



JACKSON COUNTY

Roads

Roads

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TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES September 11, 2015

In attendance:

Jerry Lehman	Ashland Citizen Representative
Catherine Henrichs	Griffin Creek Area Citizen Representative
Doug Sabin	FV Martin Trucking
Bikram Kahlon	City of Medford
Christina Charvat	City of Medford
Dan Dorrell	ODOT
Rosalee Senger	ODOT Transportation Safety
Colleen Roberts	Jackson County Commissioner
Dace Cochran	Jackson County Sheriff's Office
Mike Kuntz	Jackson County Roads
John Vial	Jackson County Roads
J Domis	Jackson County Roads

Mike Kuntz called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Minutes were approved as submitted. Regarding future minutes, the symbol (☼) will be added to help draw a connection between a text item and the nearby photo.

Jerry Lehman

- With recent maintenance improvements to Reiten Drive the traffic seems to be moving quickly. Requested to Dace that Sheriff make an occasional pass through the area (such as once per month) for visibility.
- Inquired if enforcement is still occurring in the Phoenix I5 area under construction. Dace responded yes, but it is difficult to occur in the busiest times of day – can't safely get out into traffic.

Catherine Henrichs

- Accidents have been occurring at S Stage and Griffin Cr (near store intersection). Mike Kuntz will review crash reports.
- Griffin Creek school backup is still spoken about. Prior minutes reference the recent action taken. With no other viable alternatives available this area will continue to experience short times of congestion impacting nearby roadways.

- Due to speeding on Griffin Creek Road near Glory C driveways are being offered for enforcement officers to park within. Dace noted this area and will attempt to put resources toward it. Aggregate trucks appear to be a primary offender per John Vial.
- Recent *Making an Impact* newsletter speaks to an increase in deaths and distracted driving. Will marijuana legalization have an impact on these statistics? No good answer, but see minutes below for Rosalee for more discussion on this topic.
- A minor move (500') of the 35 speed zone further to the south near Neville on Griffin Creek Road is complete and now includes a problematic curve known for higher speed issues.

Doug Sabin

- Action item request for City of Medford – tree branches in the 2600 block of Table Rock Road are impacting large trucks. Please put on schedule for appropriate trimming. This section of road is from the I5 overcrossing south toward the Merriman Road intersection.
- Owen Drive and Highway 62 – signal timing check requested. Bikram noted this location has adaptive timing which may cause timing to vary based on many other variables.
- The visibility issue caused by excessive trucks parked along Ehrman Way near Sage Road has been corrected by talking to carriers who use this space.
- Cell phone use while driving seems to still be continuing at a high rate. Dace indicated cell phones are now what seat belts used to be and it will take a lot of time, education and enforcement to get the compliance level higher. A current low-level fine amount doesn't seem to be helping much and we may see a desire in the future to increase the fine amount.
- (☀) On Hwy 62 just south of Hwy 140 there is a congestion issue in the center turn lane with multiple movements occurring. Dan Dorrell will take a look, but there may not be a solution due to such small spaces between intersections. Doug is encouraging his drivers to use an alternate route to avoid this movement.



- (☀) Timber Products future development may impact traffic on Sage Road south of Hwy 238/Rossanley. This is a city of Medford section.

- General inquiry about Table Rock Road. Mike Kuntz shared an overlay is coming between Biddle Road and Wilson Road soon. Some advance maintenance work during the day will be done with overlay happening at night tentatively starting the week of 10/5/15.

Bikram Kahlon

- None

Christina Charvat

- Will be taking the place of Ralph Browning as City of Medford Representative.

