

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT
OCTOBER 26, 2011 1:35 PM
City Council Chambers

Members Present: Jason Wiener (chair), Ed Childers, Dick Haines, Lyn Hellegaard, Bob Jaffe, Marilyn Marler, Renee Mitchell, Pam Walzer, Jon Wilkins, Cynthia Wolken

Members Absent: Dave Strohmaier

Others Present: Steve King, Kevin Slovarp, Stacy Rye, Bob Giordano

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the minutes of – October 19, 2011 Approved as submitted
- B. Announcements –None
- C. Public Comment on Non-Agenda items – None

II. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approve appropriate traffic control signs to re-establish a thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph) speed limit on Old Fort Road between the intersections of Old Fort Road and 200 feet northeast of Post Siding Road. (memo) –Regular Agenda (Steve King) (Referred to committee: 10/24/11)(REMOVE FROM AGENDA)

Motion: The committee recommends the approval of appropriate traffic control signs to post a twenty-five miles per hour (25 mph) speed limit on Old Fort Road between the intersections of Old Fort Road and 200 feet northeast of Post Siding Road.

Steve King, Public Works Director, used a power point presentation to show the section of Old Fort Road they are requesting to re-establish a thirty five miles per hour (35 mph) speed limit on. This portion of Old Fort Road is currently un-posted and per the Missoula Municipal Code 10.18 Speed Limits, the speed limits on un-posted streets default to 25 mph unless otherwise posted. Public Works staff investigated this section of road and believes it was previously posted at 35 mph but could not find any evidence to that effect. Kevin Slovarp, City Engineer has had this street on a traffic studies list to study traffic operations to recommend speed limits but has not yet done this study. An irate citizen who was ticketed in this area came in with photographs saying this area is supposed to be a 35 mph speed limit zone, it used to be 35 mph and he wants the city to take action now posting the speed limit. He had a photo showing a 25 mph speed limit sign going southwest and he believes this shows the speed limit transitioning from some other speed to the 25 mph; Post Siding Road is also posted a 35 mph. Public Works does not have an engineering study or any documentation that this was previously posted at 35 mph but the antidotal information is that it was 35 mph and they are requesting concurrence from the City Council to reestablish the posted speed limit at 35 mph.

Bob Jaffe asked where the 35 mph speed limit would start, he said the only reservation he had was that on Sunday's that area is crowded with kids playing soccer and cars are parking on the side of the road. Based on our City ordinance, how do we change the speed limit without a traffic study?

Steve King replied saying they wanted to consult with the Committee first; Public Works believes it was previously posted at 35 mph and their recommendation is to repost this at 35 mph. Public Works doesn't believe they are changing the speed limit but without documentation they wanted the

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committee's concurrence. If there is any hesitation from the committee this can be posted at 25 mph and put on the list for a future study.

Marilyn Marler was hoping they would also discuss the unmarked roads in this area, she had been told that Public Works had been contacted about putting street signs up.

Steve King said there was only one City Street in the complex, Fort Missoula Road, but he does agree the streets at the two intersections should be marked and he will work with the Streets Division on this. There are two separate issues, one is to mark the streets and that can easily be done; the other issue is working with the Fire Department for addressing the complex to be under the city addressing system.

Renee Mitchell thinks the speed limit at one time could have been 35 mph but the entry ways were not as numerous as they are now and in addition to the soccer players there is also the batting cages, the Watson Home, tennis courts, the hospital that has increased in size, the intersection by the Union Square Apartments and a retirement complex. With so much in and out traffic on this road she would like to see it posted at 25 mph.

Jon Wilkins stated he would also like to have it posted at 25 mph.

Jason Wiener asked what the manual says about 25 mph versus 35 mph in terms of traffic volume, street classifications, the eighty-fifth percentile usage, etc. and is there any other kind of guidance provided; do we have the equal counts for the road.

Kevin Slovarp, City Engineer, replied that Public Works does not have a traffic speed study for Old Fort Road so there are no counts for it. He doesn't think there is a count station there to provide data on a yearly basis but he will verify that. This is basically an old county road section that is unimproved; there are no sidewalks, curbs or drainage. He believes this section used to be posted at 35 mph between Reserve Street and Old Fort Road.

Ed Childers said if it was posted at 35 mph he would like to see a traffic study done.

Dick Haines would opt for 25 mph unless a traffic study showed a difference.

Marilyn Marler made the motion to recommend the approval of appropriate traffic control signs to post a twenty-five miles per hour (25 mph) speed limit on Old Fort Road between the intersections of Old Fort Road and 200 feet northeast of Post Siding Road.

Kevin Slovarp added that Public Works is working towards an asset management plan to collect the physical locations of speed limit signs in a GIS mapping layer in the department so this type of situation would not happen in the future and if someone were to run over a speed limit sign it could be replaced with the same speed limit.

Public Comment:

Bob Giordano, Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation (MIST) used a power point to show results of some data collecting he did this morning. This road has multiple types of traffic including cars, trucks, parked cars and pedestrians. A concern for him was that groups of school children were using an informal "trail" on the side of the road and in some areas they had to use a part of the road because there were no sidewalks. Most drivers were traveling at a reasonable speed. He did take some speed data but could not verify the accuracy of the speed gun; his findings showed that out of one hundred cars the average speed was approximately 27.7 mph. He then showed a chart with the percentage of deaths of pedestrians hit at a given miles per hour, ranging from 20 mph equals 5% odds for death, 30 mph equals 45% and 40 mph equals 85%, this is critical because as speed goes up

the survival odds ~~increase~~ decrease dramatically. Their recommendation for this area is 25 mph. He doesn't see the need to go to fast on this section.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion on the sizes of grease interceptors for the restaurant industry ([Grease Interceptor PowerPoint](#)) ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Stacy Rye and Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 04/21/08)
2. Review infrastructure conditions at the locations of serious and fatal traffic accidents: 2007-2009 ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener) (Referred to committee: 01/25/10)
3. T4 America partner support ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Stacy Rye) (Referred to committee: (Referred to committee: 08/16/10)
4. Resolution to change the speed limit on Reserve Street between Brooks and 39th Street. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Wayne Gravatt) (Referred to committee: 01/24/11)
5. Approve the agreement for consultant services with Eli & Associates, Inc. on Project 10-034 England Boulevard right turn lane improvements. ([memo](#)) - Regular Agenda (Kevin Slovarp) (Referred to committee 05/16/2011)
6. Infrastructure condition inventory and maintenance requirements. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Ed Childers) (Referred to committee: 07/11/11)
7. Discuss the school speed zones. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 09/26/2011)
8. Discuss the timing of various traffic lights around the city. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 09/26/2011)

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 2:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Peggy Diamond, Program Specialist
City Public Works Department