



JACKSON COUNTY

Roads

Roads

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TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES July 10, 2015

In attendance:

Tom Artoff	W. Evans Creek Road Citizen Representative
Paula Lee Finney	Upper River Road Citizen Representative
Wilbur Longanecker	Upper River Road Citizen Representative
Jim Fuller	South Stage Road Citizen Representative
Laurel Bigelow	South Stage Road Citizen Representative
Kirsten Brown	Foss Road Citizen Representative
Catherine Henrichs	Griffin Creek Road Citizen Representative
Jerry Lehman	Ashland Citizen Representative
Colleen Roberts	Jackson County Commissioner
Christina Charvat	City of Medford
Dan Roberts	ODOT
Dan Dorrell	ODOT
John Vial	Jackson County Roads
James Philp	Jackson County Roads
Julie Slaughter	Jackson County Roads

James Philp called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Tom Artoff

West Evans Creek Road – He would like to see the speed reduced from 40 mph to 30 mph in the area of the store. James explained the process of completing a speed zone study. A speed zone study was done 6 months ago in that area. The 85th percentile was not low enough to lower it to 35. “Pedestrians Ahead” signs are posted and brush was cleared away giving more visibility in the area. A new speed zone study cannot be requested for 1½ years. He noted that this is now a law enforcement issue. Placing the reader board there may slow traffic down temporarily. He will make contact with the Sheriff’s Department for increased patrols. John explained speed zones are set by the state, giving the definition of basic rule vs established speed zone. He also explained how the 85th percentile is established.

Kirsten Brown

- Foss Road – The “Reduced Speed Ahead” sign has been placed. It is very much appreciated. She would like to see another one a little further out. She questioned the speed limits on other roads compared to Foss Road. James explained that the other roads are classed as different types of roads due to the traffic counts and other roads in the area.

He has requested to have the speed zone extended 500'. This can be done without a full speed zone study process.

John noted that even changing the signage will not change driver's behavior.

Dan suggested she contact Talent Police to see if they can also provide enforcement.

She has called the Sheriff's Department and never received a call back. John suggested she continue to call and make requests for more enforcement.

Paula Lee Finney/Wilbur Longanecker

- Upper River Road – Residents are concerned about the speeds on this road. It is used by pedestrians and bicycles. It is also very heavily traveled during the summer months by the rafting companies and individuals using the river.
They would also like "Deer Crossing" signs placed. James explained we do track dead animal reports as well as accidents so he will do an investigation to see if this is warranted.
Local roads are usually not curve signed, but he has asked our sign crew to go out and evaluate some additional signage for the curves.
James is placing speed hoses out there today to determine speeds and traffic volumes.
Hidden driveway. He will come out and take a look and see what can be done.
It was also suggested they contact the rafting companies and request they slow their drivers down. Typically they are very responsive to public complaints.

Jim Fuller/Laurel Bigelow

- South Stage Road (Happy Valley to Columbus) – Residents are very concerned about the speeds on South Stage Road. It has become increasingly difficult to get in and out of driveways. There have also been several accidents recently. The diverse types of traffic; trucks, cars, motorcycles, horses, pedestrians, bicycles, and the addition of the new high school have really added to the volumes, varied speeds and passing in unsafe areas.
James explained that South Stage Road is an Arterial Road which is the highest volume road designated road. This becomes an enforcement issue. He will make contact with the Sheriff's Department for increased patrols. Laurel volunteered his driveway for Sheriff's use. Signage probably won't change the behavior of drivers. They may be able to put double yellow lines to eliminate passing.
Also, large bump on Happy Valley and South Stage that needs to be fixed.
John reiterated the 85th percentile rule. Speed zones are based on the measured speeds. If the 85th percentile is higher than 45 mph, there will be little chance of lowering the speed limit.

Colleen Roberts

- Commended meeting participants for bring concerns to the table to be resolved.

Christina Charvat

- Nothing to Report

Catherine Henrichs

- Reiten Drive – How are the potholes. Repaired later. Citizen is concerned how large they are. John will have them do a temporary fix.
- Exit 24 – Thank you for yellow paint on Exit 24. Black and yellow striping on the median.

- Springbrook and Spring Street – Any chance of a roundabout there? Christina responded not at this time. The City of Medford may take a look at it.
- Bike Path Phoenix – When will the bike path at Fern Valley be completed? John responded that people are getting through on the detour. It is project related and will probably not be completed until fall, 2016.
- Black Oak and Barnett – Accident on June 16, 2015? Christina will check into it.
- Highway 126 - MP in tenths on some Oregon Roads – Dan will check on it. May be for clarity during accidents and events.

Jerry Lehman

- Reiten Drive – Three neighbors have been complaining about speeds on Reiten.

Dan Roberts

- Speed Signs – Distributed information on how speed zones are set. He reminded the group that speed zones are defined in state statute, everything else falls under basic rule. ODOT has the ability to do speed zone investigations and establish speed zones. For additional information regarding establishing speed zones, he recommended the ODOT website, <http://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/810.180>.

Dan Dorrell

- Home Depot – Medians have been painted.
- Bybee Corner (Highway 238 and West Main Street) – They have received current crash data for this intersection. It is much worse than originally thought. They will be recommending another investigation.

James Philp

- Bear Creek Greenway: Highway 62 Connections – Just released a project for the Greenway to connect to Highway 62. It will be night work.
- Table Rock Overlay (Biddle to Wilson) – Our crews will be doing prep work next month. The overlay will follow.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:45 a.m.

Next Meeting: August 14, 2015 9:30 a.m.