



TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA
Monday, June 27th, 2022, 6:30 P.M.
Via Zoom (See link below)

This public hearing will be conducted virtually using the ZOOM platform.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87910815103?pwd=YVNReCtOaE9sQWRYaC90a21wdXF6dz09>

Passcode: 710039

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If members of the public would like to comment on an agenda item, please email your comments to kwalls@gladstoneoregon.us prior to 12:00 p.m. (noon) on June 27th, 2022.

The Traffic Safety Advisory Board will also have *Community Input* at the end of the meeting. To speak during this time, please email kwalls@gladstoneoregon.us prior to 12:00 p.m. (noon) on June 27th, 2022 with your topic of discussion.

Members of the Committee: Andrew Labonte, – Chair, Yvonne McNeil – Vice-Chair, Nathan Page, Jeffrey Johnson, Mindy Proski, Council Liaison – Randy Ripley.

1. Call to Order- Chair - Andrew Labonte

Roll Call- Executive Assistant Kristi Walls

- a. Present:
- b. Absent:

2. Approval of February 28th, 2022 minutes –Chair – Andrew Labonte

3. Business from the Board – Chair – Andrew Labonte

4. Roundtable Discussion – Board

5. Police Department Updates - Chief Schmerber

6. Community Input – Visitors: This is an opportunity for members of the audience to bring to the Commission’s attention any item not otherwise listed on the Agenda. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person. Speakers may not yield their time to others and must email kwalls@gladstoneoregon.us prior to 12:00 p.m. (noon) on June 27th, 2022 with your topic of discussion.

7. Adjourn

GLADSTONE TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM (Conducted Electronically Via Zoom).

ROLL CALL:

Chair Andrew Labonte, Yvonne McNeil, Jeff Johnson, Mindy Proski

ABSENT:

Nathan Page, Scott Lemon

STAFF:

Kristi Walls, Executive Assistant; John Schmerber, Police Chief

1. Call to Order – Roll Call:

2. Approval of January 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Andrew Labonte made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Jeff Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Election of Chair:

Co-Chair Yvonne McNeil asked for nominations for Chair.

Mindy Proski nominated Andrew Labonte for Chair. Motion was seconded by Jeff Johnson. Andrew Labonte was elected with a unanimous vote.

4. Business from the Board:

A) Email from Clair Coy (attached in the packet):

The email was read aloud – it was regarding the need for a reduced speed zone on Glen Echo in front of the church where they are going to be putting in a daycare/preschool. Chair Labonte said there have been a lot of conversations on this topic lately. It is his understanding, through the Planning Commission, that there will be a school zone speed implemented there. Chief Schmerber said the City is working on this, but it's early and he isn't sure of the status at this time. He will check on it and get back to the Board. Jeff Johnson mentioned speed bumps that have divots in them specifically for fire trucks. He sees them all over the Portland area. He thinks they would be a quick fix for the issue. Chief Schmerber said they have to follow the processes and sometimes it isn't easy. There are a lot of factors involved (safety, cost/budget, etc.). There was further discussion regarding speed bumps and one-way streets.

B) Email from Lydia Martin (attached in the packet):

The email was read aloud – it was requesting an evaluation of traffic on E. Exeter Street, especially at the intersections of Columbia and Union. She feels there needs to be traffic control signs to reduce the number of collisions.

Chair Labonte said he noticed that the speed trailer had been parked there recently. Chief Schmerber shared the data they collected. He also shared the crash data on the intersection of Exeter/Union from 2015-2019 (there were 0), and Exeter/Columbia from 2015-2019 (there were 4). They also placed a hidden box on Exeter between February 9 – 18 that captures east/west traffic data. There were 3,375 vehicles passing through. Total enforceable violations

- 3 (more than 5 miles over the speed limit). Average speed - 13 MPH. 85th percentile - 17 MPH. Fastest speed was 37 MPH. He knows the signage in Gladstone is not up to date. The City is working on that issue.

Jeff Johnson made a motion to open the discussion to the public. Motion was seconded by Yvonne McNeil. (No vote was taken)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michael Hummel said he lives on Nelson Lane, beside the High School. He can hear the traffic/kids on Glen Echo. He watches cars speed during school hours, during lunch, and at the end of school. He said the speeding has gotten worse lately. He asked if they could issue citations where the violator has to attend a traffic safety class instead of being fined.

