

Lower Makefield Township
Citizens Traffic Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2009

Present: Art Cohn Ginni Torbert, Vice Chair
Dick Davino Scott Weaner
Bruce McClish

Absent: Gary Gilman, Chair; Sue Herman

Also in attendance: Ron Smith, Supervisor Liaison; Terry Fedorchak, LMT Manager; Heather Sherk, TPD; Christy Staudt, TPD

Vice Chair Ginni Torbert opened the meeting at 7:35PM with a few words about the West Ferry cut-through traffic and speeding situation. The West Ferry residents were among the first to come before the CTC when it was formed in 2006 by the Board of Supervisors. The objective of the CTC and the Township is to find a solution that works for everyone involved.

Ginni then introduced Christy Staudt, from TPD, who presented an overview of the steps required for approval of traffic calming measures, as well as the kinds of traffic calming techniques available and the pros and cons of each.

Christy answered questions about PennDOT's traffic calming handbook, Publication 383. It is ten years old. Ginni mentioned that there is no obligation to follow the document; it is strictly voluntary.

West Ferry - Representatives from most neighboring streets were in attendance, including Arborlea, Oak, Elm, Cherry, etc. There followed a lengthy discussion about the scope and seriousness of the problem, who is impacted, and the ways in which they are impacted.

Bob Harvie, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Falls Township, spoke about the need to do a study of the traffic lights along West Trenton Road, perhaps including the light on the New Jersey side of the Calhoun Street Bridge. State Representative, John Galloway, is trying to get funding for the study. Ron Smith will also speak to State Representative, Steve Santarsiero, about funding. Ginni asked about the timing for this study; it was agreed that until the scope of the problem has been determined, it will be hard to know the timeframe. Ginni suggested that resolving these problems should be considered on two tracts, one shorter- and one longer-term.

Since the Board of Supervisors had previously decided that the best way to move forward to resolve these issues was to form a working committee, Ron suggested moving to Item VI on the agenda, "Consideration of Working Committee Formation." It was agreed that the committee would be made up of one or two representatives from each of the streets impacted, as well as representatives from Falls Township and Morrisville, and that they should hold their first meeting as soon as possible. The Working Group's first order of business should be to develop a mission statement and objectives. Ginni will chair the meetings and Terry said they can use a room in the Township building. The first meeting was set for Monday, March 2, in the Township Building.

Stony Hill Road Restriping – Heather spoke about the restriping that is planned by PennDOT along Stony Hill Road between Heacock and Yardley-Langhorne Roads. Ginni suggested there is confusion about what was meant when PennDOT said they will “reduce the length of the shoulder striping near Yardley-Langhorne Road.” She believes removing the shoulder striping will make the intersection of Yardley-Langhorne and Stony Hill more dangerous in exchange for only minor maintenance cost savings. There is also concern about the change to a single eastbound lane on Stony Hill approaching Heacock. Ginni is concerned about safety approaching the intersection. Bruce is concerned about the single eastbound lane and trash pickup for the two houses at Cardinal Drive. It is felt that the drawing provided is unclear. Heather will talk to Jim Majewski to get clarification on the striping and the trash/mail pickup.

Matrix – Ginni asked Art to find out what the traffic improvements will be, with regard to the CVS and PNC that are going in as part of the Matrix project. Heather said she will send Art the information that she has on it.

Frankford Hospital – The next Zoning Board meeting on the Frankford Hospital is March 17. Bruce McClish testified at the last meeting. The CTC received a sketch plan and had previously written a letter to the BOS outlining a number of concerns with the proposed hospital relocation, including a request for a traffic study covering a wider area. The CTC received Frankford’s traffic study (prepared by McMahon and Associates), but Bruce will say in testimony that the traffic study doesn’t respond to all of our concerns.

CTC Report Updates – Ginni asked that everyone complete their updates, make them more specific as necessary, and be prepared to discuss them at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Citizens Traffic Commission will be held on March 16, 2009, in the LMT municipal building, at 7:30PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Bray, Recording Secretary