

AGENDA – TSC 5/2/11

ITEM NO. 2: Consider request to increase the SPEED LIMIT on Bob Billings Parkway from Iowa Street to the west city limits.

Facts:

1. The current posted speed limit is 40 mph.
2. This roadway is a 4-lane facility with medians in some areas, and left-turn lanes in some areas.
3. Sight distance is limited in some areas due to terrain; there is at least one intersection with a recommended speed limit of 30 mph.
4. There are four (4) traffic signals along this roadway, but they are not coordinated.
5. If a vehicle were able to travel an entire mile at 45 mph instead of 40 mph, the vehicle would arrive 10 seconds sooner.
6. Twenty-four-hour speed studies conducted at seven (7) locations during the period 14 April – 20 April found the 85th percentile speed to be approximately 49.7 mph.
7. Raw traffic crash data shows 135 intersection crashes and 71 mid-block crashes reported to the Police Department during the three-year period 2008-2010.

MINUTES – TSC 5/2/11

Consider request to increase the SPEED LIMIT on Bob Billings Parkway from Iowa Street to the west city limits.

David Woosley presented the information provided in the staff report.

Public comment:

Betty Alderson, 1920 Maine Street: I think this is a very bad idea; there were two fatal accidents on that road several years ago; I can't see any reason to raise the speed limit for saving 10 seconds in time; I shudder every time I have to drive it because of the speed; there's a lot of foot traffic in the area near George Williams Way.

Commissioner Woods asked if the speed limit were changed, would the recommended speed at some intersections have to change; Woosley advised that they wouldn't, however, additional intersections may have to be posted.

Commissioner Miller asked if the city was still pursuing connection of Bob Billings Parkway to K-10; Woosley advised that they were as far as he knew.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WOODS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, TO RECOMMEND DENYING THE REQUEST TO INCREASE THE SPEED LIMIT ON BOB BILLINGS PARKWAY FROM IOWA STREET TO THE WEST CITY LIMITS; THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

From: Eric Bloom [mailto:ericjbloom@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 2:59 PM
Subject: Bob Billings speed limits

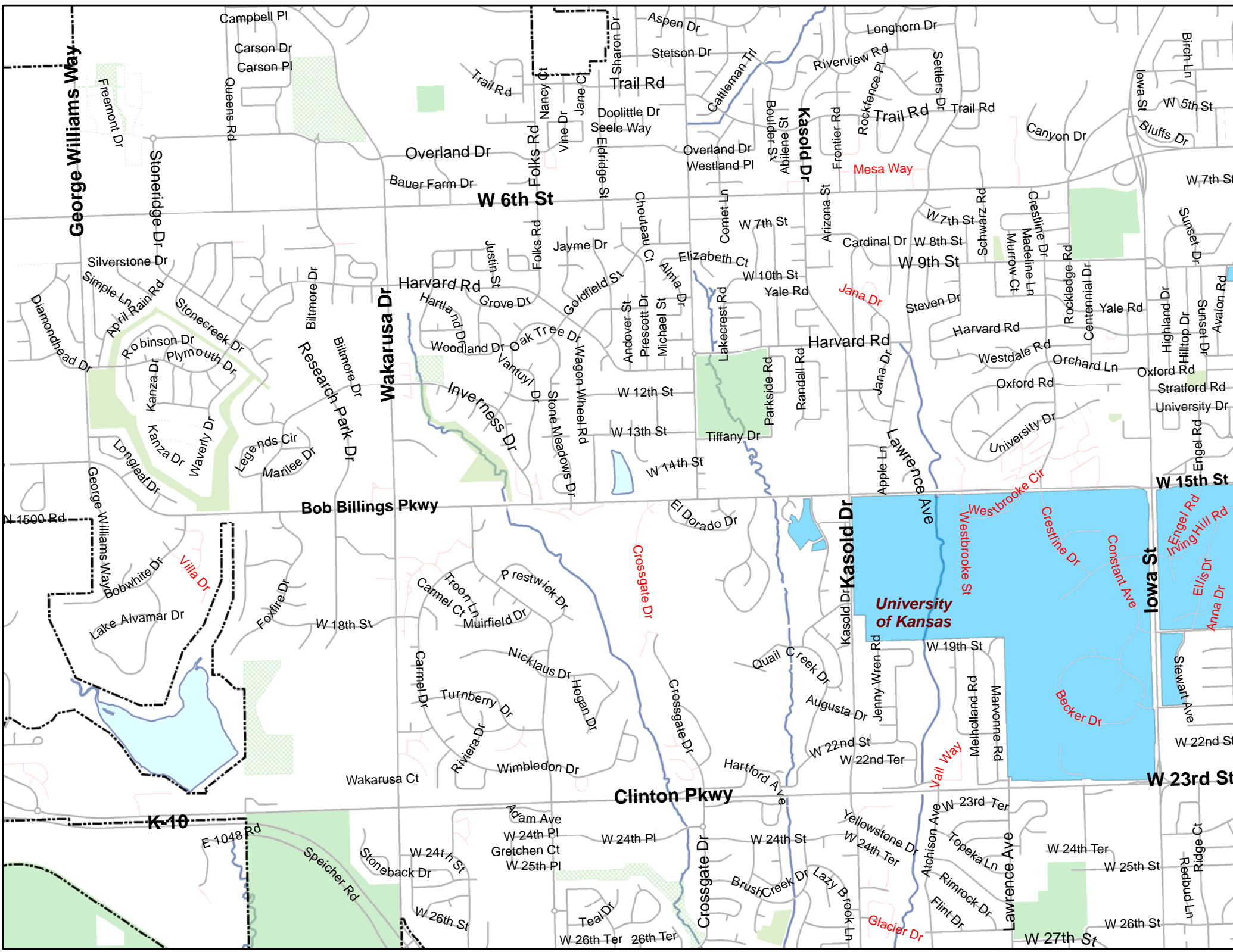
Crossing Lawrence takes longer than reaching Kansas City. Part of the issue is that the bypass is nonexistent and roads like 23rd/Clinton Pkwy are overtaxed. Bob Billings/15th St should be a quick way to travel from the west edge of town to Iowa St & campus. As is, the speed limits reflect a neighborhood and not a thoroughfare. I ask you consider promoting this road by giving it the speed limits a four lane road deserve.

