

LF050102-08

MEMORANDUM:

TO: MAYOR MUNSON
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: BONNIE HUGHES

SUBJECT: PATH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
8TH AND FRANKLIN

DATE: APRIL 15, 2002

The PATH Committee met today regarding the 8th and Franklin intersection. Alice Johnson attended and explained to the committee members the issues regarding this intersection and the near misses that have occurred with pedestrians crossing at the traffic light this. The issues and improvements are divided into three areas: 1) Enforcement; 2) Engineering; 3) Education. Parents from other schools have contacted her about these same issues once they knew she had met with the Council. The schools concerned with traffic issues on adjoining streets are Pinedale; South Canyon; South Park; South Middle School and Rapid Valley.

Doug Adelman explained the ordinance amendment for increasing the fines for 'failure to yield to pedestrians' that will be presented to the Council for consideration. Presently the fine for 'failure to yield to pedestrians' is \$20.00, with the ordinance amendment the fine will be \$86.00. During discussion regarding the concerns of the intersection, the following improvements were suggested: a) doubling the traffic fines for school zone violations; b) encourage the City to install the fluorescent lime green pedestrian and school crossing signs; c) purchase the lime green traffic vests for the school crossing guards; d) install flashing lights in road that would be triggered when a pedestrian steps into the crosswalk; e) lower the speed limit on 8th Street; f) conduct a 'group therapy' session with traffic enforcement; and g) use the radar speed zone sign for education of drivers telling them the speed they are traveling.

The PATH Committee recommends the following items be implemented:

- 1) Doug Adelman, Traffic Engineer, will present a cost estimate to the City Council to replace the existing gold fluorescent pedestrian crossing signs with the fluorescent lime green signs. The newer fluorescent material is more reflective and is very visible to the driving public. The committee encourages

the Council to proceed with installation of the new lime green signs at all school/pedestrian crossings. The committee recognizes the increased cost for lime green signs and encourages participation in the sign replacement program by PTA's of each school.

- 2) The committee recommends that the City Council support an ordinance amendment to double the fines for traffic violations in school zones.
- 3) The Traffic Division of the Police Department will be utilizing the radar speed sign to educate the driving public on the speeds they are traveling through this intersection. This sign will be utilized at other school zone areas on a rotating basis.
- 4) The committee recommends that a letter be sent to the South Dakota Department of Transportation requesting their consideration in reducing the speed limit to 25 or 30 mph and have the transition to 35 mph be at St. Patrick Street. The speed limit to the north of Franklin Street is 30 mph but increases to 35 mph just before you reach Franklin Street.
- 5) The committee recommends that the City consider installing strobe lights at pedestrian crossings when a street is reconstructed. The strobe lights in the street would be activated when a pedestrian steps into the crosswalk. Although there may be concerns with snow removal issues, the committee feels confident there are solutions available.
- 6) The committee recommends that the City purchase fluorescent lime green vests for all school crossing guards. The fluorescent lime green is more visible to the driving public than the present orange vest.
- 7) The committee recommends that the 'right turn on red' be restricted or eliminated for eastbound traffic on Franklin Street.

The Council's support on implementing these changes will not only help the 8th and Franklin intersection but will also benefit other school zones in our community.