

**MINUTES
LAWTON ACCESS BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
NEW CITY HALL
CITY ATTORNEY'S CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET
APRIL 11, 2017**

Mike Jones called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. in the City Attorney's Conference Room. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Joseph Harper; Don Kesler, Jr.; Mike Jones; Kay Love; Ray Polk.

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office.

APPROVE MINUTES from January 31, 2017 meeting

Motion by Kesler, Second by Harper, to approve the minutes of January 31, 2017. **Aye:** Harper; Kesler; Love; Jones; Polk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. New Business

A. Introduction of new Access Board member, Ray Polk.

Jones stated I would like to welcome Mr. Polk to the Board.

Polk stated thank you very much and I'm really excited about the opportunity to serve.

B. Review and discuss proposed sidewalk project priority plans. Take action for reprioritization if necessary.

Jones stated here is a copy of the maps that we have used to identify sidewalks projects. They are marked in red, blue and green. The red projects are sidewalks this Board has prioritized. Priority #1 is on page 40. This is in front of the DHS offices on Lee Boulevard. It extends from their driveway west to the next street. There were a number of factors that came into play to arrive at these priorities. One of those factors is LATS routes. Most of these priorities take in at least one LATS stop.

Kesler stated schools and hospitals were another factor.

Jones stated and we looked at places with high traffic. On priority #1 we had to obtain additional right-of-way. There are 3 parcels we needed right-of-way from. We have gotten the right-of-way on one parcel and are negotiating with the other 2. The design is complete. There

are obstacles that can't be moved so we will have to wind around them. Once the right-of-way is secure Council will award the project and construction will begin. The contractor will have 60 days to complete construction. It should be complete around the end of July.

Kesler stated with the passing of the street projects I don't believe we should spend ADA money on any of these areas and they need to place sidewalks on both sides of the street.

Jones stated I believe since those are all arterial streets sidewalks will be on both sides. I'll read these streets at loud so Ms. Love will know what we are referring to.

Bishop Road, Southwest 38th to Southwest 52nd Street
South Sheridan Road, West Lee Boulevard to Bishop Road.
Southwest 38th Street, West Lee Boulevard to Bishop Road.
Intersection realignment of Southwest 27th Street and West Gore Boulevard.
Northwest Ferris Avenue, Fort Sill Boulevard to Northwest 2nd Street.
Southwest 38th Street, West Gore to West Lee Boulevard.
Southwest 17th Street, West Lee Boulevard to Southwest F Avenue.
Fort Sill Boulevard, Northwest Ferris Avenue to Rogers Lane.
Southwest 52nd Street, West Lee Boulevard one-half mile north to the railroad tracks.
East Rogers Lane, Northeast Village Drive to Northeast Flower Mound Road.
South 11th Street, West Gore to West Lee Boulevard.
Cache Road, North 67th to Northwest 82nd Streets.

These are all arterial streets and the total project is just shy of \$50 million.

Harper stated this doesn't include the main part of Sheridan. There are areas on Sheridan that are in real bad shape.

Jones stated we also have projects on 35th Street and east 45th Street from Gore to Lee Boulevard.

Love asked has Bishop Road really grown.

Jones stated yes. There are several housing additions and a new fire station.

Love asked is it south Bishop.

Jones stated yes. Priority #2 is Sheridan Road from Gore north to Ferris and it is in design. This section presents some significant challenges. It will have to wind around obstacles and switch from the west side to the east side. The sidewalk going in on the east side of town from west of Flower Mound on Gore is underway. There is probably 800 to 900 feet that is complete. The south side of Gore should be complete around the 20th of May. They have ordered the brick pavers and are in the process of setting up a website so you can order a brick.

Kesler stated it would be nice to have the pavers at the bus stops.

Jones stated they will start the north side of Gore as soon as the south side is complete. They have 60 days to complete the north side so the total project should be complete by the middle of July.

Harper asked “Was there any feedback on the Channel 7 story”?