Chief Schmerber said prior to Covid he was working with the school district regarding a peer court or something similar. The topic got pushed back, but it is still a goal - hopefully for the next school year. He will look into what they can do regarding the speed signs. Chair Labonte asked if there has been increased traffic since Tyron Way opened up - Mr. Hummel said it has gotten significantly larger.

Cierra Cook lives at E. Exeter/Union. She said she sees speeding vehicles, especially westbound, towards John Wetten during drop-off/pick-up times. A lot of people coming off Oatfield are traveling at high speeds. She said a lot of people driving east and westbound on Exeter assume they have the right-of-way, and they often don't stop or even slow down to make sure they have a clear pathway moving forward. She said there is impaired visibility near the top of the hill, going eastbound on Exeter toward Oatfield Road. She thanked Chief Schmerber for getting the speed trailer out there. She said what the residents are observing/experiencing doesn't match the data. She asked that a traffic study be conducted. She also hopes that this would result in some sort of traffic control mechanism (stop sign, speed bumps, school zone signage, etc.). She feels that the City could spend some of the pandemic funds they are going to receive on this issue and that the Traffic Safety Board could recommend that. Chief Schmerber said that the hidden box was gauging westbound traffic and agreed that you do see significantly more westbound traffic during school drop-off/pick-up times.

Chair Labonte spoke about collector streets versus local streets. He said there are problems when an arterial connects to a local street, especially when there's a school involved. He talked about making Exeter a dead-end on the Oatfield side, and perhaps Fairfield as well. He feels it could be a relatively easy fix. He thinks it would be great for the neighborhood.

Jim Cox lives at the corner of Exeter/Union. He said the data that was gathered during the past two weeks isn't a real reflection of the situation. He put up a poster/stop sign on his property alerting drivers that nobody has a stop sign there and it was effective. During the past ten days he has been sitting in his yard and filming cars - and that has been the most effective. He said approximately 1 in 20 drivers have a cell phone in their hand and most of them don't look left/right at the intersection. He would love to see it made into a dead end. He said something needs to be done and he feels that would solve the problem.

Chief Schmerber said there needs to be more awareness of right-of-way responsibilities. He needs to figure out some way via social media to remind people of those.

5. Roundtable Discussion:

Mindy Proski said she has a child who attends John Wetten and walks home from school – it worries her because of the way she has seen people drive in the area. She has wished for speed bumps around the schools. She agreed about the speeding vehicles on Nelson Lane. She said there are kids everywhere on Harvard and there are no sidewalks. She said there is a large truck parked on Hereford/Harvard near the crosswalk – it blocks the corner of the sidewalk where kids stand before they cross the street. They have to step into the road and peek around the truck to check for traffic. She asked if there could be a buffer to not allow a large vehicle to park at a crosswalk when it interferes with visibility. Chief Schmerber said he will look into that. Yvonne McNeil said ORS 811.550 states that parking is 20 feet from a crosswalk.

Jeff Johnson said on Nelson/Harvard there is no traffic control and there are giant trucks parked on both sides of the road, which causes very low visibility. He has seen people run the stop sign at Tryon/Nelson. The visibility is not very good there either. He suggested making the stop sign coming off of Tryon to Nelson a yield sign, but putting up stop signs at Harvard on Nelson, coming from Tryon, and coming up. Chair Labonte said he would be interested in hearing more suggestions/solutions for that area. Chief Schmerber said he is not aware of crashes in the area, but this is not the first time he's heard about this. He said typically their SRO is in that area, especially after school. He will continue to work on that and discuss it with the Public Works Director as well. He will bring up the issues mentioned on Exeter with the Public Works Director tomorrow, and get information posted on social media regarding rights-of-way.

6. Police Department Updates – Chief Schmerber:

He gave an update regarding their goals. One goal was attending the traffic/safety committee meetings in other cities/counties. He said they need to participate in the County's meetings and build a relationship with them. He said they need a liaison to the County because that is who they deal with. At least they can get answers. The County is asking for volunteers for their board. Webster Road/Cason enhanced crossing – target date for completion is July 1st.

Speed reduction from 35 to 30 MPH – he said there is a signage issue, but it is in the works. It makes sense to do it all at once. There was discussion regarding the speed limit on Oatfield. He said because of the possibility of tolling, has asked one of his sergeants to research photo radar/photo red light systems. He is not a big fan, but they want to keep the public safe and their officers can't be everywhere.

He said if anyone has ideas as to where to place the speed trailer to let him know.

7. Community Input:

No additional.

8. Adjourn:

Yvonne McNeil made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Jeff Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.