

**POLSON CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2008 4:00 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE:** City Commissioners: Bruce Agrella, Jim Sohm, Jules Clavadetscher, Mike Lies, Elsa Duford, Fred Funke present. Mayor Lou Marchello presiding. City Attorney and Acting City Manager James Raymond absent.

**Mayor Lou Marchello called the meeting to order.**

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION POLSON MEMORIAL BRIDGE RESTORATION PROJECT – SHANE STACK (FOLLOW UP TO PREVIOUS MDOT PRESENTATION HELD 11/5/08) CITY COMMISSION’S TRAFFIC FLOW ISSUES AND CONSENSUS:** Shane Stack of MDOT emphasized that they are making their proposals to address potential problems related to traffic flow issues during construction on the Polson Memorial Bridge. They want to get as much input about the city and the public concerns. They realize that other issues might arise during construction and they will adjust their plans and address those issues at the time. They will have a project manager on site and the contractor will also have a project manager on site who will observe the flow of traffic and address the problems that might occur. They emphasized that these proposals to aid the flow of traffic are not set in stone and they will be flexible to use other options.

The following items were mentioned. A message board will be placed at Elmo and Rocky Point Road to advise drivers of the construction on the bridge. Flashing signs will be placed near the bridge. Traffic will be slowed to 45 mph then to 25 mph within the proximity of the bridge. Provide as much information through the media as possible about the one lane restriction because of construction on the bridge. Flaggers and traffic signals will be placed on either side of the bridge. There will be delineation between lanes. The speed limit will be 25 mph on the bridge. They will try to schedule the concrete pouring during low traffic periods. No left hand turns will be allowed for vehicles traveling north from First Street West through 2<sup>nd</sup> Street East. There will be flaggers during high peak traffic hours to direct traffic on these roads. There will be flaggers on either side of the bridge at all times during construction. The flaggers on the side streets will not be constant but during heavy traffic hours. They plan to start construction in May 2009. They will be flexible to respond to conditions as they arise, and are making plans based on their best guess but will respond to situations as they arise. Shoreline Drive will be closed at the bridge and traffic will use the other end of the road to access the highway. Traffic lights will be placed at either end of the bridge. Regatta Road traffic will be regulated, thru traffic and right turns onto Highway 93 will be allowed, with flaggers during high peak hours. Pedestrian traffic will not be allowed during construction of the south side of the bridge but will be allowed during the north side construction phase. Certain left and right turns will be allowed from Highway 93. Variable message signs will be posted for streets where no left turns are allowed. An extension of the south side walkway on the bridge was requested to extend to First Street West. Rocky Point Road was mentioned as an area where there is traffic congestion during peak hours and flaggers and or traffic lights were

requested. MDOT representatives assured that they will address the problems as they come up during construction and will monitor the volume of traffic and make adjustments to make sure their flaggers and signals work. Project managers will be watching the traffic. They will let the contract then adapt and react to situations as they arise, for now they are satisfied to look at any bugs that the public might be aware of. Concern was expressed that the speed of traffic over the hill is 70 mph and it was suggested that the traffic be slowed down before the hill. Concern was expressed that the traffic on Rocky Point Road is backed up for five minutes now and during construction it will be a larger problem. MDOT representatives stated they would look at Rocky Point Road and be prepared to respond to issues during construction with flaggers and/or traffic lights. Concern was expressed that the traffic would be backed up to the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue East intersection and the proposed left hand turn lane would be helpful if installed by the construction date. There is typically a ten to fifteen minute delay with cars backed up at KwaTaqNuk in May and September. It was requested to have reader boards on Highway 35 and 28 to give adequate warning of the construction on the bridge. MDOT agreed that they would allow Lake County Dispatch to have direct communications with the flaggers through their radio frequency. They will incorporate into the contract requirements that the law enforcement and emergency personnel will have direct communication with the flaggers. MDOT will follow the guidelines set forth in the Traffic Management Plan, which contains the Traffic Control Plan and includes advertising the construction project in the Lake County Leader and the Valley Journal prior to construction. It was clarified that weight restriction loads are calculated by MDOT's engineering department and are specified in the contract. Stockpiling on the bridge is not allowed and approval is required prior to the contractor exceeding the specified weight in the contract.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST TO THE PUBLIC  
NOT ON THE AGENDA – No public comment was made.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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Lou Marchello, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Aggi G. Loeser, City Clerk