

# Brookings Traffic Safety Committee

## 2017 Annual Report

### PURPOSE

The current Traffic Safety Committee was formed by Resolution 58-79 dated December 18, 1979 with its stated “duties and responsibilities” of “developing and implementing coordinated traffic safety programs that meet local needs; acting in an advisory capacity to the City Commission (Council) in the coordination of traffic safety activities of the official agencies and departments of the City of Brookings; establishing safety priorities for the city; reviewing and approving project applications for funding; serving in a liaison capacity between the City of Brookings and the South Dakota Highway Safety Program in developing the State Highway Safety Program and in meeting the National Highway Safety Program Standards; promoting public acceptance of official programs proposed or instigated by the city; fostering public knowledge and support of traffic law enforcement and traffic engineering problems; cooperating with city schools in promoting educational traffic safety aids; educating the public in traffic safety and generally aiding the overall reduction of traffic accidents, injuries and deaths on the city streets.”

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Traffic Safety Committee serves as a sounding board for concerns and issues that arise having to do with vehicle or pedestrian safety in and around the City of Brookings. From testimony and investigation, the Committee makes recommendations on actions needed to enhance and preserve traffic and pedestrian safety. These recommendations are forwarded to the appropriate agency for action. The committee members also identify problems and formulate plans to rectify traffic issues.

### MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Traffic Safety Committee fill specific slots representing groups so that the concerns of the following groups can be heard:

POLICE	Tony Sonnenburg is a Sergeant with the Brookings Police Department Jeff Miller is Police Chief and served as an ex-officio member until his retirement in 2017, when he was replaced by Dave Erickson. Chris Larson is an Office Manager with the Police Department and serves the TSC as secretary
TRAFFIC ENGINEER	Jackie Lanning, City Engineer, serves in this position
SCHOOL DISTRICT	Brian Lueders, as Business Manager, represents the Brookings School System
SDSU	Tim Heaton, SDSU Chief of Safety and Security, represents SDSU
SENIOR CITIZENS	Gary Gramm is retired from Education and Sales Management at Daktronics

AUTO INSURANCE	Skip Webster is retired from State Farm Insurance and has provided insight since the Committee was formed in 1979
JOGGERS/BICYCLISTS	Shayn Damm served in this position until he resigned in 2017 and was replaced by Rodney Farke, who retired from Saint Thomas More Catholic Church
INDUSTRY	James Weiss is the SDSU Building Maintenance Coordinator
CITIZEN AT LARGE	Kacie Richard is a Finance & Budget Coordinator at SDSU  John Howard is an instructional designer at SDSU  Gregg Jorgenson is an engineer with Banner Associates, Inc.
STREET DEPARTMENT	Matt Bartley is the Street Superintendent
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	Carol Rettkowski is co-owner at Dakota Service and Repair

### **PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT**

Eight meetings were held in 2017. The meetings were held on the second Thursday of each month at 12:10 PM at City & County Government Center.

Highlights of actions taken during 2017 are as follows:

- **January** – The committee discussed a request to allow overnight parking on the west side of Faculty Drive between 6<sup>th</sup> street and 7<sup>th</sup> street (west segment of faculty drive). The committee discussed the history of parking on that street for street sweeping and snow removal. A motion was made to allow overnight parking on the west side of Faculty Drive between 6<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The motion did not pass since 4 members voted in favor and 5 voted against the motion. An additional motion was made to put the item on the next meeting agenda for more input, which passed unanimously. The committee then discussed a request to remove parking near Twin City Fan at 101 Sunrise Ridge Road due to vehicles parking near the driveways which affected visibility. A motion was made to remove two car stalls for a total of 40 feet on the east side of Sunrise Ridge Road, on each side of the north and middle driveways, which passed unanimously. The committee then discussed and adopted the 2016 Traffic Safety Committee Annual Report. The committee also held election of officers, approving John Howard as the Chair and Skip Webster as Vice-Chair of the Traffic Safety Committee. The committee then discussed an update on a request for yield signs at the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which would be scheduled for a future meeting.
- **February** – The committee continued the discussion of removing parking on the west side of Faculty Drive between 6<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street and several members stated they did not want

to sacrifice safety. A motion was made to allow parking on the west side of Faculty Drive between 6<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Two members voted in favor and seven members voted against the motion and the motion did not pass. The committee continued the discussion on the request for stop signs at the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The committee discussed reasons for the increase in traffic including SDSU commuters, rental properties in the area and restaurant traffic on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. A motion was made to recommend stop signs on the north and south sides of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which passed unanimously.

