

## **Traffic Committee**

### **MINUTES**

*November 18, 2008*

- Committee Members:** Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Leggett-Tyndall, Susan Ruinen, Chair; Clyde Smith, Co-Chair; Karen Hanner, Secretary; Dan Walker; Wally Bledsoe; Frank Berry; David McGehee; Sandy Paavel
- Present:** Britt Poole, Terrence Green, Brooks Bennett, Randy Edwards, Maureen Hurtik
- Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Susan Ruinen at 8:00 AM. Extra copies of the agenda were distributed. Susan expressed regret at the necessity of canceling the October meeting at a late date. She asked members to include additional contact phone numbers on the sign-in sheet.
- September Minutes:** Susan Ruinen asked committee members if there were any corrections or additions to the September minutes. Clyde Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Sandy Paavel seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.
- Update:** Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Tyndall asked Britt Poole to let the members know about the National League of Cities work. Britt explained that the federal Main Street Stimulus Package will provide funds for specific projects. He has submitted the Town of Lexington Phase I Traffic Plan for consideration. The Plan meets their criteria for assistance.
- George St at W Main:** Susan informed the committee that the lines on West Main Street emphasizing the intersection with George Street have been painted. The request came through at a time when that section of road was having paving improvements. The lines were added at the same time. More permanent markings will be added later. Sandy Paavel commented that it already seems to be helping reduce blocking of the intersection.
- SAFE Federal Update:** Susan reported that improvements at this intersection have been completed. She commented that the median was extended past the bank driveway to discourage attempts to make a left turn across three lanes into the bank and encourage left turns to the bank at the traffic signal intersection.
- Black Avenue:** Randy Edwards from Lexington County reported that improvements to Black Avenue were still in the planning stages. Temporary reflectors will help define the edge of the road, especially at night, until more permanent barriers can be installed.

**Powell Drive:** Britt Poole reported that SCDOT did not support additional signage at the intersection of 378 and Powell Drive. A letter from the mayor to SCDOT will be sent to make an added request for consideration of problems at this intersection.

**I-20 WB Ramp:** Britt Poole distributed copies of the letter (attached) that was received from SCDOT regarding their investigation of the I-20/SC 6 interchange. They acknowledged the short ramp and sharp right turn with no acceleration lane. They recommended clearing vegetation along the ramp to increase visibility of signage and installing a beacon on the right turn sign to alert vehicles. After some discussion, Hazel Tyndall asked Britt Poole to write a letter to SCDOT requesting the addition of rumble strips as a low cost, low maintenance alert device along the I-20 exit ramp.

**Carpooling:** Wally Bledsoe reported receiving contacts expressing interest in the formation of a carpooling location. After some discussion, Britt agreed to follow up with Brad Cunningham regarding liability issues and how other communities have set up their carpool parking. A request for suggestions on a meeting location could be inserted into Town Topics.

**East Main Street Bridge:** Susan Ruinen reported her investigation into the status of the bridge on East Main Street/US 1 near Taylor Drive. SCDOT maintains a list of bridges scheduled for retrofitting with barriers ranked by the number of problems occurring at that location. She stated a letter to Thad Brunson at SCDOT is needed to get the bridge on their list. Terrence Green will collect the accident reports for the last three years to include with the letter.

**N Lake Dr at Corley St:** A resident complained about the frequency of blocked intersections at this location and requested pavement markings with “Do Not Block Intersection” signs be installed. After some discussion Terrence Green stated he would monitor the problem and report at the next meeting.

**Thornhill Apt Speed Limit:** Britt Poole distributed copies of a letter received from Maureen Hurtik with Thornhill Apartments (attached) requesting a reduced speed limit from 40 to 35 mph on a portion of East Main Street beginning at Library Hill Lane and heading into town. Ms. Hurtick addressed the committee about the concern for residents entering and exiting Thornhill Apartments. Chief Green reported that a traffic study of the average speed between Swartz Road and Library Hill showed an average speed of 37 mph inbound and 39 mph outbound. Britt commented that SCDOT is preparing new traffic counts for signal timing. The model could be used to look at speeds from Woodcreek or I-20 into Lexington. After some discussion, David McGee made a motion that the Traffic Committee should present a recommendation to Town Council to request that SCDOT change the speed limit on East Main Street to 35 mph from Library Hill Lane. Wally Bledsoe seconded. The vote was 3 in favor and 4 against.

Britt stated that information from traffic counts should be available in February. Chief Green will collect accident information including the intersection of East Main Street and Swartz Road.

Ms. Hurtick thanked the committee for their consideration.

Susan Ruinen told committee members about an area of concern that will be included on the agenda for the next meeting. The intersection of Railroad Avenue and Swartz Road is not clear as to who has the right of way. Chief Green stated an officer will be there to monitor for problems.

Britt Poole reminded the committee members that there is traditionally no meeting in December. The Boards and Commissions Appreciation Dinner will be held the evening of December 15, 2008.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2009, at 8:00 AM in the Council Chambers at the Lexington Municipal Complex, 111 Maiden Lane, Lexington, SC.**

**(Note different meeting room)**

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Sandy Paavel, seconded by Dan Walker with unanimous approval by members present.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Hanner, Secretary.

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Susan Ruinen, Chair**