



## Traffic Commission

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 505-8560, Fax: (314) 862-0694

### CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION July, 12 2017

#### 1. Call to Order

At the Traffic Commission meeting of University City held in the Heman Park Community Center, on Wednesday, June 14, 2017, Chairman Jeff Hales called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

#### 2. Roll Call

In addition to Chairman Hales, the following members of the commission were present:

- Bart Stewart
- Jeffrey Mishkin
- Derek Helderman
- Curtis Tunstall

Also in attendance:

- Errol Tate(non-voting member – Public Works Liaison)
- Sergeant Shawn Whitley (non-voting member – Police Department Liaison)
- Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson (non-voting member—Council Liaison)

Absent:

- Sinan Alpaslan (Public Works Director)
- Jeff Zornes (excused)
- Derek Helderman (excused)

#### 3. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Mishkin made a motion to move agenda item F to before agenda item A. and was seconded by Commissioner Stewart. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Tunstall made a motion to approve the amended agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Mishkin. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. Approval of the Minutes

##### A. June 14, 2017

Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2017 meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Helderman. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 5. Agenda Items

##### f. Delmar Boulevard and I-170 Gateway Greenway Expansion

Angelica Gutierrez from Great Rivers Greenway presented a proposed expansion of the Great Rivers Greenway for the crossings at McKnight Road and Delmar Blvd. to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. She stated there have been complaints about difficulty crossing.



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Yosef Howley with Alta Planning (853 Wilner Dr) presented the three proposed design concepts. Mr. Howley stated the three concepts have the following objectives, to create a safe comfortable bike and pedestrian experience, to create a visually appealing experience through the intersection and to maintain or improve traffic operations at the intersections. He stated that concept A has gotten the lowest scoring in the feedback received by Great Rivers Greenway. He stated they are proposing closing the northern most westbound lane of Delmar.

Commissioner Stewart asked how many lanes currently exist. Mr. Howley stated that there are two through lanes and a left-turn lane for westbound Delmar east of McKnight to the entrance to southbound I-170 which is the lane that would be removed in the concept. He stated the left-turn lane would remain west of the McKnight intersection for the I-170 ramp. He stated they are looking to minimize the crossing distances at those intersections.

Commissioner Stewart asked about the impact on the left turn from the Schnucks exit. Mr. Howley stated that he didn't know if that was part of their traffic study.

Commissioner Mishkin asked if the commission was being asked to make a recommendation on the proposals. Ms. Gutierrez stated that Great Rivers Greenway was looking for feedback for each of the concepts. Mr. Howley stated that the information has also been supplied to MoDOT regarding traffic studies and simulations and have not received any negative feedback. Commissioner Mishkin asked if the commission could be provided with that information as well.

Ms. Gutierrez stated that the calculations that were run were the requirement of MoDOT which has jurisdiction over the intersections and signals at Delmar and I-170 and the McKnight entrance to I-170. She indicated St. Louis County is supportive of the three options as long as traffic conditions can be maintained.

Chairman Hales stated that he likes the options with the trees and he likes the options with the most trees, but stated that this was a bit unusual for the commission to receive a proposal that has not yet been reviewed and does not have a staff recommendation. He stated he was not comfortable making any type of recommendation without considering the review and recommendation of staff. He indicated that the commission can listen to citizen input and provide citizen input, but technical aspects of the proposals need to be reviewed by staff and he would feel more comfortable making a recommendation once staff has had an opportunity to review.



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Mr. Tate stated that they wanted to get the initial feedback from the commission before reviewing and they would be bringing the issue back to the commission.

Chairman Hales agreed with Commissioner Mishkin about requesting to see the data. He asked if there were different considerations in terms of the traffic analysis as to whether the McKnight crossing was on the north or south side of the on-ramp. Mr. Howley stated the calculations were run both ways and there has not been a projected change in traffic operations. He stated that the plans create a bicycle boulevard on the existing shoulder where bicycles would travel in both directions separated by plastic reflective bollards or a more permanent concrete curb as shown in Concept C.