Jones stated there was. I would like to congratulate Harper on a job well done. It was a good interview.

Kesler stated riding in that chair gives you a whole different perspective.

Love stated unfortunately the blind can’t see cars coming. It would have been nice to have had observations from the blind perspective.

Jones stated anytime we can bring attention to what we are doing is a good thing. Another project we did was at 20th and Smith. It needed a concrete pad and sidewalks for the bus stop. There are a lot of locations like this and this is an inexpensive project. On 35th Street there is a road reconstruction project going on between Gore and Cache. When the project is complete there will be sidewalks from Gore to Arlington and then from Arlington to 34/35th. There will be a new commercial project at the corner of 34th and Cache Road and they will be responsible for sidewalks in front of their business. When this is complete there will be a gap on 34th Street of about 400 to 500 feet.

Kesler stated there will be 2 gaps. One is from Ferris south towards Arlington and the other is from 34th/35th north to Cache Road.

Jones stated almost to Cache. We may want to look at adding the 400 to 500 feet as one of our projects. I can see that being something we would want to look at.

Polk stated this benefits both the handicap and others. I see mothers trying to maneuver baby carriages through the grass and I’ve seen people walking to work walking in the grass. Sometimes it is raining. It is very scary to watch the cars pass these pedestrians. There is a gentleman with a flag on his scooter and cars don’t even pay attention.

Kesler stated at some point we need to look at south 11th Street. These people walk in the mud or the street. They need to be given the same priority and accessibility.

Love stated that is close to the airport also.

Harper stated there is a small strip just north of Aldi’s that we need to look at.

Love asked “Is there any obligation on the businesses to help with sidewalks”?

Jones stated not an existing business. New construction is responsible for sidewalks. We could approach some of the businesses to see if they would be willing to help.

2. Comments/Discussion

Jones stated at the last meeting we agreed to send a letter to Council voicing our opinion on the footbridge at Gore and I-44. Here is a copy of the letter I wrote. It was presented to Council by Hadley. I'll read it aloud for Ms. Love.

At its last regularly scheduled meeting on January 31, 2017, the members of the Lawton Access Board voted unanimously to support the proposal to construct a pedestrian bridge spanning Interstate 44 at East Gore Blvd.

The sidewalk is the most basic unit of mobility within our overall system of transportation and it is increasingly relied upon by the more than 13,000 disabled citizens of our community. This pedestrian bridge would provide a vital yet safe interconnection between central and east Lawton where one does not currently exist.

In areas where pedestrians without disabilities are in danger of contact with vehicular traffic, studies have concluded that wheelchair pedestrians are at much greater risk for suffering catastrophic injuries or losing their life if involved in an accident with a motor vehicle. Most catastrophic wheelchair pedestrian/vehicle accidents occur in crosswalks or along stretches of roadway, such as this one, where no sidewalk is available. The disabled have a strong desire to remain independent and they know they must be willing to face considerable challenges in order to go about their daily activities. It is not inconceivable that a blind, deaf, or wheelchair-bound person would attempt this dangerous crossing to get to the casino or one of the LATS bus stops on either side of the interstate.

We believe that the construction of this pedestrian bridge would send an unmistakable message to our citizens that the City of Lawton is dedicated to enhancing our pedestrian infrastructure, thereby making our city a more active and accessible one.

Love stated I hope that included committed. They need to be dedicated and committed.

Jones stated absolutely. I hope you are all satisfied with the content of the letter. It was presented to Council in letting them know that we did support the footbridge.

Harper stated that is good. I don't know how much it will help.

Jones stated it can't hurt.

Polk stated so true.

Jones stated I had hoped that Hadley would be here today to give us an update. I think basically they are trying to find the money.

Polk stated I would like to reiterate that I'm very happy to have this opportunity and I look forward to doing whatever I can to make things happen.

Jones stated I appreciate that and we are happy to have you.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Motion by Kesler, **Second** by Harper, to adjourn. **Aye:** Kesler; Love; Jones; Polk; Harper. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**