



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER



TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager *Patrick Urich*
DATE: September 13, 2013
SUBJECT: Issues Update

The following are issues related to the City for the weekly Issues Update. If there are additional items you believe should be included, please let me know.

Commendation for Members of the Fire Department

Please see the attached letter of commendation from Fire Chief Kent Tomlin for the actions of Battalion 1, Rescue 1 and Engine 1.

W. Moss Avenue and Bradley Avenue ADA Ramp Improvement Project Newsletter

Please see the attached newsletter which provides updates on the W. Moss Avenue and Bradley Avenue ADA Ramp Improvement Project.

Roadeo Days

Congratulations to Orange Group Team, Greg Gudat and Bret Demmin, who won third place in the 'Circle of Safety' at the annual Roadeo Days for Team Peoria Public Works. On Friday, September 6, 2013 in Normal, Illinois, three teams from Peoria Public Works participated in the annual Roadeo Days competition, sponsored by APWA, Illinois Chapter. The three teams consisted of: Orange Group-Greg Gudat & Bret Demmin; Blue Group-Gary Turner & Ron Bowen; Green Group-Joe Cooper & Tom Brooks. Observing was Justin Bitner and Allen Yates so they can participate next year.

Through a series of competitive tests, the Roadeo is designed to determine each team's knowledge of "Rules of the Road" and safety alertness and efficiency, as well as skill in handling a snowplow equipped vehicle through a marked course. Each team consists of two members who took a 50 question written test, drove together through the obstacle course that included backing up, plowing close to parked vehicles and weaving the truck forwards and backwards as well as a walk through 'Circle of Safety' truck trying to locate the 20 operational defects. Again, congratulations to the Public Works team!

City of Peoria to be Recipient of IDHA Grant

The Community Development Department has been advised that the City of Peoria has been awarded a grant from the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) in the amount of \$217,350 from their Trust Fund Emergency Repair Program. The two year grant will be used to bring homes owned and occupied by lower-income City of Peoria residents up to code, with an emphasis on repairing homes with senior citizens and the disabled. Funds will be provided as a five-year forgivable loan with a maximum loan of \$20,000. There are no matching funds required from the City. Award contracts from IHDA are expected later this year.

Complete Streets Presentation

On Tuesday, September 10th at the Gateway Building, Peoria Public Works Director Mike Rogers and City Engineer Scott Reese hosted a “Complete Streets” seminar featuring urban planner Ian Lockwood, PE from AECOM (Architecture, Engineering, Consulting, Operations and Maintenance). Mr. Lockwood has a Bachelor Degree and a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from Carleton University and is a Livable Transportation Engineer with AECOM, a Harvard University Loeb Fellow, and the former City Transportation Planner for the City of West Palm Beach. For over 25 years, Ian has worked at the intersection of community design and social and economic health, doing traffic calming, road diets, context-sensitive solutions, network planning, and highway removals. In 1995, he chaired the ITE subcommittee to officially define “traffic calming.”

In 2005, Lockwood helped the Complete Street Coalition define “complete streets.” He has also written reform-oriented policy regarding biased transportation language and has guest lectured at several universities and is occasionally interviewed on NPR about transportation issues. Ian is currently working on walkability projects, restoring one-way streets to two-way operations, shared spaces, and campus design.

Lockwood gave a historical view of the traditional values at the turn of the mid-twentieth century urban planning that took a turn towards the modernist solution of “moving faster” and out to a destination point with the introduction of the car. He said that current planners need a change from emphasizing transportation and should construct a city that serves people instead of vehicles.

Several decades later, with the city infrastructure slowly becoming “ghost towns,” planners are seeing that the solution to such a situation is simple: Get back to traditional values of making a city more livable, starting with complete streets. One of Lockwood’s solutions for a Texas city was to eliminate the sidewalks. “Streets are often cleared more efficiently than sidewalks,” he told the audience, “and if you share space for pedestrians and drivers, all spaces would be cleared more effectively.”