Mr. Helderman stated that he would lean to concept B or C and believed that it makes the most sense to cross McKnight at the Greenway.

Ms. Gutierrez stated that Alta had contacted the neighboring property owners who have expressed support for moving the crosswalk to north of the I-170 ramp.

Commissioner Mishkin asked if the crossing could go under Delmar. Mr. Howley stated that the budget would likely not accommodate such a proposal and may not accommodate all of the concepts presented.

Chairman Hales stated that from a purely aesthetic standpoint he would rather see concept A over concept B, but his first choice would be concept C. He stated he did not like the proposal of using reflective sticks or posts as the sole division between traffic and the bike and pedestrian lanes.

### **a. 7100 Block of Lindell Blvd. Residential Parking Permit Petition**

Chairman Hales introduced the proposed residential parking petition and stated the both the 7100 and 7200 blocks of Lindell had representatives at the last meeting and were extremely organized. Mr. Tate stated that they had everything required for their petition. There were two requests to speak.

Pam Lokken of 7200 Lindell stated that she attended the last meeting and unless the commission had questions of her, she did not need to speak.

Commissioner Stewart made a recommendation to approve a residential parking plan for the 7100 block of Lindell Blvd as outlined in the petition and recommended by staff. Commissioner Tunstall seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

### **b. 7200 Block of Lindell Boulevard Residential Parking Permit Petition**



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Commissioner Hales introduced the residential parking permit plan for half of the 7200 Block of Lindell Blvd. He stated that the petition contains the required number of signatures and that there were no requests to speak.

Mr. Helderman made a motion to approve a residential parking permit plan half of the 7200 block of Lindell Blvd. as outlined in the petition and recommended by staff. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mishkin and was unanimously approved.

### **c. 7000-7100 Block of Northmoor Drive Residential Parking Permit Petition**

Chairman Hales introduced a request for residential parking in 7000 and 7100 blocks of Northmoor Drive. He stated that the request appears to be very straightforward and asked if Mr. Tate had anything to add. Mr. Tate stated that he did not but wanted to hear about the impact to Lourdes. Mr. Hales stated that his only potential concern with the request was the potential impact to Lourdes. He stated that the requestor appears to have taken the church into consideration by excluding Sunday's from the restricted parking times and stated that his only concern would be whether there would be any other accommodation for events such as funerals that may not occur on a Sunday.

Mr. Tad Dageforde of 7052 Northmoor Drive stated that he had not considered other church events such as funerals but that the neighborhood is willing to make other accommodations. He also stated that there are a number of other residential parking restrictions around the church already that do not make special accommodations for the church. He stated that they are requesting that the teachers at Lourdes are included in ability to receive a residential parking permit so that they are not impacted. He stated that they are following the surrounding neighborhoods adjacent to Washington University and have seen an increase in student parking in the neighborhood.

Mr. Hales stated that he believed that consideration for an exception for church events such as funerals should probably extend to other residential parking areas such as the north side of Forsyth as to not be limited to just Northmoor Drive.

Mr. Tate asked why the requestor has requested a residential parking restriction during the hours of 8 am to 5pm and not the same hours used in surrounding neighborhoods. Mr. Dageforde stated that they wanted to try to accommodate evening events at Lourdes. Mr. Tate recommended 8 am to 8pm because most restrictions are for 12 hour periods. Mr. Hales stated that he disagreed with a 12 hour restriction and stated that recent restrictions have been 12 hour restrictions but that has not been the case historically and that previous residential parking permits have had hours specific to the circumstances of the neighborhoods.



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Commissioner Helderman made a motion to define the affected households for a residential parking permit petition to include all of the households in the 7000 and 7100 blocks of Northmoor Drive up to 7200 Northmoor Drive from Big Bend to Asbury. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stewart and was approved unanimously.

### d. Purcell Avenue and Etzell Avenue – No Through Street

Mr. Tate introduced a street closure request from Joseph Mosby.