- **March** – The committee discussed a request for 2-way stop signs at the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The committee discussed the traffic study that HDR completed, which showed that the east-west traffic volume was much less than the north-south traffic volume. A motion was made to install stop signs on the east and west sides of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersection, and the motion passed unanimously. The committee then discussed the placement location for new City-owned digital speed signs and the committee recommended 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue by the golf course in the northbound lane and 20<sup>th</sup> Street South, east of The Depot. The committee also discussed the digital speed sign on 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, and recommended no change to that location.
- **April** – No meeting this month due to no new discussion items.
- **May** – No meeting this month due to no new discussion items.
- **June** – The committee discussed the site visibility at the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Sheriff Stanwick made a request to Lanning to look at the visibility at the intersection resulting from citizen comments at a recent variance hearing. The committee discussed the current street parking and stop sign locations. A motion was made to send public notifications and put the item on the agenda for the next month, which was passed unanimously. The committee then discussed the pedestrian crossing at an alley on the west side of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. A representative of First United Methodist Church requested a crosswalk or pedestrian sign for children crossing the alley. The item was tabled until the next meeting when a representative could attend and describe the request in more detail.
- **July** – The committee discussed several options to improve site visibility at the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. After looking at pictures of the intersection and accident data at the intersection, Lanning suggested some interim steps to improve visibility instead of the bumpout. A motion was made to install 4-way stop signs with a bump out. Lanning stated that the curb ramps at that location were recently reconstructed and the bump out cost was not budgeted for 2017 or 2018. The committee voted on the motion with five voting yes, three voting no. The motion passed, and would be a recommendation to the City Manager. The committee then discussed a request for yield or 2-way stop signs at the intersection of Olwien Street and Lincoln Lane South. After discussion on the topic, no motion was made. The committee discussed a request for temporary stop signs on 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue at the intersection of Eastbrook Drive due to the 6<sup>th</sup> Street project detour. No motion was made since the detour

would be removed by the end of the month. The committee also discussed the pedestrian crossing at alley on the west side of 7<sup>th</sup> avenue between 5<sup>th</sup> street and 6<sup>th</sup> street (at First United Methodist Church). A motion was made to recommend the speed limit be changed from 25mph to 15mph and to install signs on both ends of the alley, which passed unanimously.

- **August** – The committee discussed options to improve site visibility at the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue since the bumpout was not budgeted for 2017 or 2018. The committee discussed ideas like painting a stop bar, moving the stop signs closer to the intersection, and removing parking near the intersection. A motion was made to paint a stop bar at the stop sign on the south side of 4<sup>th</sup> Street, which passed unanimously. Another motion was made to remove a total of 40 feet from the south side of 4<sup>th</sup> Street on the east and west sides of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. All present voted aye and the motion passed. The committee then discussed a request to remove parking on the east side of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street from 2:00AM to 6:00AM due to changes in the Hillcrest School parent drop-off and pick-up zones. A motion was made to remove parking on the east side of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street from 2:00AM to 6:00AM and the motion passed unanimously. The committee then discussed a grant request for the LeFevre Drive Allyn Frerichs Trail Connection and a motion was passed unanimously to provide a letter of support for the project.
- **September** – No meeting this month due to no new discussion items.
- **October** – The committee discussed the 4-way stop signs at the intersection of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street South. A recent traffic study indicated that warrants were met to justify the 4-way stop signs to remain after the 6<sup>th</sup> Street reconstruction project. A motion was made to recommend 4-way stop signs at the intersection of 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street South with the recommendation installing flashing stop signs. All present voted aye and the motion passed. The committee then discussed a request to remove parking on the west side of the 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 6<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. After discussion on the current parking conditions, a motion was made to remove 25' of parking on the west side of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south of 7<sup>th</sup> Street, and to move this item to old business at the next meeting and the motion passed unanimously.
- **November** – The committee further discussed the request to remove parking on the west side of Campanile Avenue (previously named 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue) between 6<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. A motion was made for no parking from the hours of 8AM to 4PM on the west side of Campanile Avenue between 6<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Six members voted in favor and two voted against the motion and the motion passed. The recommendation would be given to the City Manager, and he will make the final decision on parking removal.
- **December** – No meeting this month due to no new discussion items.

On average, there were between 10 and 11 members present at eight (8) meetings for one hour, resulting in eighty-three (83) volunteer hours spent in meetings. Each member also had to inspect the area being studied before the meeting, which resulted in additional volunteer time being spent.

### **EXPENDITURE REPORT**

No direct funds were expended to accomplish the activities of the Brookings Traffic Safety Committee. Staff time from the Police Department and the Engineering Department was used and is budgeted under each of these departments.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2018**

- Hold at least ten monthly meetings.
- Have an average of eight members attend each meeting.
- Make a recommendation on each item of sustenance on the agenda within one or two meetings from the time it is placed on the agenda.

### **UNMET NEEDS**

None