

Lower Makefield Township  
Citizens Traffic Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
March 16, 2009

Present: Art Cohn Ron Smith, Supervisor Liaison  
Dick Davino Ginni Torbert, Vice Chair  
Sue Herman Scott Weaner  
Bruce McClish

Also present: Heather Sherk, TPD; Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager

Absent: Gary Gilman, Chair

Octagon Center (Matrix) Road Improvements -Terry Fedorchak presented the plans from Gilmore Associates for road improvements that will be made at the Octagon Center (Matrix) for the first phase of the project, the construction of a pharmacy and bank. There were a number of questions and concerns; Terry asked Heather to reach out to the Gilmore engineers for more delineation of the intersection of Big Oak and realigned Old Oxford Valley Road. Heather will also check the sight lines for traffic taking a left onto Big Oak. Ginni asked if a traffic light could be installed at that intersection; Heather said there is not enough traffic at this stage. One could be added later.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Ginni Torbert, at 7:55PM.

West Ferry Area Working Group - There being no residents present, Bruce and Ginni gave an update on the meeting with the West Ferry Area Working Group on March 2. Bruce complimented Ginni on her handling of the meeting, as Chair. The group will use the PennDOT publication 383 process as a framework for discussion of traffic calming measures. The group agreed on a boundary for the study area – Pine Grove to Yardley-Morrisville Rd. to East Ferry, along the River to Maple Avenue to West Trenton, back to Pine Grove.

Black Rock Road opened on March 13; traffic counts will be taken by LMT police officers after sufficient time has passed for everyone to know that Black Rock is open. Ginni asked which streets will be included in the counts; Terry is waiting for Christy Staudt of TPD to get back to him with her suggestions. Falls Township has suggested that Walnut Avenue should be included. Sue commented that it is very important that they have accurate counts. Terry said they will bring in more counters if necessary.

There was discussion at the meeting on March 2 of the definition of success for this project but no agreement was reached. The West Ferry representatives said they would be happy if the number of cars per day was reduced from 2,000 to 1,200. There are other residents on West Ferry who do not feel that there is even a problem. Christy Staudt is developing a short list of traffic calming measures for West Ferry and, perhaps, other roads, which will include the impacts and costs of these measures. Heather said Christy thinks the next meeting should be scheduled for mid-April. Ginni will take care of scheduling that meeting. Sue suggested that an update e-mail could go out, in the meantime. Ginni raised the question of whether the CTC should adopt a traffic calming policy for future reference.

Dick suggested putting in a concrete pad on the side of the street, at Cherry and West Ferry, where the children board the school bus, allowing for the addition of a crosswalk. Heather will talk to Christy about it.

Stoopville/Route 532 – The most current plan was presented by Terry Fedorchak, and some officials in Newtown and Upper Makefield Townships added the spur back into the diagram. From a traffic calming perspective, the CTC prefers the previously reviewed and accepted concept plan that eliminated the spur and the CTC understands that this previous design adequately accommodates the existing and future traffic volumes at this intersection. The CTC can only support the spur being added in if there is a stop sign on the spur (where Stoopville becomes a “Y”) AND there is a traffic signal at the Washington Crossing/Stoopville “hook” intersection. Terry said that Larry Young, UMT’s engineer, said the shifting of traffic to the spur could impact our ability to meet the warrants for getting the permit for a traffic signal at that intersection because of a reduced level of trip generation through the intersection. Terry said UMT is doing calculations regarding this, but the CTC recommends that LMT do an independent review of the data and the conclusions. The CTC’s position is that the traffic signal at this intersection is imperative to the overall traffic control at this intersection. In addition, great attention needs to be given to designing safe trails and crosswalks for pedestrians/bicyclists at the intersection and vicinity.

Sue asked Heather Sherk whether the spur would have an impact on the Traffic Calming project on Stoopville Road and Heather said yes. She said the previous traffic-signal-only scenario provided metering of traffic onto Stoopville Road, that is, allowed only a certain number of vehicles to go through the intersection at a time. If the spur is added without a stop sign for the westbound Washington Crossing Road traffic using the spur to enter Stoopville Road, those vehicles will tend to build up speed and will not have to stop until reaching the intersection of Linton Hill/Creamery Roads, approximately 1.7 miles northwest of the intersection.

Sue asked Terry whether PennDOT responded to LMT’s 1/16/09 letter (1) asking for formal review of the plans submitted to install a traffic signal at the intersection with the spur eliminated (previously approved and accepted concept plan design) and (2) asking PennDOT to work along with LMT’s Traffic Engineer to evaluate the feasibility of implementing an interconnect system along the Washington Crossing Road corridor between Stoopville and Lindenhurst Roads for existing and proposed signals. Terry said PennDOT has not responded. Sue will ask Jim Majewski to determine the location of the spur in relation to the LMT and UMT boundary lines and ask when the Village Market will come before the BOS. She will also draft a letter to be read at the 3/18 BOS meeting, and send it to the CTC for review, regarding the spur and other issues, and will ask the BOS how to get PennDOT to respond to LMT’s 1/16/09 letter.

Stony Hill Road Improvements (Restriping and Lane Reduction) -PennDOT has scheduled restriping and lane reduction along Stony Hill Road. The CTC has some safety concerns about the removal of the striping near Yardley-Langhorne Road and the reduction of Stony hill to one lane between Cardinal and Heacock and also believes that fire/emergency should be consulted. Heather will discuss this concern with Jim Majewski and Terry will talk to PennDOT.

Other Business - Safe Driving Campaign – Ginni thinks deer/car collisions is an issue relevant to CTC. In her research, she found that there were 112 deaths in Pennsylvania as a result of animal/car collisions, between 1993 and 2007, most of them because the car swerved. The research further showed that in 60% of the deaths, drivers or passengers were not wearing seatbelts, or, if on motorcycles, were not wearing helmets. She proposed a resolution that states that the CTC believes an effective driver

education program can be effective in reducing deer/vehicle collisions. In addition, the CTC intends to include a segment on specific driver behaviors geared toward prevention of animal car collisions as part of the 2009 Safe Driving Campaign.

Letter from Resident -Terry Keffer sent another letter to Matt Maloney, and Matt forwarded it to the CTC, regarding traffic on Taylorsville Road. There was discussion about whether reducing the speed limit to 25 mph is practical or necessary. Ginni asked Heather to consider other options for making that area safer, such as additional enforcement or reconsidering the light. Sue suggested there should be a response to Mr. Keffer , that they could attach a note to Mr. Keffer's letter, give it to Terry and ask him to talk to Chief Coluzzi about more enforcement in that area, or perhaps putting out the speed device.

Frankford Hospital – The next meeting is March 17. Bruce will be cross examined by the hospital solicitor. Ginni said the hospital has two new web sites on the potential new location, including a petition, for signatures, in favor of the move.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings - The December 15, January 26 and February 23 meeting minutes were approved, as modified.

CTC Annual Report to BOS Zone Updates – Most of the updates are completed; when all have been received, Ginni will do a summary and e-mail it to the CTC. There was discussion of how the changes should be incorporated into the original report, including doing an entire new report, as one option, and adding the changes to the report in some way or putting the changes together, as a separate document, as another option. Bruce will put info together on a possible timetable for updating the info.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30PM. The next meeting of the Citizens Traffic Commission will be held on April 20, at 7:30PM, at the LMT municipal building. Alison Smith and Andrew Meyers will be invited to attend, to begin discussion of the safe driving campaign. Jeanne will call Dave Kelliher re the second copy of the October 2008 Safe Driving Campaign DVD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Bray, Recording Secretary