

Traffic Committee
MINUTES
January 15, 2013

Committee Members

Present:

Council Liaison Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston, Chairman Susan Ruinen, Co-Chairman Clyde Smith, Secretary Karen Hanner, Town Engineer Rosemarie Nuzzo, Rosemary Wilson, Jay Daniels, Bob Ferrell, Larry Yon

Attending:

Town Administrator Britt Poole, Lexington Police Department Corporal Doug Lee, Director Planning, Building and Technology Director John Hanson, St Stephen's Lutheran Church Pastor Pat Riddle, Congregation President Benjie Rhoad, Preschool Director Beth Haggard, Preschool Teacher and Parent Teresa Ellisor, and one other church representative

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 AM in the Conference Center by Chair Susan Ruinen.

December Minutes:

Chair Susan Ruinen asked members if there were any corrections or additions to the December minutes. Bob Ferrell made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Vice Chairman Clyde Smith seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

At this time, Chair Ruinen asked the Committee to consider the Butler Road Crosswalk item on the agenda.

Butler Road Crosswalk:

Beth Haggard introduced herself as the Preschool Director at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. She reported problems with pedestrian crossings at the West Butler Street crosswalk leading from the church parking lot especially during the start and at the end of preschool hours but also on Wednesday evenings and on Sundays. Ms Haggard felt many drivers are unaware of the SC law which requires vehicles to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk.

Pastor Riddle commented on the crosswalks at the University of South Carolina which have a sign located in the median reminding motorists to stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk.

Jay Daniels described the school safety audit DHEC conducts in partnership with SCDOT and other agencies. Their team looks at the environment to identify issues and behaviors involved in school drop off and pickups. The audit produces a list of recommendations to improve safety. He stated his office can offer the audit service to the school at St Stephens's Lutheran Church.

Town Administrator Poole commented that it was unlikely that SCDOT would approve a speed bump on West Butler Street.

Chair Ruinen added that several other options are available to consider for increasing pedestrian safety.

Corporal Lee read the report from the speed study done from November 20 to 27, 2013 on West Butler Street (attached).

(Minutes amended)

Rosemary Wilson asked if there was a school procedure for drop-offs and pick-ups. Ms. Haggard stated that they prefer to have parents come inside to provide some “face time” with the teachers. She added there was also a concern about waiting vehicles blocking traffic. Ms. Wilson commented that the school should have a procedure for parents. The fountain area could be used as a drop-off and pick-up area which would reduce the number of pedestrians having to cross the street with small children.

Clyde Smith suggested education of the church members to use the designated crosswalk. He has observed people crossing Butler from any location along the street.

Teresa Ellisor introduced herself as a teacher and parent at the pre-school. She described a “close call” when her two year old darted toward the street. She expressed concerns about the speed of vehicles on West Butler Street. She stated cars seldom yield to people waiting at the crosswalk.

Pastor Riddle stated that they could work on educating the people at the church about using the crosswalk but he felt lowering the speed limit on West Butler Street and increasing the visibility of the crosswalk, perhaps with a median sign, would be very helpful.

Ms. Haggard asked if the speed monitoring device could be placed on West Butler Street. Corporal Lee stated that it could be placed on the street today.

Relocation Corley Mill Rd:

Britt Poole reported about a meeting with the school board. They are working to see that the Corley Mill Road traffic plan is constructed but it probably won't be done before the new school opens.

Phase 1:

Britt Poole told the committee that construction is underway on West Butler Street. The Riley's Drugstore building is gone to make space for underground stormwater retention. The dentist's office at the corner of Columbia Avenue and Reed Avenue has been removed.

Insync Signal:

Britt Poole reported that the delay in completing the study is due to the need to inventory all of the signal boxes in the service area. The preliminary estimates from Insync are close to what was expected.

Interchange at I-20 and 378:

SCDOT is still working on the beautification plans. Britt Poole stated bids are expected to go out in February.

**SC6/Parker Rd/
Middlebrook/Gibson:**

Chair Ruinen said she hasn't seen a report from SCDOT on this area yet. She will continue the item to the February agenda.

Vision Plan:

Britt Poole told the committee about the Town's purchase of property at the corner of South Church Street and West Main Street for a redevelopment plan called Project Icehouse.

Old Cherokee Rd:

The SCDOT report on the section of Old Cherokee Road from Highway 6 to Pilgrim Church Road has not been completed.

Powell Road:

Director John Hanson reported contact with two groups on Powell Road to get their opinion on a possible redirection of the road. He stated that neither group felt that it would be a big problem. They were more concerned about traffic blocking the intersection at 378. Mr. Hanson stated there has been no contact with the owner of Claystone Drive. After some discussion regarding possible solutions, the committee agreed to table the issue until a later time.

Northside Signal:

Corporal Doug Lee reported that officers will patrol the area to enforce the no u-turn that is contributing to the traffic signal cycle problems.

Roundabouts:

Susan Ruinen stated she felt the intersection of Old Cherokee Road and Old Chapin Road could be improved with the construction of a roundabout. Rosemary Wilson reported the new roundabout on Two Notch Road.

The next Traffic Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2013, at 8:00 AM in the Eli Mack Room at the Lexington Municipal Complex, 111 Maiden Lane, Lexington, SC.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Rosemary Wilson seconded by Bob Ferrell with unanimous approval by members present.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Hanner,

Approved By: _____

Susan Ruinen, Chair

Memo

To: Chief Green
 From: Pfc. Whitlock
 CC: Lt. Davis
 Date: April 16, 2013
 Re: Speed Count West Butler Street

From November 20 – November 27, 2012 a traffic study was conducted on West Butler Street. There is a posted speed limit of 30 mph on West Butler Street. Below are the findings:

West Butler toward Columbia Avenue

Average speed: 32 mph
Total vehicles: 5893
The 85th percentile: 37 mph
 Number of vehicle between 26-35 mph: 4454 (75.6%)
 Percentage of vehicles below 40 mph: 97.7%
 Percentage of vehicles below 35 mph: 81.6%
 Percentage of vehicles below 30 mph: 37.9%

West Butler toward North Church

Average speed: 33 mph
Total vehicles: 6448
The 85th percentile: 38 mph
 Number of vehicle between 31-40 mph: 4465 (69.2%)
 Percentage of vehicles below 40 mph: 95.1%
 Percentage of vehicles below 35 mph: 70.3%
 Percentage of vehicles below 30 mph: 25.9%