

UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
Union Gap, Washington
September 26, 2011

<u>Call to Order</u>	Mayor Lemon called the Study Session Meeting of the Union Gap City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.
<u>Council Members Present</u>	Council Members David Butler, Dan Olson, Dan Vanover, Dave Matson, James Murr and Chad Lenz were present.
<u>Staff Present</u>	Greg Cobb, Acting Police Chief; David Spurlock, Development Coordinator; Dennis Henne, Public Works Director; Robert Noe, City Attorney; and Kathryn Thompson, City Clerk were present.
<u>Audience Present</u>	Angie Ward, Matthew Anders, Edica Esqueda, and others were present.
<u>Presentation of Traffic Safety Corridor Project</u>	Angie Ward, Program Director for the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission, explained that she, Matthew Anders, Washington State Department of Transportation, and Edica Esqueda, Yakima County met with the Union Gap Police Department, the City of Yakima, the Washington State Patrol, and the Liquor Control Board in May regarding a Yakima Traffic Safety Corridor Project. She informed the Traffic Safety Commission has been funding corridor projects since the early 1990's. She stated they come to an area because they are invited or because they notice a stretch of road with accident problems and they develop an action plan designed to reduce fatalities. This corridor project will be 1st Street in Yakima from US 12 on the north end, through Union Gap (Main Street) down to US 97 on the south end; and Nob Hill Boulevard in Yakima from I-82 on the east end to 64th Avenue on the west end. She stated the route was chosen based on accidents happening and they look for low cost solutions to help prevent future accidents. She stated examples of low cost solutions they fund are lighting, signing, striping, etc. They also provide money for overtime for law enforcement agencies for a couple of years so law enforcement can work the problem areas. She stated they work with the agencies to provide public education and information so everyone knows the emphasis is going on. She informed Yakima's Mayor has agreed to serve as the media spokesperson for the project. Once the action plan is developed, they will see how much money there is, but most projects are 18 months to 2 years and most projects receive \$100,000 to \$200,000. She stated the key components of successful projects are engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency medical services. Council Member Matson questioned what makes Nob Hill Boulevard part of this project. Ms Ward stated factors such as the types of accidents, the length of the project, how many officers an agency has available to work overtime, etc. are taken into consideration and Nob Hill Boulevard met the collision data criteria. Council Member Vanover commented Nob Hill Boulevard is similar to 1st Street; a large portion is four lanes with no turn lanes. Matthew Anders, Washington State Department of Transportation Engineer, stated the collisions on both streets are similar and most are manageable. He then distributed a handout showing the total crashes on 1st and Main Streets between January 1, 1996 and December 31, 2010. Council Member Matson questioned if they are looking at speeding, driving under the influence (DUI), or what. Mr. Anders stated they are using collision reports from all area agencies, they are not specifically looking at DUI's, but the Liquor Control Board will be looking at DUI's. He stated they have completed about 35 traffic corridor projects around

the state. The projects started with highways and later shifted to city and county roads. He explained this handout is a tiny snapshot taken out of many pages of documentation. He stated they will be touring the corridor as a group and looking at the cause of the collisions.

Council Member Lenz questioned how the steering committee is selected.

Ms Ward stated all the agencies will be represented on the committee.

Mr. Anders stated they try to have representatives of public works departments, schools, businesses, engineers, etc.

Ms Ward informed they will invite any interested people. She stated Acting Police Chief Greg Cobb and Public Works Director Dennis Henne will be on the committee and it would not hurt to have Council members on the committee as well.

Council Member Matson stated he is part of the safety committee and would like to be included.

Adjournment

At 6:20 p.m. Mayor Lemon adjourned the Study Session meeting.

These minutes dated September 26, 2011 were approved at the Regular Council Meeting of October 10, 2011.

Jim Lemon, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn Thompson, CMC, City Clerk