Mr. Joseph Mosby of 1086 Colby Ave. addressed the commission and stated he has been a resident for 1.5 years. He put in the request after speaking with his neighbors and stated that the consensus is their street has been used a mini-autobahn. He stated he once clocked a vehicle travelling 85mph and stated that speeding is a significant problem. He stated that most of the neighborhood residents have children and/or pets. He stated that he has never seen traffic observe the speed limit and stated that the recent deployment of the speed trailer by the police department only validated his concerns. He believed that the street closure would do the neighborhood a favor as well as the police department.

Mr. Hales asked the other neighbors in attendance if they were on the same page with Mr. Mosby's comments and all in the audience said yes.

Commissioner Stewart asked what type of barricade is being requested. He stated whichever is the most cost effective way would be accepted.

Commissioner Mishkin asked if the closure of the street would cause a problem for another neighborhood street. Mr. Mosby stated that there are streets like Pennsylvania that could accommodate the traffic. Mr. Mosby stated that there are some neighbors who no longer allow their children to sit on the front porch.

Michelle Best of 1089 Colby addressed the commission. She stated that she has been a homeowner on Colby for about 2 years and is very concerned about the traffic and speeding. She stated that she believes the traffic and excessive speed is an accident waiting to happen.

Mr. Thomas Thompson of 1077 Colby spoke to echo the previous speakers' statements about excessive speed on Colby. He stated he's concerned every time he parks his car on the street because of the volume and speed of traffic. He's also concerned with children ball into the street. He stated there is a sign stating no through traffic, but that is not enforced.



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Mr. Bryce Kehoe of 6552 Corbitt stated that he does not live in this neighborhood but uses the street to cut through. He stated that he believed through traffic should use Pennsylvania Ave. and supported the residents.

Chairman Hales asked Sgt. Whitley if the police department had any feedback on the resident's request. Sgt. Whitley stated that the department's job is to make the streets as safe as possible. He stated that the police had not yet downloaded the data from the speed trailer but would do so and perhaps deploy the trailer again. He stated that they would use the data to determine the times where traffic flowed with excessive speed and increase patrols during those times. He stated that the speeders are usually the same individuals.

Mr. Thompson asked to speak and stated that speeding is main problem, but they also have a problem with people throwing trash out of their cars as well.

Mr. Hales asked if it would be possible to export the data from any speed trailer deployment and share it with the Traffic Commission since it is tasked with studying all traffic related issues. He also suggested that the data be shared, especially in this instance with Councilman Smotherson since he is one of the councilmembers for the ward in which the trailer was deployed. Sgt. Whitley stated that could be done.

Councilmember Smotherson stated that he's dealt with this problem before in his neighborhood on Purdue. He stated that a barrier was installed before reaching Page on Purdue. He stated that there would not be a cost to residents for a barrier unless something special is requested.

Chairman Hales stated that he believes the commission has heard the residents' concerns that there is a problem, but that his concern was making a permanent recommendation without having recommendation from the Police and Fire Department. He stated that he had reviewed the ordinances earlier in the day and believed that the City Manager has the authority to initiate temporary parking restrictions. He suggested that if the Police and Fire Departments don't have concerns about closing the street that the commission asks the City Manager to consider implementing a temporary closure to provide immediate relief. During the temporary closure, residents could have relief and also work towards a petition to permanently close the street.

Commissioner Tunstall stated he was impressed that one and two year residents have become so active in their neighborhoods. Commissioner Tunstall made a motion to recommend closing the street at Etzell and Purcell. Chairman Hales asked if there was a second.





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Commissioner Helderman asked if the commission had the ability to make a recommendation to close the street or if the commission had the ability to recommend a resident petition to close the street.

Chairman Hales stated that as a commission, the commission is advisory to the City Council and only can make a recommendation to the City Council. He stated that he believed that the City Council would likely have the same concerns and request feedback from the Police and Fire Departments and that is why he made the proposal he made. He stated that if there is no objection from the Police or Fire Departments, he didn't believe there were any objections expressed by any commission members to closing the street. He stated that if the commission were to make a recommendation today, it would require an ordinance be drafted and sent to Council for three readings over two meetings which would take as much as 6 weeks with the summer council recess. He reiterated that he believed that the commission should recommend that the commission ask the City Manager to review the request with the Police and Fire Departments and implement a temporary closure if there is no objection because it would provide immediate relief and provide time for the residents and commission to develop and review a petition to permanently close the street.

