To: City Council

Date: April 14, 2015

Re: Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Update

Dear Council members, this memo summarizes the recent actions taken with regard to traffic and pedestrian safety in downtown Stevenson and the preliminary results of our survey.

Survey Update: We’ve had the survey available to the public for slightly less than one month. We have received a total of 165 responses so far (160 online and 5 manual surveys). The latest revision to the survey is attached to this letter.

A summary of the responses received so far is as follows:

1. The City has taken several actions to improve traffic and pedestrian survey in downtown Stevenson, including installing flashing radar feedback signs at both ends of town, adding pedestrian crossing flags, and working with the Sheriff’s Office for increased speed limit enforcement. Do you believe these actions have helped and are adequate, or should we do more?
   Responses:
   10% The actions already taken seem to be helping and are adequate.
   17% Traffic and pedestrian safety in Stevenson is no worse than in many other cities.
   73% Traffic and pedestrian safety on 2nd Street is still a problem that needs to be dealt with.

2. Are you in favor of allowing 1st Street to be used as an optional bypass route for east-bound trucks and cars that want to bypass the downtown area?
   Responses:
   82% Yes, we should use 1st Street as an optional bypass route.
   18% No, we should not use 1st Street as an optional bypass route.

3. One of the suggestions for encouraging the use of 1st Street as a bypass route for trucks and through traffic is to remove the existing stop sign on 1st Street at Russell Avenue. Are you in favor of removing the stop sign on 1st Street at Russell Avenue to encourage trucks and through traffic to use 1st Street?
   Responses:
   70% Yes, I am in favor of removing the stop sign on 1st Street at Russell Avenue.
   30% No, I am not in favor of removing the stop sign on 1st Street at Russell Avenue.

Letters to Legislators: I researched some background information on the exact taxing difference between the two states and worked with Mayor Cox to send the attached letter to Senator Curtis King (Transportation Chair) asking him for help with the issue. We sent copies to Representative Gina McCabe, Representative Norm Johnson, and Governor Inslee.
At the same time, Robert Muth contacted Senator King’s office about the issue, asking for more information and his assistance. Information on Oregon’s weight-mile tax that Robert found online will be sent out electronically with the agenda package.

Amy Weissfeld had several suggestions for sharing this information with other concerned citizens. I posted a copy of the letter on our website with an invitation to use it as a template; added it as the last item on our survey; shared copies with the City Managers of White Salmon, Bingen, North Bonneville, Washougal, Camas, and Vancouver; shared a copy with the Association of Washington Cities; and asked Philip Watness at the Skamania County Pioneer for a public service announcement. I’m scheduled to attend the next meeting of One Gorge to ask for their assistance.

North Bonneville wrote an excellent letter to Senator King, and three of our other neighboring cities told me they will discuss the issue with their council members.

AWC put me in contact with Don Wagner, Southwest Region Administrator for WSDOT, who said he has looked into this issue in the past but will gather more current information on the subject and schedule a meeting with us to discuss it. In addition, Representative Gina McCabe called me recently for more background information on the issue.

Please give me a call or email if you have any questions or suggestions before the Council meeting.

Thanks,

Nick Hogan
City Administrator