

PORA ROADS, SAFETY & TRAFFIC, COMMITTEE

Minutes - February 23, 2011 Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members: Harry Abramowski, Jo-Anne Jones, Harvey Lorentz, Jim Heger, Fred Schweiger, John Merkel, Fred Schweiger, James West

MCDOT Representatives: John Counts, Brenda Zambelli, Dan Clements

ADOT Representative: Kimberly Noetzel

Guests: Bob Baron, Marie McDermott, Harold Kuhn, Marshall Oaks, Tom Metzger, Ed Gallardo, Ron Van Camp, Pete Petersen, John and Lorraine Anderson

Due to illness Bob Jones was unable to chair the committee. Jo-Anne Jones, Secretary, was chair pro-tem in his place.

I. Approval of Minutes

The PORA Roads, Safety and Traffic Committee met at 1:30 PM, on February 23, 2011, at PORA. The minutes of the January 26 meeting were amended as follows:

Attendees, Guests: names added--Merlyn Carlson, Carole Cooper, Julie Maurer

Call to Public: Mid paragraph the sentence should read "On Meeker, the shoulder lane is 9'6" and the width of the traffic lane is 14' 0" on the same side."

The minutes were approved as amended.

II. Updates from County and Local Representatives

John Counts -- MCDOT

•MCDOT's newly formed Cart Safety Group is in the process of hiring a consultant. They want to find out what is happening in the country regarding golf cart safety and regulations. So far there seem to be some states such as FL, CA and TX who are addressing golf cart issues. However, statutes do not address striping, etc. The MUTCD doesn't address the issue either. Maricopa County is being very aggressive in researching the issue and MAG will also be involved. Jo-Anne Jones on behalf of the committee, thanked John and MCDOT for undertaking this needed study. Our community may be a benchmark for golf cart safety one day.

•John has received lots of e-mails about the signals on R.H. Johnson. They are being updated and the work is not yet finished. New signing will be in place. The signs on the new signals are quite large and heavy, and this has required special design for new brackets. When the brackets are completed the old signs, some of which are too high (128th Ave.) will be replaced.

Harry Abramowski asked whether there will be any more signals built. John responded that the signal at 135th and Meeker is 70% complete. The signal at R.H. Johnson and Trail Ridge is 70% designed, and the signal at Meeker and Wilson Way is 90% designed. MCDOT is having trouble with setbacks at that site. These are the only signals planned for SCW at this time. All the new signals with crosswalks have a countdown for

pedestrians. There will also be an audible crossing signal at Camino del Sol and R.H. Johnson which was requested by our Pedestrian Safety Committee.

There has been some controversy regarding the need for new traffic signals in SCW. John confirmed that if warranted by traffic counts, the County must put in signals. They cost between \$250 and \$350 thousand apiece, so they are never installed without good reason. All of the new cameras on the signals are coordinated which should help with traffic control. However, the County does not want to encourage through traffic from Bell to Grand on R.H. Johnson. So the lights will be coordinated with designed stops. The cameras are not hooked up yet.

Ron Van Camp reported that the crosswalks at 135th and Ballard and 151st and Heritage are difficult for bikers. John will check it out.

Kimberly Noetzel -- ADOT

Kim answered several questions that had been asked at the last meeting. 1. Because it is a dual left turn, entering Meeker from Grand demands dual arrows. 2. Loop 303's left entrance into El Mirage is being studied for new signage. 3. The regulation of signals on Grand Avenue is controlled by video detection. There is also an emergency vehicle detection component as well.

At this point, Kim presented a power point overview of the West Valley Freeway system. She covered both the current and future work on Loop 303 and discussed the progress of Grand Avenue. The work on Grand Ave. will be completed when the last rubberized asphalt is laid in April. The contractor is finishing 8 1/2 to 9 months ahead of schedule. It was a very difficult expansion to plan. They reconstructed 19 intersections and tried very hard to keep Grand at two lanes in each direction during the day while adding the expanded lanes.

The northern section of 303 will be open by spring or summer of 2011. In phase 3 (2016-2020), Loop 303 will be expanded to six lanes. Members of the committee and public were concerned about the need for sound walls in the areas of SCW adjacent to 303. The noise is bad now; it will be impossible with six lanes. Kim reported that projections for noise problems are made for 20 years in advance. The anticipated decibel levels determine the need for sound walls. Jo-Anne commented that several years ago, SCW was promised sound walls. There had been a very loud and angry meeting with ADOT officials. Kim said she would pursue this issue with her office.

Dan Clements

- Dan announced that the Echo Mesa overlay would begin in April. Because of the concerns from our committee, he was able to influence this work. He is also hoping that 151st Ave. will be next up for overlay.
- The County is taking over sidewalk repair in SCW. Anything that is reported will be inspected and if warranted, put on the list for repair.

John Merkel -- SCW Posse / no report

III. Old Business

Communications Subcommittee Report

The brochure prepared by this committee has been approved by PORA's Board of Directors. We are awaiting responses from the SCW Posse and MSO. John Merkel stated that he had the comments from Cmdr. Tony

Sambol of the Posse and there were only two suggested changes. He is awaiting the response from Lieutenant Booker, MSO District 3.

VI. New Business -- None

V. Call to Public

Bob Baron thanked MCDOT for the new street signs.

Marshall Oaks asked whether there were signs warning of crosswalks. The answer was yes. Traffic must slow down or stop to allow pedestrians to cross. Golf cart crosswalks, however, have a stop sign. Golf carts must allow traffic on the road the right of way.

There was a concern about speeding on Deer Valley Road. John Merkle said he would report that to the Posse.

Adjournment

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

NOTE: Brock Barnhart, from ADOT, will be discussing noise walls and loop 303.