Commissioner Tunstall stated that he would not withdraw his motion.

Chairman Hales asked if there was a second to Commissioner Tunstall's motion. Commissioner Mishkin seconded the motion.

Chairman Hales suggested a roll call vote on the motion. Mr. Tate stated he still wanted to check with the Police and Fire Departments. Councilmember Smotherson suggested a motion could be made to amend the motion. Commissioner Mishkin stated he would like to amend the motion to include Chairman Hales' recommendation to ask the City Manager to consider implementing a temporary closure. Chairman Hales stated he would prefer to do it in two separate motions.

Commissioner Stewart made a point of clarification and stated that Commissioner Tunstall's motion was to make a recommendation of closure immediately without a petition from the residents. He stated that he thought the commission should recommend the City Manager consider a temporary closure which would give residents time to collect signatures for a permanent closure. He stated wanted to make sure that there was enough resident support through a petition, so the commission doesn't have residents at a future meeting upset about the closure.

Commissioner Tunstall stated that he did not want to rescind his motion.



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Chairman Hales stated he agreed with Commissioner Stewart. He stated that closing a street is a major change and while a petition is not required by ordinance, he believed a petition was a wise thing to do. He suggested amending Commissioner Tunstall's commission to approving a petition for the residents so that they can start the process of collecting signatures for a petition right away. He then said he would make the motion if no one else would to request that the City Manager review the request with the Police and Fire Departments and if the closure is okay with those departments consider implementing a temporary closure.

Commissioner Tunstall stated that he preferred to vote his motion. Mr. Hales stated that with all due respect to Commissioner Tunstall, he could not support a recommendation to close the street. That he would prefer to recommend the City Manager review the request with the Police and Fire Departments and consider a temporary closure and that the commission approves a petition for the residents in the neighborhood for a permanent closure to come back to the commission for review.

Commissioner Mishkin had to leave at 7:50pm.

Chairman Hales stated there is a motion on the table for closure and a second. Chairman Hales made a motion to amend Commissioner Tunstall's motion to instead solicit a petition for the households on blocks of Colby and Purcell between Etzell and Crest with 75% approval to close Purcell at Etzell. Commissioner Tunstall seconded the motion to amend the motion and was unanimously approved and the amended motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Hales made a motion that the City Manager review the request to close Purcell at Etzell expeditiously with the Police Department and Fire Chief and if he feels this is a feasible thing to do, to use his authority to institute an emergency change to temporarily close Purcell at Etzell pursuant to the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Helderman and unanimously approved.

### **e. Loop South Street and Leland Avenue – All Way Stop**

Mr. Tate presented the request for an all way stop sign at Loop South and Leland after two way traffic was recently implemented on Loop South. Staff believes the 4 way stop would improve safety at the intersection.

Chairman Hales asked if there were any questions or discussion.

Commissioner Tunstall made a motion to accept the recommendation of staff and was seconded by Commissioner Stewart. The motion was unanimously approved.





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### **g. Kingsland Walk Senior Living Facility**

Mr. Tate presented the proposed Kingsland Walk Senior Living facility and asked for the commissions input on traffic and parking impact. He stated there would be 19 staff members and 21 parking stalls and while both adjacent streets are county roads, staff would like input from the commission and be aware that this is a possible development in this area.

Chairman Hales asked if the proposal had been to the Plan Commission. Mr. Tate stated it would be going to the plan commission. Mr. Hales stated that he preferred that the plan commission review and make a recommendation on the proposal first before the traffic commission makes a recommendation because they consider the amount of parking with a proposed development. He stated that the proposed location is directly across from the shopping center where Mi Ranchito is located which already has inadequate parking.

