

PORA ROADS, SAFETY & TRAFFIC, COMMITTEE

Minutes - May 25, 2011 Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members: Merlyn Carlson, Jo-Anne Jones, John Merkel, James West, Del Young, Marshall Oaks, Jim Heger

MCDOT Representatives: John Counts, Brenda Zambelli, Jesse Petersen

PORA: Marie McDermott

Guests: Lee Reynolds, Harold Kuhn, Jim Bryan, Robert Baron, Don and Gail Wyant, Ron Van Camp

Approval of Minutes

The PORA Roads, Safety and Traffic Committee met at 1:30 PM, on May 25, 2011, at PORA. The minutes of the April 27 meeting were amended as follows:

Update from John Counts should read: Although requested, warrants indicate that separate left turn signals at 135th and Stardust are not required at this time.

The minutes were approved as amended.

II. Updates from County and Local Representatives

John Counts -- MCDOT

- After review, the county has decided that left turn arrows at the corner of Camino del Sol and Spanish Garden are correct as placed.
- The new El Mirage Road was designed for a 45 mph speed limit. It will not be raised. The multiple speed limits on Old El Mirage road have been reduced to one. A 40 mph limit has been set.
- There was no center stripe on Aurora before the repaving, and there is no plan to stripe it now.
- The special county committee regarding golf cart safety should be receiving the report from its commissioned study this fall. We will be kept informed of the findings.

Jesse Petersen -- MCDOT

- The repair of the drainage problem at Camino del Sol and Spanish Garden is now underway.
- The scheduled overlay of Echo Mesa should be done this fall. The next large area for milling and overlay will include R. H. Johnson, 151st Ave., 135th Ave., Stardust, Meeker, Beardsley, Conquistador, and Camino del Sol.

Brenda Zambelli -- MCDOT

- The maintenance agreement between MCDOT and the RCSCW Board has been signed and renewed for 5 years.

John Merkel -- SCW Posse No new report.

Old Business

Noise Wall Update Merlyn Carlson reported on the meeting with Max Wilson and Scott Isham

regarding noise walls on Loop 303 adjacent to Sun City West. The first section, the 1/4 mile from Deer Valley to Robertson, will start in June and be completed by Thanksgiving. The rest of the affected area on the north of SCW and including part of Corte Bella comes to about 5 miles. Because the enlarged and completed 303 will be a perfect short cut from I-17 to I-10, the volume of traffic and the number of large trucks will certainly impact our area. Max Wilson said that funding has not been set for the noise walls, although there is some unallocated money that may be available. It is important that the citizens of SCW get to their state representatives and the governor to push for this funding. ADOT and MAG will also have to be involved and support the request. Merlyn distributed a handout with information about whom to contact. Marie will put that information in the newsletter.

Del Young stated that it will be important to notify those residents whose homes are closest to this area and get them involved in the process. Merlyn will contact John Anderson and Walt Maas who know the area well. He will ask Larry Woods to contact the mayor of Surprise to ask for that support as well.

Communications Subcommittee Report

Jo-Anne Jones reported that the Safety Brochure is in the final design phase and should be ready for printing soon. It will be distributed by the Posse in their fall mailing.

VI. New Business. There was no new business

V. Call to the Public

- Gail Wyant of Parkwood Drive expressed a serious concern about the continuous speeding on her street. It makes it very dangerous for disabled neighbors to cross safely. She asked whether it would be possible to install speed bumps or a crosswalk. John Merkel said that he would look into a radar patrol for that area. John Counts will also look into the situation.

- Lee Reynolds of West Marble Drive inquired about changing the no parking signs near the Catholic Church. Currently there is no parking on weekdays, but when there are special church events the road becomes very narrow due to parking on both sides. It is also difficult to see traffic when turning into 128th Ave. when cars are parked right to the corner. John will check on this situation. It was suggested that the church be contacted to let them know this is a problem.

- Robert Baron of Ashford Drive had two issues.

He reported that the left exit from 303 to El Mirage Road is not well marked. The sign is too close to the actual exit and drivers can get caught in the wrong lane and be unable to turn left. This is very dangerous. Jo-Anne Jones said that this issue had been brought up to ADOT already, and that nothing had been done about it.

Bob also expressed concerns about golf cart safety on the road where the shoulder markings make it illegal for carts to drive close to the curb. He has been in several very dangerous situations with cars passing him both on the right and the left while he was legally driving in the travel lane. The issue is not going away. Harold Kuhn commented that it is a matter of common sense to drive away from the regular traffic, despite what the law says. He feels much safer taking his golf cart in the shoulder lane.

- Jim West asked whether the SCW Posse phone was manned 24-7. John Merkel said it is manned from 6AM to Midnight 7 days a week.

- Jim Bryan asked whether it would be possible for SCW to hire their own deputy from MCSO to help control the speeding. Jim West stated that he thought the cost would be prohibitive, about about

\$100,000.00 a year. John Merkel said that perhaps the Posse could explore whether an off duty officer could be used at an hourly rate. However, unless that person had the power to give citations, it would not be an effective deterrent for speeding. Also, there is the issue of fundraising. After discussion, it was decided to let John look into the possibilities. If it seemed feasible, a subcommittee could pursue the idea in the fall.

- Ron Van Camp, president of a bicycle club, reported on the poor condition of Sierra Vista. The road is full of potholes and dangerous for bikes. He asked how the county decided which roads to resurface. John Counts said that roads were inspected on a regular basis. Usually, whole sections of a community were resurfaced at a time.

VI: Adjournment

The Traffic Committee will not be meeting over the summer. Resident concerns can be expressed to PORA, and they will be e-mailed to the relevant county departments for review. The next meeting of the PORA Roads, Safety and Traffic Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 28, at 1:30 PM.