

Traffic Safety Committee

Date: February 2, 2025

Time: 5:15 PM

Attendance

- Joshua Bible – COP Construction & Operations Manager
- Robin Lerseth – COP Commissioner
- Doug Kinniburgh – Committee Member
- Kendall Light – Committee Member
- Leon Ellis – Committee Member
- Captain Kyle Cummings – Committee Member, COP Police Dept.
- Brad Palmer – COP Utilities Director
- Scott Schweitzer – COP Staff Engineer

1. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes, seconded, and carried.

3. Follow-Up on Prior Action Items

Avera Hospital Crosswalk

- Yellow pavement markings were extended on Dakota Avenue in both directions.
- Additional yellow markings were extended on Washington Avenue at Avera's request.
- Committee members reported significant improvement in visibility.
- No complaints have been received since the changes were implemented.
- Items considered complete and will be removed from the action list.

Georgia Morris Middle School Pedestrian Signal Timing

- Pedestrian signal timing was extended per prior request.
- No complaints or issues have been reported.
- Items considered complete and will be removed from the action list.

Riggs High School – Initial Lighting Improvements

- The City Electric Department installed a new light at the Riggs High School crosswalk.
- Lighting was noted as an improvement.
- Additional lighting options (e.g., taller poles or cobra-style fixtures) remain under consideration

4. Riggs High School Crosswalk Safety

- Committee discussed ongoing concerns regarding:
 - Student visibility during dark hours.
 - Light glare impacting driver visibility from the existing streetlights.
 - Students cross outside designated crosswalks.
 - Limited sight distance caused by parked vehicles.
- Potential safety enhancements discussed included:
 - Extending no parking zones using additional curb painting.
 - Removal or relocation of select parking stalls.
 - Evaluation of north-side versus south-side parking.
 - Pedestrian-activated flashing beacons (with noted limitations).
 - Possible reconfiguration of school parking lot entrances/exits.
- Members noted an upcoming school expansion project that will temporarily reduce on-site parking, likely increasing on-street parking and pedestrian activity.

5. Marked Crosswalks at Uncontrolled Intersections

- The Committee discussed the need for consistent standards to evaluate crosswalk requests.
- Current practice focuses on school zones and high-pedestrian areas.
- Resource and maintenance limitations were noted.
- Members expressed concern that excessive crosswalks may reduce driver compliance.
- No action taken; discussion to continue.

6. Kennedy School / Brookstone Loop and Abbey Road Area

- Concerns were discussed regarding:
 - Lack of marked crosswalks near Kennedy School.
 - Increasing residential development and pedestrian demand.
 - Limited sidewalk connectivity and alignment issues.
- Possible solutions discussed:
 - Mid-block crosswalks.
 - Coordination with the school district for sidewalk improvements.
 - Evaluation of traffic control measures pending warrant analysis.
- No formal action is taken; additional information is needed.

7. Citywide Signage Inventory and MUTCD Compliance

- An earlier signage inventory (2016–2017) was acknowledged as outdated.
- Staff reported ongoing efforts to update signage inventory using GIS.
- MUTCD retro reflectivity requirements were discussed.
- State DOT sign replacement program opportunities were noted.
- No formal action taken; item remains ongoing.

8. Abbey Road and 4th Street Traffic Update

- Traffic counts indicated approximately 300 northbound vehicles during morning school hours.

- Speed data showed vehicles traveling significantly above posted limits.
- A corridor-wide traffic safety study is likely needed.
- No action taken; item remains under review.

9. Poplar Street and Sioux Boulevard Traffic Patterns

- The Committee reviewed concerns regarding lane configuration and pedestrian safety.
- SD DOT is currently studying the intersection for potential future reconstruction.
- No immediate changes planned pending study results.
- Item remains ongoing.

10. Public Comment

Three members of the public provided comments regarding pedestrian safety:

1. **Kennedy School Area**
 - Concerns raised about the absence of crosswalks and increasing pedestrian activity near the school.
2. **Highland Avenue & Capitol Avenue**
 - Pedestrian reported being struck by a vehicle (non-injury) and experiencing multiple near misses.
 - Requested consideration of engineering controls to improve pedestrian safety.
3. **Middle School Parent**
 - Shared concerns regarding a near-miss involving a child at the same intersection.
 - Expressed support for further study and safety improvements.

11. Action Item

- Consult with the Electric Department regarding higher or alternative lighting options at Riggs High School.
- Coordinate with school representatives regarding:
 - Parking lot entrance and exit configuration.
 - Repair or replacement of temporary stop signs.
- Extend no parking curb markings near Riggs High School crosswalk.
- Review signal timing and traffic data at Highland Avenue and Capitol Avenue.
- Continue development of a GIS-based signage inventory.
- Continue traffic studies and monitoring at Abbey Road, 4th Street, and Poplar Street & Sioux Boulevard.

12. New Business

- Brief discussion regarding traffic congestion near Scooter's Coffee; no action taken.

13. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and approved.
The meeting was adjourned.

