Traffic Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2022 @ 6:00pm

602 S. Main St, Joplin, MO 64801, 5th Floor Council Study

Roll Call:

- Members Present: Michael Mayer, Cassandra Maxfield, Shawn Hull, James Fleischaker, Richard Schurman, Trevor Frerer
- City Staff Present: Dakota Rusk, Civil Engineer; Jared Delzell, Traffic Sergeant

Approval of Minutes:

- Approval of the Minutes of the November 11, 2021 meeting.

Discussion Topics:

- High School Crossing
  - City Staff met with Joplin School District Staff.
  - Multiple options were discussed to alleviate the current crossing issues.
  - Fencing along 20th was deemed not a viable option.
  - Option was raised by school staff to use a bus to drop the walkers on the other side of 20th Street but idea was not pursued as it would be difficult to convince the walkers to wait to ride a bus instead of just walking across.
  - Viable options came down to crossing guard or a HAWK signal.
  - Crossing guard was favored but there are possible issues with staffing.
  - City is proceeding with study performed by consultant to ensure whatever option is chosen will be safe.
  - Would a RRFB like what is installed on 20th Street near Murphy Blvd be viable.
  - Overpass would be too expensive.
  - Some students cross 20th Street only to walk east past Indiana or west past Main.
  - Crossing guards are city employees but School District pays half.
  - Positions aren't all filled so sometime school resource officers fill the position.
  - Elementary schools are prioritized for crossing guards.
  - Is there anything that can be done to educate? Joplin Police was asked by the school to assist in educating
- East 26th Street
  - Citizen came before the committee previously.
  - Could the speed limit just be raised to 35 as the 85th percentile speed was approximately 37?
  - Traffic will probably get worse when the Range Line bridge is shut down. It was asked of MoDOT to close 29th Street during the bridge closure.
  - The city has temporary speed cushions that are designed for a two lane road but the city is looking at options for installing on the three lane portion. Something will likely be done when Range Line closes.
  - It is a snow plow route so permanent speed humps are not a good option.
  - Chicanes are a possible option.

- This stretch of 26th is considered a residential collector where a street like Indiana is considered an arterial street which is why it has a 35 MPH speed limit.
- 26th does have a sidewalk and there are a large number of walkers along the street.
- Sergeant Delzell has witnessed a car going to fast and jumping up onto the curb and nearly hitting pedestrians.
- The center turn lane may be removed as there is likely not enough traffic to warrant it.
- Furth action would need to be taken to narrow the driving lanes if the turn lane is removed or it would not help.
- A green space could be added between the sidewalk and road but the cost would be the potentially limiting factor.
- Not a history of crashes with residents backing out of driveways.
- Official detour for the bridge closure is to 249. Local traffic will likely use other nearer routes.

- Noise Ordinance/Road Noise
  - Two ordinances that deal with road/car noise.
  - One ordinance is essentially not to modify the factory exhaust.
  - The other is similar just stating that all vehicles must be equipped with a muffler to muffler the noise.
  - Concern is how much ambient noise is generated by vehicles on the main roads.
  - A study could potentially be done by a consultant. The data would be helpful but it would be difficult to implement changes.
  - Primary motive was to establish baseline of how loud traffic noise actually is.
  - City will do research into cost.

Other Business:

- Goetz Blvd
  - No Parking signs were installed in the trouble area.
  - Cars have since moved to either side of the no parking area and continue to park on the street.
  - City is looking at further action to take.
  - The problem is caused by not enough parking at the apartment complex and no room to expand parking.
  - Also possible issue further south with pick-up and drop off of children.
  - Designated parking could be possible but then the city would likely need to stripe the centerline.
- West 22nd Street
  - Complaint about speeding.
  - Speed study showed that the average was about the speed limit and 85th percentile was about 6 MPH over the speed limit. These speeds do not warrant traffic calming measures.
  - There were some vehicles that were going much over the speed limit however they were the minority.
- Arbor Road
  - Speed study to be performed and then speed trailer to be put out following speed study.

- Police Jammer will go near Old Orchard.
- The speed study will not be done near entrances or the spots where the road splits around the islands.

Michael E. Mayer

Michael Mayer, Traffic Commission Chair

Dakota Rusk

Dakota Rusk, Traffic Engineer