

PORA ROADS, SAFETY & TRAFFIC, COMMITTEE

Minutes - September 22, 2010 Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members: Bob Jones, Jerry Alton, Harvey Lorentz, Harry Abramowski,

James West, Tony Sambol, Jo-Anne Jones

MCDOT Representatives: Dan Clements, Brenda Zambelli

PORA Board Representatives: Mike Trent, Merlyn Carlson

Guests: Ben Snyder, Dale Jenkins, Jim Kerns, Harold Kuhn,

Ardis Merry, Robert Baron, Marshall Oaks

Approval of Minutes

The PORA Roads, Safety and Traffic Committee met at 1:30 PM, on June 30, 2010, at PORA. The minutes of the June 30 meeting were approved as written.

Updates from County Representatives

Dan Clements

- The new El Mirage Road has now been opened
- Contractors have begun repair on damaged sidewalks in SCW
- Unit 10, which is in the SE corner of SCW has been scheduled for road sealing and there will also be milling and overlay

Brenda Zambelli:

•Improvements are planned to change the southern intersection of El Mirage and Bell. The County is working with the city Surprise on this project.

Jerry Alton commented that it seems better coordination could be planned with road work. Some roads are resurfaced or striped and then another job damages the new area and it has to be redone.

Jim West asked who was responsible for payment for the sidewalk repairs. Brenda responded that formally it is the responsibility of the homeowner. However, this is an issue under review. MCDOT is asking the Board of Supervisors to rescind the old ruling. The cost is minimal and currently is being covered under the operations budget. This allows the county to maintain quality control. Commercial owners are responsible for sidewalk repair.

Harry Abramowski pointed out there are still some signs needed to direct drivers from Old El Mirage Rd. to Bell. Also, there should be signs to direct drivers to Sun City West from the new El Mirage Rd. He also commented that on Huron Drive the surface is poor between 142nd Ave. and 151st Ave.

Old Business

- Pedestrian Safety Update. Three of the requested crosswalks have been completed.
- Traffic Calming Sign. No contractor bids have yet been received for installation of poles. Bob Jones distributed a letter from the SCW Sheriff's Posse which stated that their "Board of Directors has elected not to be involved in this project." Jo-Anne Jones pointed out that the PORA Board had requested that the Posse and the county be involved. Without their support it would be solely PORA's project. Harry disagrees with the Posse contention that these signs are ineffective. Peoria finds it does slow people down. It will help control speeding, which is a big concern in SCW. Bob asked Harry to prepare a note for the PORA Board saying exactly what will be needed from PORA if the project is to continue.
- Communication with Residents To improve communications, Road, Safety and Traffic committee minutes are now being placed on the PORA website. Information received from MCDOT regarding road repairs, closures, etc. that affect SCW are being included in the PORA Newsletter whenever possible. As requested, Jerry Alton met with Katy O'Grady regarding a space allocation in the Rec Center Newsletter to educate residents about traffic and safety issues. Space is already reserved for PORA, but an additional allocation would be needed and could be requested. Jo-Anne reminded the committee that at the last meeting we had discussed preparing a booklet or handout for residents, which would specifically explain the striping on the streets, the golf cart driving rules, speeding, etc. Bob requested that a Communications Subcommittee be formed to study the matter and to prepare some kind of publication for residents. Members: Fred Schweigert, Harry Abramowski, Jerry Alton, Jo-Anne Jones and the Posse Traffic Officer

New Business

Resident Concerns

- Graham Harris is concerned about repaving streets northwest of Beardsley Road (Aurora Drive from Meeker to Stardust). He also reported a bump in the road at the manhole cover on N. Camino del Sol northbound 100' south of Beardsley and a low manhole northbound on Meeker, inside lane approximately 100' south of the intersection with Camino del Sol.
- Harold Kuhn spoke about the road surface of several streets, but particularly about Echo Mesa. He commented that four roads in particular are in need of repair because of spot patching that is breaking up, "alligatoring" of the surface, etc. His concerns in descending order were Echo Mesa (the worst), 135th Avenue (needs crack seal), Aurora and Beardsley.

Dan Clements responded that all roads are examined annually and repairs are planned accordingly. Aurora is scheduled to be milled and overlaid, probably this fall. He will revisit the areas of resident concern and evaluate. He will ask his crew to check Echo Mesa, particularly by the golf course where Harold pointed out the greatest problem.

Call to Public

Marshall Oaks asked about the intersection of Spanish Garden and Aurora. The stop sign in the middle of the street there has been flattened and replaced many times. He suggests a four way stop. He asked why there are stop signs in the middle of some streets? Brenda replied that it is usually done to better serve a dedicated left hand turn lane. Dan said he would look in the Spanish Garden and Aurora intersection. Marshall asked whether the speeding is due to residents of people passing through the community. Committee members said it would be hard to tell. Often commercial vehicles are traveling slower than private cars. Tony Sambol stated that there IS a Sheriff's Deputy assigned to our community and people ARE being ticketed for speeding.

Jim Kerns and Dale Jenkins thanked the committee and the county for removing the dedicated turn lane at 151st Ave. and Heritage.

Robert Baron expressed concern about the dangers caused by the shoulder striping on Camino del Sol. He has personally been harassed for driving in the driving lane with cars following too closely or crossing the center line to pass him. Some even pass on the right. He asked for a return to the old striping with no shoulder line. It creates too much confusion for golf cart and autos sharing the same road.

The committee again discussed this issue which has been a hot topic for several months. The shoulder striping is indeed a problem in golf cart communities without a dedicated golf cart lane. Harry Abramowski said the striping was put in for safety reasons on Camino del Sol because of the curving of the road. However, as Robert Baron has said, it seems to have created another problem. Tony Sambol said that the law is clear. No traffic should be moving in the shoulder area. However, if a vehicle is holding up traffic, the driver should pull over and stop until the traffic moves by. Although it had been announced at an earlier committee meeting that golf cart drivers would most likely NOT be ticketed for driving in the shoulder lane, it is still illegal to do this. Dan Clements stated that the same issue is a serious concern in Sun City as well. A good portion of the latest SHOA Transportation Committee was devoted to this concern.

Bob Jones stated that Sun City West and Sun City do not have the same driving situation as most communities. Many of our residents drive golf carts every day as a primary vehicle. The regulations need to be reconsidered. The county is looking into this matter.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned 3:10 PM.

The next meeting will be on October 27, 2010, at 1:30 PM at PORA.