerry Alton, Jo-Anne Jones and John Merkel, the members of his committee, for their hard work.

VI. New Business

- Merlyn gave an update on the Noise Wall issue. PORA has agreed to spearhead action in the matter of additional noise walls along Loop 303 adjacent to SCW. A meeting between MAG, County Supervisor Max Wilson and PORA representatives is in the planning stages. The first section of noise wall between Deer Valley and Robertson will begin soon and be completed by fall.

- ADOT has planned a dedication for Loop 303 on Saturday, May 7, from 7-11 AM. Public parking will be located at the northbound on-ramp at Happy Valley Parkway and Loop 303. The program will begin at 9:00. Governor Brewer will be in attendance.

- Harry reported that on May 11, the United Nations is going to start a worldwide, 10 year "decade for action" focusing on road safety. He is pleased that the Safety Brochure produced by his committee fits into this international project.

- Jerry Alton commented that the committee should be proactive and start planning projects to focus on beginning in the fall. Perhaps there should be a Pro Active Task Force established for this purpose. Merlyn commented that this was a good idea and could be considered at the May meeting.

- Del asked about the cure time for rubberized asphalt. John Counts replied that it needed no extra time. The delay in placing it is usually due to cool weather.

- Committee Discussion: There were several comments about medians extending into the new intersections on Grand Avenue, for example at R.H. Johnson and Grand that make turning difficult. The medians seem to extend so far into the intersection that the angle of turn is difficult to judge. John Merkel suggested that the edges be painted with a reflective yellow (as is done by the county) so motorists can better assess the turning radius. Jo-Anne suggested that perhaps this will be done when the project is completed. She will contact Kim Noetzel and pass on this information to her.

There also were several concerns about the valley gutter across Reems just past the intersection of Reems and Meeker. It seems very deep and cars are bottoming out to the extent that the road surface is being gouged. There is also no sign indicating a dip. It needs to be smoothed out.

Jerry asked why the sidewalk stops at the RR tracks at R.H. Johnson and Grand. John Counts stated that there is no pedestrian traffic allowed across the tracks, and there is a sign posted.

V. Call to the Public

- Harold Kuhn asked whether there would be a center stripe on Aurora between Meeker and Stardust. John Counts will check. If there was none before, it probably will not be striped.

- Larry Lyon, a new resident, expressed his concern about dangerous driving at the intersection of Spanish Garden and Camino del Sol. Many drivers seem unaware that they are driving in the turn lane. He suggested that another turn arrow be added closer to the intersection. John Counts will look into it.

- Bob Hanson expressed a serious concern about the speeding in the community. He has not seen many people being stopped or ticketed. He asked for more enforcement. John Merkel explained that MCSO has only one deputy specifically assigned to cover traffic issues in the district which includes SC and SCW. All other deputies perform traffic enforcement as part of their assigned

duties. Traffic enforcement must be prioritized with all other law enforcement and often there are simply not enough deputies to provide intensive speed enforcement where there has not been a serious problem area identified. The POSSE works with the MCSO to help pinpoint areas where most speeding occurs. Bob was encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Office. John Merkel will work with him on this.

- Bob Hanson also requested that Stardust be made into a truck route. However, John Counts said the county cannot do that. None of the roads in SCW are classified in a way that can allow them to be truck routes.

- Robert Baron expressed concern about golf cart safety. He has surveyed the roads in SCW and finds that most roads were designed by Del Webb to be wide enough to allow golf carts to travel safely along the curb area. He believes strongly that the striping of the shoulder area has forced golf carts to mingle with regular traffic causing many dangerous situations. He is continually being passed illegally by drivers on the right and the left when he is in the traffic lane. Jo-Anne asked John Counts if he had any new information about the county Golf Cart Safety Task Force. He had none. This issue really needs to be re-addressed by the county. Harry suggested that Robert Baron record the license plate numbers of those cars passing illegally and send them to MCSO.

- Lowell Coleson was concerned about the traffic crossing straight through the intersection of R.H. Johnson and Grand. He also commented about the stop signs on Trail Ridge and Johnson being hard to see and the two dips on Whispering Oaks. John Counts said there will be a traffic signal at Trail Ridge and Johnson. There are signs for the dips on Whispering Oaks.

- Jim Bryan asked why the speed limit on the New El Mirage was 45 mph while Old El Mirage had a speed limit of 50 mph. He suggested the limit on the new road be increased.

VI: Adjournment

The next meeting of the PORA Roads, Safety and Traffic Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 25, at 1:30 PM.