40mph is the 'carry-through' limit from Iowa until the road terminates in west Lawrence. From Kasold to Iowa there is a divided lane. In Johnson county, these city roads would be at least 45, and likely eventually upgraded to 55mph. (Overland park - Antioch, Nall, Roe, Switzer) these roads do not have business curb cuts, or residential neighborhood entrances to excess. Turn lanes are in place. The hills will cause a vehicle (or bicycle) to exceed posted speed limits in NEUTRAL (eastbound Kasold downhill will coast a car to 44-47mph). If a bicycle can coast to a speeding ticket, you are obligated to completely redesign this section of road, remove Lawrence Ave turn lane (similar to 6th st near Dillons where a road was blocked at a light), or allow cars to move at a greater speed.

Bob Billings is free of school zones, and has two police stations. Rather than create a speed trap ticketing station near campus police, instead create a western passageway into campus. Work on extending Bob Billings west to K-10, and think of future growth.

Thank you for reading my opinion, and please communicate if I can follow up with any other advice or information. Thank you, and I do appreciate the fine roads in Lawrence (minus roundabouts which are disgraceful).

Eric Bloom
1645 W. 19th St.
Lawrence, KS 66046



May 06, 2011

Lawrence City Commissioners

City Hall

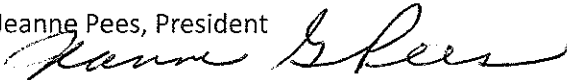
Dear Sirs:

Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association at its annual meeting voted "No" to the increase speed limit on Bob Billings Parkway . Our southern boundary is the edge from Iowa St to Kasold with many entrances and exits onto the parkway. This section is hilly with blind spots and is heavily traveled.

At the May 02, 2011 Traffic Safety Committee meeting the proposal was recommended that the city commission deny it. We agree!

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeanne Pees, President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeanne Pees", written in black ink.

Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association

From: Richard Heckler [mailto:rheckler2002@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2011 6:22 PM
To: David Woosley; Ken Miller
Subject: Re: Letter to Mayor

Sorry for the late notice....

Much to my regret I will not be able to attend the meeting tonight.

As far as meeting with the City Commission. If the majority see no value well then I can go with that. The fact is our jobs on this commission are very different from say the airport commission and some other advisory boards/commissions. The Traffic Safety Commission is not in the business of asking for tax dollars to support more growth etc etc etc.

Enjoy the evening,
Dickie Heckler

From: David Woosley <DWoosley@lawrenceks.org>
To: Ken Miller <oscarfactor@sunflower.com>
Sent: Mon, May 2, 2011 1:58:04 PM
Subject: Letter to Mayor

Hi Ken,

The Airport Commission recently sent a letter to the new mayor requesting a study session between them and the City Commission. The director of public works thought this was a good idea and that other commissions under the public works department might want to do the same.

At tonight's TSC meeting, under miscellaneous, we can discuss whether or not the TSC would like to meet with the City Commission; and if so, attached is a draft of a letter that can be adapted as needed by you and the other members.

Thanks,



David E. Woosley, P.E., *Transportation/Traffic Engineer –*
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