Lockwood spent much of his presentation defining urban planning concepts for the audience, as well as talking about features of other cities he’s either worked in or visited. As defined by urban planners, a “complete street” must accommodate cyclists, walkers and drivers as well as

the static institutions—schools, businesses—that line the streets. But that doesn't necessarily mean a "complete street" should eliminate spaces for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. Lockwood said many European cities achieve complete streets by having cars, pedestrians and cyclists all use the same roadspace, without sidewalks. "Complete streets means to be inclusive, to allow all users to use streets equitably and comfortably," said Lockwood. The afternoon seminar was followed that evening by a presentation to the Mayor and Council and discussing the advantages of following some of the "complete streets" policies for Peoria.

TO: Battalion 1, Shift 3
Rescue 1 Personnel, Shift 3
Engine 1 Personnel, Shift 3

FROM: Kent M. Tomblin, Fire Chief

DATE: September 13, 2013

SUBJECT: MURRAY/BAKER BRIDGE RESCUE OF 8/28/13

On August 28, 2013, you responded to a rescue call where you found a man standing on a girder beneath the Murray/Baker Bridge threatening to jump. The actions of Battalion 1, Rescue 1 and Engine 1 were exemplary.

As Battalion 1 took incident command on the bridge with Rescue 1, Engine 1 personnel manned our Marine 1 in case the man did jump. The fact that the Peoria Fire Department was on the scene so quickly, in order to diffuse the incident, definitely contributed to the successful rescue of the jumper.

Rescue 1's actions of deploying our high-angle rescue equipment, going over the edge of the bridge to talk to the jumper, and their ability to get the jumper to put on the rescue harness was truly firefighters at their best. The jumper realized that if he did jump, Marine 1 personnel were positioned and ready to pull him from the river. With Battalion 1 in command of the incident, and all of the fire and police personnel on the scene, truly contributed to a safe and successful outcome of this incident.

As Chief of the Peoria Fire Department, and on behalf of the City Manager and City Council, we commend you in a job well done and thank you for your commitment and dedication to serving our citizens and community.

September 12, 2013
Volume 1, Issue 1

PROJECT NEWSLETTER – Moss Avenue and Bradley Avenue ADA Ramps

Important Phone Numbers:

- Stephen Letsky,
P.E., City of Peoria's
Project Manager
➤ 309-303-8658
- Jay Austin
Illinois Civil
Contractors'
Project Manager
➤ 309-303-1981

This newsletter may be updated and distributed periodically by the City of Peoria to keep you informed about the construction project in your neighborhood. We hope it will answer many of your questions about the project. Please keep it for handy reference to many important names and telephone numbers.

From the Office of the City Engineer: Scott D. Reeise, P.E. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

W. Moss Ave & Bradley Ave ADA Ramp Improvement Project 2013

- Construction Operations to Begin Monday,
September 16

The West Moss Avenue and Bradley Avenue ADA Ramp Improvement Project is about to get underway. We view this project as a partnership, with the Contractor, **Illinois Civil Contractors, Inc.**, the City of Peoria, Bradley University and its students, the local businesses, and residents as stakeholders in the project.

The City of Peoria and the Contractor are pledged to provide the best possible project.

The City's Project Manager, Stephen Letsky is your best source for answers to questions and resolutions to problems. Please feel free to contact Steve at (309) **303-8658** any time you need information.

With a high number of pedestrians in this area, The City of Peoria is working to add and improve ADA ramps and crosswalks on Moss Avenue and Bradley Avenue. The striping of

several crosswalks was completed in late August.

The concrete reconstruction of the ADA ramp quadrants is expected to take place **beginning on Monday, September 16.**

Eight intersections were selected for crosswalk and ADA Ramp improvements. The following intersections will undergo improvements:

- Moss & Cooper
- Moss & Glenwood
- Moss & Institute
- Moss & Duryea
- Bradley & Elmwood
- Bradley & Tobias
- Bradley & Glenwood
- Bradley & Clarissa

Construction vehicles and workers will be present.

Motorists and pedestrians are urged to use caution in the construction area at all times.

As with any project, there will be some inconvenience; however, we will make every attempt to keep it at a minimum. Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Scott D. Reeise, P.E.
City Engineer

