

Arkansas City Traffic Safety Committee
9/10/2021 Minutes

A special meeting was held **Friday, Sept. 10, 2021**, in the Water Treatment Facility classroom. Meeting was called to order at **10 a.m.**

Roll Call: **CITY STAFF MEMBERS**

City Manager	Randy Frazer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire-EMS Department	Les Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management Assistant	Mike Crandall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police Department	Capt. Jim Holloway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Principal Planner	Josh White*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Information Officer	Andrew Lawson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Services Department	Tony Tapia	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

City Commission	Duane Oestmann	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chamber of Commerce	Paisley Howerton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cowley College	Matt Stone*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Equal Opportunity Board	Frances "Rags" Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Planning Commission	Andy Paton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
School Board / Chamber	Jon Oak	<input type="checkbox"/>
USD 470 Public Schools	Will Pfannenstiel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*Others in attendance were City Building Official **Mike Bellis**, USD 470 Technology Director **Dac Call***, TranSystems engineer **Slade Engstrom***, **Ken Harader**, C-4 Elementary School Principal **Amy Hutto***, Jefferson Elementary School Principal **Lauren Rosales***, and USD 470 Director of Curriculum and Instruction **Braden Smith**. (*Several attendees participated via **GoToMeeting**.)*

1. Crosswalk Request at A Street and Osage Avenue:

Capt. Holloway said Police Chief Eric Burr was contacted recently by Lauren Rosales, the new principal at Jefferson Elementary School, who told him she has numerous children who walk to school from the north and asked about the possibility of installing a new crosswalk on the west side of the intersection of **A Street** and **Osage Avenue**.

Rosales reported the issue occurs mainly during afternoon pickup. Pre-kindergartners, kindergartners and first-graders all exit through Door B, by the A and Osage intersection. The school has walkers who cross there, but also parents who park on A Street for pickup. She welcomed anyone who wants to come and observe dismissal to see the need.

Mike Crandall noted both sides of Osage Avenue already have sidewalks. Staff are concerned that Jefferson already has traffic congestion from parents dropping off and picking up students on Osage, while students only have to walk approximately 200 feet to the existing crosswalk from A Street. Randy is concerned about having multiple crosswalks there.

An additional consideration is what happens when westbound traffic is stopped at the existing crosswalk and vehicles then back up to the proposed new crosswalk. Students may cross the new crosswalk to school behind the westbound cars that are at a standstill and eastbound cars might not see the students until it is too late.

Slade said it's better to have a crosswalk at an intersection in case it needs to be signalized. He observed that East Osage Avenue appears to have more of a parking problem than a traffic problem or an issue with kids being able to safely cross.

Rags said Medicalodges employees have to park on Osage to smoke because they can't smoke on facility grounds, adding to the parking congestion. Ken Harader observed that where the school bus parks near A Street adds to the visibility concerns.

An alternate option could include relocating one of the existing crosswalks rather than creating an entirely new crosswalk.

Andrew made a motion to table further discussion of the crosswalk request until the **October 15, 2021**, regular meeting.

Mike Crandall seconded the motion, which was approved **10-0** on a voice vote. (**NOTE:** Matt joined the meeting in progress at **10:05 a.m.** and Amy joined the meeting in progress at **10:20 a.m.** Josh left the meeting in progress at **10:16 a.m.**)

2. Multimodal Transportation Master Plan Update:

Andrew said TranSystems is still working to analyze preliminary data, but they have noticed all of the elevated crash data all along Summit Street. Slade said this is definitely an area of concern that needs to be incorporated into any future planning.

3. Sidewalk Condition Evaluation Update:

Andrew said staff is working on a plan to use volunteers to help to report on sidewalk conditions and repair needs in town.

4. Other Miscellaneous Items:

In addition to resuming the crosswalk discussion, Andrew said the **October 15** meeting will focus heavily on the Multimodal Transportation Master Plan, especially the public engagement piece. He hopes for access to the state's new toolkit by then.

Andrew made a motion to adjourn the meeting and enter the Kansas Department of Transportation's Alternative Transportation Plan conference call. Mike Crandall seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was approved **9-0** on a voice vote. The special meeting was adjourned at **10:32 a.m.** The next regular meeting of the Traffic Safety Committee will be at **10 a.m. Friday, October 15, 2021.**