

Traffic Committee
MINUTES
August 15, 2008

- Committee Members:** Susan Ruinen, Chair; Clyde Smith, Co-Chair; Karen Hanner, Secretary; Dan Walker; Rosemarie Nuzzo; Wally Bledsoe; Sandy Paavel; Larry Yon, Frank Berry. Rosemary Wilson
- Present:** Randy Halfacre, Britt Poole, Terrence Green, Randy Edwards, Brooks Bennett
- Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Susan Ruinen at 8:00 AM. Extra copies of the agenda were distributed.
- June Minutes:** Susan Ruinen asked committee members if there were any corrections or additions to the July minutes. Wally Bledsoe made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Sandy Paavel seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.
- Update:** Randy Halfacre led a discussion about various avenues being explored to obtain funding for traffic improvements.
- 15 mph Speed Limits:** Chief Green told committee members about the speed limit study in Palmetto Hall and Gibson Forest. A survey in Palmetto Hall produced 21 in favor of 25 mph and 11 in favor of the change to 15 mph. The average speed of vehicles in the study was 24 mph. In Gibson Forest, the survey had 17 in favor of 25 mph and 16 for the change to 15 mph. The average speed in both East and West Gibson Forest was 15 mph. A traffic engineer offered the opinion that 25 mph was appropriate in the subdivisions.
- After some discussion regarding parking, visibility, traffic calming and other conditions found in the subdivisions, a motion was made by Dan Walker that the Traffic Committee recommend to Town Council that the speed limits in both subdivisions be kept at 25 mph. Clyde Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, none opposed.
- Publix Update:** The intersection improvements at Publix have been completed. There will be a period of time for the public to adjust to the changes.
- SAFE Federal Update:** Britt Poole reported that SCDOT will correct problems with the signal pole at the SAFE intersection. Pavement markings and the median are not completed yet.
- Black Avenue:** Randy Edwards distributed copies of his preliminary plan for improvements at Black Avenue with suggested signage and an indication of some form of barrier placement. Main Street improvement plans will affect this area.

Target Driveway: Chief Green will monitor the accident reports occurring at this intersection. Britt has contacted SCDOT about concerns mentioned at the last committee meeting. Randy Edwards commented that pork chop and center medians could help with problems in the area. Frank Berry said these would all be considered in Planning Commission considerations of future development plans at 378 and Hope Ferry Road.

Powell Drive: Britt Poole reported that SCDOT is looking at problems at the intersection.

I-20 WB Ramp: Wally Bledsoe distributed a draft of a letter detailing concerns about the new interchange with I-20 being prepared for SCDOT. He will attach photos and email it to Britt. Randy Halfacre asked Britt to prepare the letter for his signature.

Carpooling: Wally Bledsoe reported to the committee that he had contacted Lexington Baptist, Saxe Gotha Presbyterian and St. Stephens Lutheran Church about use of parking lots for carpooling. He said they were all receptive to the idea but mentioned liability concerns. Dan Walker said he would research the legal issues and draft signage.

George Street: The intersection at West Main Street and George Street is often blocked but is worse at rush hour on school days. Sandy Paavel reported that school buses have a difficult left turn to navigate from West Main onto George. The Ameris Bank is under construction there with curb cuts on West Main and George. Susan agreed to contact SCDOT and ask for an assessment of the intersection.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2008, at 8:00 AM in the Eli Mack Room at the Lexington Municipal Complex, 111 Maiden Lane, Lexington, SC. (Note earlier start time)

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Wally Bledsoe, seconded by Larry Yon and unanimous approval by members present.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Hanner, Secretary.

Approved By: _____

Susan Ruinen, Chair