Chairman Hales asked Mr. Tate if the commission needed to make a motion for him to bring the proposal back to the Traffic Commission. Mr. Tate stated that a motion was not needed and he would bring the proposal back to the Traffic Commission after it went to the Plan Commission.

### **6. Council Liaison Report**

Mr. Smotherson stated Senn Brewery development is not going forward.

### **7. Miscellaneous Business**

Chairman Hales stated there was one request to speak on Miscellaneous Business from Mr. Bryce Kehoe and thanked him for his patience.

Mr. Bryce Kehoe (6552 Corbitt) addressed the commission about the Loop Trolley. He stated he's been studying the trolley for a number of weeks and that he's learned that the track inserts don't work and fall out and he believed it was not a good idea. He stated that he had talked to the cities of Portland and Louisville. He said Portland has a "bike box" to the far right at an intersection to allow for bikes to make a left turn perpendicularly to the tracks. He stated he spoke with the Director of Public Works about the possibility of a bike path through the Washington University parking lot and the Mission Taco parking lot to connect to Enright to bypass the trolley. He suggested education kiosks and signage for an alternate route as well as striping on the street about crossing the tracks to a 60 to 90 degree angle. He stated we need to educate bicyclists about crossing the tracks and using alternate routes.

Chairman Hales stated that he prepared a letter to the Council as a draft for review by the commission. He stated he spend an inordinate amount of time researching the minutes and process that resulted in the trolley's construction without any



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accommodation for bicycle traffic. He stated that he believed it was incredibly important that the commission communicate to the Council how this happened and the importance of the roles of the City's commissions and boards. He shared a written statement with the commission and asked that this be put on the next agenda. He summarized the first paragraph of the letter regarding the role of the Traffic Commission as outlined in the ordinance and then read the remainder of the letter:

*"The Traffic Commission of University City recognizes our role as being advisory to the City Manager and the City Council and recognizes the City Manager's and City Council's authority and right not to accept any recommendation made by the commission. The Commission however, can only advise the City Council and city manager when it is allowed to fully perform the duties and responsibilities as outlined in our ordinances. The role of the Traffic Commission as well as all boards and commissions in University City play an important part of a process which was arguably designed with the goal of good, thoughtful, carefully deliberated public policy.*

*On November 14, 2012, the Traffic Commission reviewed "Loop Trolley Presentation" which included the proposed design and improvements as part of the Trolley project. The minutes from that meeting reflect that members of the commission at the time inquired about how bicycles would interact with the Trolley on Delmar Blvd. in University City, specifically, the minutes state "No answer was given to the question where bicycles will ride". At the conclusion of the presentation, the minutes of the meeting reflect that Public Works Staff Liaison explained to the commission that city staff had not provided a recommendation to the commission since there were still outstanding questions that needed to be answered. The Traffic Commission was asked not to make any recommendation to Council about the proposed trolley design and no recommendation was voted on.*

*The December 12, 2012 Traffic Commission Agenda Packet outlined a summary of the Loop Trolley Project from the meeting before including comments from the Public Works Department covering concerns in three areas: Traffic, Parking, and Pedestrians and Bicycles. On page two of the agenda packet, Public Works and Parks Staff offered the following comments to the commission regarding bicycles and the proposed Loop Trolley design: "Bicycle facilities to be identified. The Trolley tracks are highly unsafe." In closing, the packet stated: "The Public Works and Parks Department recommend that a study be performed by a professional to identify answers to all the questions regarding parking mitigation and multimodal use of transportation as outlined above."*

*The minutes of the December 12, 2012 Traffic Commission meeting reflect that the Traffic Commission identified a list of outstanding issues related to the Loop Trolley project, among those listed: "pedestrians and bicycles interaction with trolley operation". The minutes also reflect that "no recommendation was made by the Commission until a final Traffic Impact Study is presented to the City **and all***



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### ***questions are answered by the Loop Trolley Designer”.***