Dan Dorrell

- 9/22/15 the new signal at Hwy 140 and Hwy 62 will be turned on. This intersection improvement includes new turn lanes and traffic patterns to improve safety of traffic as well as pedestrians.
- The Phoenix Interchange Diverging Diamond will open in a couple of months as this project enters another phase of construction.
- A new I5 crossover/median turnaround at milepost 12.3 on I5 will be installed with a couple of others being removed. This new location is just south of where the new off ramp for the Welcome Center will be located. This crossover will improve access to the new facility during emergencies.
- Merlin interchange signals are turning on soon.
- ODOT has agreed to do “time demand management” at the South Medford interchange. This will be an attempt to work with businesses in area to stagger start times for employees to help minimize the impacts of a current peak-time congestion where traffic can back up on I5 during an approximate 15 minute time period. Advertisements in the newspaper and other methods will be used to hopefully spread out the use in this particular area.
- (☀) Working on a project to possibly stagger pedestrian signal on Hwy 62 at mall. Instead of a single phase being used to get pedestrians all the way across the entire road, a center island refuge may be used and the pedestrian crossing will be split into two phases. This setup allows motor traffic to flow better.
- Inquired about Hwy 62 ramps connecting to Bear Creek Greenway. Mike Kuntz reported things are moving along well and will be complete in approx. 4 weeks. Concrete for paths is soon to be poured.



Rosalee Senger

- Really like the Pedestrian Enforcement Grants because they are so encompassing. With officers so close to what is occurring they can pick up on other violations such as cell phone, seat belt, etc. Dace said a lot of background work is required which makes it much more to administer these type of grants as compared to speed or DUII.
- Marijuana use – impacts to ODOT are coming, but severity is still unknown. From a traffic safety view a lot of questions are being asked – how much is OK? – how is under the influence defined and handled? Had first case in Douglas County where crash occurred and

driver admitted to using marijuana just prior to driving. These types of incidents are likely to increase. Data collection is difficult since once a .08 alcohol limit is met then the testing currently stops. Mike Kuntz asked if anything is coming to test for actual impairment. Rosalee shared drug impairment has always been an issue and while the field test used by deputies is the same, the formal testing and observations for drugs vs. alcohol is different. All Deputies are trained in alcohol to get the evidence needed to make a conviction stand in court. Currently, two Deputies are trained for all the complexity of drugs. Dissipation rates and quantification is known for alcohol but drugs are much more difficult. Professionals are trying to get a THC test which will work. Rosalee shared Washington and Colorado have set a limit in law for drug impairment, but it isn't based on much hard data which can be supported through testing. Oregon is trying to establish a limit which will be solid in court – essentially a presumptive level. Lastly, the manufacture of drugs is much different than it was before. There are a lot of myths and stigmas to overcome such as an older person stating “I tried it before and didn't do much”. The reality is the potency of the drug can be much different today.

- Inquired about In-N-Out traffic impacts – no negative impacts to date on roadway. Lots of parking on mall property occurring.

Colleen Roberts

- none

Dace Cochran

- Officers were back in Phoenix for Pedestrian Enforcement Grant at the intersection of Bolz Road and Main/Hwy 99 – wrote 24 ped citations and warned 32. Issued other citations too – no operators/seat belt/cell phone
- Deputies are at a premium with workload right now.

Mike Kuntz

- Westbound lane of Vilas Road between Hwy 62 and Table Rock Road was recently paved. Was paid for with savings realized from bids on Table Rock Road overlay project coming next month. Medford Water Commission did eastbound lane earlier this summer as part of waterline replacement project.
- (☀) Table Rock Road reconstruction project is coming between I5 and Biddle Road. Sections will be 5-lane north of Airport Road and 3-lane south of Airport. New signal is planned at intersection of Airport Road and Table Rock Road.



- Various speed zone reductions have recently occurred on Peace Lane and Justice Road as well as on Foss Road.

John Vial

- Some crash reports from Sheriff's Office reference other documents which Roads would like to access. Dace will remind Deputies to fill out things well and if other documents are referenced they can be obtained through the SO Records personnel.
- (☀) Action item request for City of Medford – signal timing for left turn at Hwy 238 northbound onto Table Rock Road/Central Avenue. Northbound left turn can back up and spill into the through lane. This is an AM peak hours problem. Bikram will look into it and noted this is a signal location using adaptive timing.



Meeting Adjourned: 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: October 9, 2015 9:30 a.m.