

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Monday, September 10, 2018
Regular Meeting

Members Present: Bill Harkins, *Chairman*, David Ames, *Council Member*, David Bennett, *Mayor and Committee Member*

Members Absent:

Others Present: Marc Grant, *Council Member*; John McCann, *Council Member*; Tom Lennox, *Council Member*; Frank Babel, *Co-Chair of the Hilton Head Island Bicycle Advisory Committee*

Staff Present: Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Scott Liggett, *Director of Public Projects & Facilities/ Chief Engineer*; Carolyn Grant, *Communications Director*; Julian Walls, *Facilities Manager*; Darrin Shoemaker, *Traffic & Transportation Engineer*; Jeff Buckalew, *Town Engineer*; Cary Schumacher, *Code Enforcement Officer*; Faidra Smith, *Administration Manager*; Phyllis Deiter, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

Media Present: Eleanor Lightsey, *Lowcountry Inside Track*

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Harkins.

2. Freedom of Information Act Compliance

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2018 Intergovernmental and Public Safety Committee meeting was made by David Ames and seconded by Mayor Bennett. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

4. Unfinished Business

5. New Business

A. Approval of Proposed 2019 Intergovernmental & Public Safety Committee Meeting dates.

A motion to approve proposed 2019 Intergovernmental & Public Safety Committee meeting dates was made by David Ames and seconded by Mayor Bennett. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

B. Pathway Safety Enhancements – Un-signalized High-Speed Crosswalks

Scott Liggett began by stating staff had begun discussions earlier this year regarding how best to bring about a level of consistency to the crosswalks that we have here on the Island. Because many have been integrated and installed by the Town over the years, the philosophies in that time have changed resulting in a variety of treatments. The goal is to obtain from the community, and

ultimately Council, the desired direction related to reinforcing the consistent message with signage and pavement markings. Funding will be found within the Town's capital improvements program for pathway safety and access enhancements in the current fiscal year.

Jeff Buckalew then spoke to the committee about the goal to inform and educate the motorists, drivers, and pedestrians using the crosswalks with a consistent message. This project being described could potentially have multiple tiers, such as future ambient overhead lighting, or even a potential future traffic signal if warranted. Currently, there are different signs, styles, and sizes. All of the crosswalks on William Hilton Parkway are owned and operated by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and, with their approval, the Town will initiate the upgrades to the crosswalks. Town staff is considering to employ the walking man sign for consistent usage at each un-signalized crossing. The signs would straddle both sides of the crosswalk with arrows pointing down at the crosswalk where motorists can expect someone to step out. Along with those signs, a reflective strip on sign post can be added to further enhance awareness. Another additional enhancement to help driver awareness are illuminated signs with lights around the perimeter. Town staff's recommendation is a dusk to dawn illuminated perimeter around the sign. Additional treatments are pavement markings. Staff will ensure that all crosswalks meet current standards of the ladder bar crosswalk treatment. Another pavement marking option is "PED XING" in advance of the crosswalk, to further warn motorists that they are approaching a crosswalk. There are many versions of reflectors and reflector strips that will allow motorists to be aware of crosswalks; including raised reflective pavement markers illuminated by approaching headlights. There are eleven un-signalized crosswalks on William Hilton Parkway/ US 278 that would employ some of these options. This Yacht Cove example is a template, as some crosswalks may involve more work than others. Once the changes on William Hilton Parkway are done, Town staff would look at the second tier of roads, such as Marshland Road, Squire Pope Road, Mathews Drive and Beach City Road.

Committee comments were solicited. The committee members agreed that this was a good starting point; however, there was a consensus on the need to slow traffic. US 278 is a road system that is demanded by semi-trucks, residents, tourists, bikers and pedestrians, combining multiple uses into one right of way. SCDOT would need to have a request to do a speed study before they embark on lowering the speed limit. Town staff would need direction from Council to complete a speed study on the designated roads. Mr. Ames quoted a term called "traffic calming" which employs a combination of measures and subliminal messages intended to slow down and improve the overall safety on the roads. There was further discussion on the various safety enhancements that could be installed and instituted keeping in mind the environmental and aesthetic vision of the Island.

The Chairman asked for public comments. Frank Babel addressed the educational component needed for the citizens of Hilton Head Island. The Bicycle Advisory Committee would like to work with the Town and expand on educating the communities on bicycle and pedestrian safety. Mr. Babel also recommended additional signage for the pedestrians and walkers on the pathways and leisure trails. Town staff agreed to consider the suggested treatments and how to properly advance some of those ideas.

Chairman Harkins proposed Mr. Ames' following motion to the committee: the Intergovernmental and Public Safety Committee approve the recommendations of staff with the addition of the recommendation to do a William Hilton Parkway/ US 278 corridor speed study and pass this onto

Town Council. It was seconded by the Mayor. With no further discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

C. Discussion of Hilton Head Island Biking Interests

- i) Reviewing the Importance of biking to the Hilton Head Island community
- ii) Reviewing the Importance of biking safety
- iii) Discussion of what is being done to measure and improve of both of those items

Frank Babel, Co-Chair of the Hilton Head Island Bicycle Advisory Committee, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Hilton Head Island Biking Safety. Although it focused primarily on biking, this related to pedestrian safety as well. Mr. Babel started with the background of the Hilton Head Island Bicycle Advisory Committee and how their mission is to make Hilton Head Island safer and more bike friendly for everyone. The biking environment is important to the Island as it encompasses all ages, abilities, genders and pocketbooks. A safe pathway system and roadway network is important to the community. The presentation continued on with details about crash history and the reality of the mix of drivers on the road. This data, from the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, provides the committee with measurable, positive results. The presentation ended with a list of sixteen recommendations that could be implemented in the future.

Chairman Harkins thanked Mr. Babel for the review. Committee and public comments were solicited. There was consensus to the importance for the Bike Committee's positive influence in the community. There was additional dialog and questions about the specific signage being suggested by the committee. Further study is warranted for some of the specific crash sites to mitigate potential, dangerous situations.

Before the meeting ended, Mayor Bennett requested Josh Gruber, Assistant Town Manager, to set up a workshop meeting with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office (BSCO) and the Intergovernmental & Public Safety Committee regarding the performance audit and the BCSO response.

6. Adjournment

With no further business items, there was a motion for adjournment by Mr. Ames and seconded by Mayor Bennett. The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 A.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Phyllis Deiter
Senior Administrative Assistant

Approved on: 11/05/2018

Bill Harkins, Chairman