

# **PORA ROADS, SAFETY & TRAFFIC, COMMITTEE**

## **Minutes - January 26, 2011 Meeting**

### **Attendees**

Committee Members: Bob Jones, Harry Abramowski, Jo-Anne Jones, Jim Heger, Fred Schweiger, John Merkel, James West, Del Young

MCDOT Representatives: Vicki Stewart, Brenda Zambelli

ADOT Representative: Kimberly Noetzel

Guests: Bob Baron, Marie McDermott, Harold Kuhn, Marshall Oaks, Ken Weidner, Forrest Buck, Joe Kimberley

### ***I. Approval of Minutes***

The PORA Roads, Safety and Traffic Committee met at 1:30 PM, on January 26, 2011, at PORA. The minutes of the December 15 meeting were approved.

### ***II. Updates from County and Local Representatives***

Vicki Stewart -- MCDOT

- The county working group has begun the process of studying golf cart safety. Division managers are involved and PORA will be kept advised of their progress and planning.

John Merkel -- SCW Posse

- John asked if the Posse can get the feed from the traffic cameras at intersections in SCW. Vicki replied that they are not operational yet. She will find out for us. John also asked her to check what kind of equipment the Posse would need to access this feed.
- John asked Vicki if SCW could have signs installed on R.H. Johnson to indicate the location of Posse headquarters at Stardust and R. H. Johnson. There are such signs for the Sun City Posse.
- The Posse has recommended that there be a speed limit sign on Camino Del Sol near Spanish Garden, perhaps in front of the PORA building, to curtail speeding.

Kim Noetzel -- ADOT

Bob Jones introduced Kim as our new representative from ADOT. She reported on the upcoming intersection closures on Grand Avenue. They will only affect north/south traffic. From January 30 to Feb 5, 99th and 111th Aves. will be closed. From Feb 6 to Feb 12, 107th Ave. will be closed. From Feb 13 to Feb 19, 103rd Ave. will be closed. These are the last major closures for the Grand Avenue project in the Sun City area. Jo-Anne Jones reported to Kim that there is a problem with the sign indicating the exit for El Mirage Rd. from Loop 303. The sign is very close to the actual exit, which is a left exit. The print is small and hard to read. There needs to be a warning sign earlier along the route, and a larger sign at the exit itself for safety.

### **III Old Business**

#### **A. Camino Del Sol**

Fred Schweiger stated that at the December meeting, his committee had presented its final report regarding the meeting with the county representatives. Camino Del Sol has safety issues, but studying them revealed a larger issue of golf cart safety in general. He is very pleased that the county task force to investigate this concern is underway. However, there is no doubt that the shoulder striping has created confusion. He requested that when Camino Del Sol is resurfaced, it would be an excellent time to address changes in the striping. It is in the county's hands. He thanked the members of his committee for doing an excellent job. Bob Jones thanked Fred and his committee for all their hard work.

Fred also suggested to Vicki that the county might choose to perform an accident analysis of high accident intersections in SCW. That would help determine what needs to be done increase safety in the community.

Del Young asked who has the authority in regulating golf carts on public streets? Vicki responded that any changes or laws would have to come from the state legislature. Fred said that the Federal Highway Administration would also be in position to make regulations that would affect golf carts.

#### **B. Communications Subcommittee Report**

Harry Abramowski reported that his committee has prepared a safety brochure. Draft copies were handed out to the committee, and Harry reviewed the brochure orally. Copies will be distributed to the PORA Board, to the MSO District 3, to the Posse Board and to our MCDOT representatives. The brochure will be disseminated to all residents. Design, printing and copying will be sponsored by Adult Assistance Homecare.

The suggestion was made that we could have a "Safety Tip of the Week" in the PORA Newsletter. This would not have to relate only to road safety. Jim Heger stated that the Fire Department did a study several years ago and discovered that ejection from golf carts in accidents was a major cause of injury. Seat belts must be used if installed by the manufacturer, but perhaps people should know that they can have them installed as well.

### **V. New Business -- None**

### **VI. Call to Public**

Harold Kuhn reported on a study he had made comparing Camino Del Sol and Meeker. His purpose was to show that the curb (shoulder) lanes were not the same width. County representatives indicated that they were at earlier meetings. He also wondered why there were few complaints about people driving in the shoulder lane on Meeker. After measuring both roads, he discovered that (after the turn lane at Beardsley) Camino Del Sol's shoulder lane is 11'4" and the traffic lane is 12'2". On Meeker, the shoulder lane is 9'6" and the traffic lane is "14". It is not surprising that car drivers assume they can pass on the right in the wider lane on Camino Del Sol because it looks like a traffic lane in width. On Meeker, the 9'6" shoulder lane is not interpreted as a traffic lane and only golf carts use it. Although it is illegal for either cars or golf carts to travel in the shoulder lane, the problem is made worse by the striping. Harold feels that MCDOT by their striping has created the problem that we are living with. Jo-Anne said that a copy of his e-mail has been sent to John Counts.

Bob Baron asked why some of the street signs are reflective and have different lettering than others. The non-reflective ones are hard to read. Bob Jones replied that the county is in the process of replacing all street signs in SCW with the new reflective, new font signs.

Ken Weidner had a question for ADOT. He wondered why the new roads from El Mirage to Old El Mirage had been named Grover and Wilcox. It is confusing. Signs should indicate that they connect to Old El Mirage and Sun City West. He also questioned the need for a new signal light at Stardust and 135th Ave. Vicki explained that regulations determine whether signals are needed, and the traffic studies at that intersection warranted the change. Harry Abaramowitz added that the signal will be traffic responsive, so any delay should be minimal. Also, he added that there is more traffic now because of ease of access to Loop 303 from Stardust to Deer Valley.

Forrest Buck had a concern about Sunday parking on Meeker by the Methodist Church. Members of the committee said that this question had come up before. Because of the width of the road, the number of lanes and the minimal traffic on Sundays it had been decided that the parking was not a problem.

Marshall Oaks asked what the speed limit was on SCW streets that were unmarked. Harry told him that state law mandates a 25 mph speed limit on all residential streets. Also, all streets in SCW should have speed limit signs. Marshall said that there is a need for signs on 137th Drive from Aleppo to the end of the street.

Jim West asked about number of fire hydrants in SCW and when they would replace the blue markers for fire hydrants that were removed during road resurfacing. Jim Heger said the reflective markers were going to be replaced when all road work was completed. He added that hydrant spacing in SCW is considered very good. They are generally 660' apart in residential areas and 330' apart in commercial areas.

Joe Kimberley suggested that the safety brochure include a warning that children are not to be driving golf carts. He also wanted to alert the county that there should be a sign at R.H. Johnson and Camino Del Sol indicating that there is a North Camino Del Sol and a South Camino Del Sol. People unfamiliar with SCW who want to go to doctor's appointments in the business section, often do not know which way to turn at that intersection. Harry Abramowski suggested a sign pointing out the "Business District."

Bob Baron asked why there is a traffic light at the left turn lane from Bell into El Mirage. ADOT has no control over that intersection. It is the city of Surprise.

## ***Adjournment***

The next meeting of the PORA Roads, Safety and Traffic Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 23, at 1:30 PM.