*The January 9, 2013 Traffic Commission Agenda Packet included continued discussion on the Loop the Trolley project. The agenda included a list of 12 additional questions provided to the Loop Trolley Company following a December 17<sup>th</sup> presentation to the city and lists seven (7) “Additional outstanding items related to SAFETY” which included item (i), “Bicycle facilities to be identified in the area. The Trolley tracks are highly unsafe.” The Loop Trolley agenda item information concluded with “The*

***Traffic Commission will be asked to vote on their support to the construction of the Trolley and its impact as already known (items A and H listed above), with the understanding that all of the items will be addressed before it is presented to the City Council.***

*The minutes of the January 9, 2013 Traffic Commission meeting reflect that no update was provided regarding the aforementioned “additional outstanding items related to safety” as listed in the agenda packet. During the meeting, Joe Edwards addressed the commission recommending that the Loop Trolley project go forward to the Plan Commission by January 23, 2013, citing the importance of meeting deadlines so the trolley would be up and running during good weather. The Traffic Commission was not asked by staff to vote on a recommendation to Council regarding the Loop Trolley Project.*

*The Traffic Commission Agenda Packet for the February 13, 2013 did not include the Loop Trolley project as an agenda item and no meeting took place due to lack of a quorum.*

*In March of 2013, City Manager Lehman Walker presented the Conditional Use Permit along with the Loop Trolley Design to the City Council for their approval at the March 11 City Council meeting, despite the city’s Traffic Commission having not received answers to the “additional outstanding items related to safety”, despite the City’s characterization of the trolley tracks as being “highly unsafe” for bicycles, and despite the commission having not voted on a recommendation for the Loop Trolley Design.*

*Almost five years ago, the then members of the Traffic Commission had identified the hazards posed to bicyclists by the proposed trolley tracks in the Loop Trolley Design. From November of 2012 through January of 2013, the members of the Traffic Commission worked faithfully to execute their duties and powers and responsibilities as outlined in the city code. Inexplicably, the Commission’s work was cut short when the City Manager prematurely sought and received approval for the project from City Council on March 11, 2013, and thus the commission was not allowed to finish their work, to have their questions and concerns answered, and to make a recommendation on the proposed Loop Trolley Project and design.*

*Today, this Traffic Commission has no members, voting or non-voting who served during that time period. Today, this Traffic Commission has shown through its last*



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*several meetings that it is committed to working to find a solution to the safety hazards posed to bicyclists by the Loop Trolley Company's trolley tracks. We face an unenviable and challenging task of finding a solution to a problem that likely never would have been presented to us had those commission members who came before us been allowed to finish their work, to have their questions and concerns answered, and had they been allowed to advise and make a recommendation to the City Council as the commission is empowered to do by ordinance.*

*The members of the Traffic Commission of University City do hereby ask the City Council of the City of University City to reaffirm the City's commitment to our public policy processes and to recognize the importance of the roles and responsibilities of all University City Boards and Commissions in our community as enumerated in our Charter and Ordinances, so that we do not find ourselves in a similar position in the future."*

Chairman Hales stated that as the commission goes through this process, it's important to communicate what happened regarding the Trolley design and construction. He asked that the commissioners please review the letter and asked for everyone's feedback and input. He stated that he did not want what happened to the Traffic Commission to happen to another commission and he believed the Council will need to take the lead on that.

Commissioner Stewart stated he promised a resident that he would ask why her street's parking was restricted with 14 hours notice. Mr. Tate stated that the normal notice is 48 hours. Mr. Tate stated that he believed he knew the situation Commissioner Stewart was referring to and said the posting was likely made on Monday for a Wednesday but he believed there was a fire which delayed work and the signs may not have been reposted with 48 hours because the emergency nature of the change in work schedule. Mr. Tate stated that if the posting is not made with 48 hours, the city will not ticket or tow a parked car and will knock on the door and ask that the car be moved.

Chairman Hales asked if there was any update on when the commission will hear back on the progress with the Loop Trolley Company and staff to address the Loop Trolley and bicycles and asked if it could be placed on the next agenda.

### **8. Adjournment.**

Chairman Hales adjourned the meeting at 8:24 pm.

Minutes prepared by Jeff Hales, Traffic Commission Chairman & Secretary