

Minutes  
Lower Makefield Township  
Citizens Traffic Commission  
Monday, January 26, 2009

Present: Gary Gilman, Chair  
Art Cohn  
Dick Davino  
Sue Herman

Bruce McClish  
Ginni Torbert, Vice Chair  
Scott Weaner

Also in attendance: Ron Smith, Supervisor Liaison; Heather Sherk, TPD

The January 26, 2009 meeting of the LMT Citizens Traffic Commission was called to order by Chairman Gilman at 7:38PM. Gary welcomed Ron Smith as the new CTC Supervisor Liaison.

Residents from the West Ferry/Arborlea area were in attendance. Joe Magee, 21 West Ferry, suggested there be a formal process for solving the traffic problems in their neighborhoods. He feels that process should include meeting with representatives from each LMT neighborhood, Falls Township, Morrisville Borough, and the Bridge Commission since changes that affect West Trenton Avenue, impact all parties. Gary said that the CTC has not reached out because we are an advisory commission; the issue is now in the hands of the Board of Supervisors. Ron suggested that the residents contact the two State Reps representing the areas involved, Steve Santarsiero and John Galloway. Sue said it might be effective if a letter to the State Reps. was signed by a representative from each of the affected streets.

Ron Smith talked about a series of e-mails he had received which indicated that the signage for West Ferry might be put on hold so that a solution that helps residents in all of the affected neighborhoods can be reached. Dave Griegs of 2 Oak Avenue complained that the decision to put the signage was proposed without enough thought as to where they should be placed and what they should say and without enough notice to the residents. Andrea Meyer suggested that synchronization of lights on West Trenton Avenue needs to be part of a comprehensive solution.

Carol Somers, of 205 Arborlea, feels the 2,000 cars per day mentioned in the West Ferry report is grossly exaggerated and asked if there is a report she can look at. Ginni responded that she has been trying to get a copy of the LMT police report but has yet to receive it. Ron suggested she ask for it at the next Board of Supervisors meeting. It was reported that LMT police counted 2,000 cars per day on September 14, 15, and 16, 2008, in the West Ferry neighborhood and a resident confirmed there are often 200 cars an hour during rush hour periods with much smaller daily numbers reported in the other neighborhoods. A resident expressed opposition to the signs preventing her from turning onto West Ferry between 4 and 6PM. She suggested that the traffic conditions on West Ferry are not unsafe. Ginni said that the members of the CTC have walked and driven through the neighborhoods and have found unsafe traffic conditions, with speeding and cars running stop signs. Ginni pointed out that signage had been installed prohibiting left hand turns during rush hour on Hilltop, and it has cut down considerably on cut-through traffic.

David Descoux of Falls Township indicated that their greatest fear is that steps will be taken without their being consulted or informed. This issue is also being discussed at Falls Township meetings.

Gary suggested the only way the problem can be resolved is for the residents to attend Board of Supervisor meetings and be heard. Speed bumps or humps were raised as a possible solution and Gary said that idea came up a year and a half ago and there were budgetary concerns. When a resident asked what the appropriate legal process is, Ron suggested she talk to LMT Solicitor, Dave Truelove.

Ron will send an e-mail to BOS Chairman, Matt Maloney, and Township Manager, Terry Fedorchak, asking if there will be a special meeting. Sue said it could take several meetings, that it may take time to get to the best solution.

Allison Smith said that the traffic counts the police took were from right after Black Rock Road was closed, so the numbers might be inflated. She thought the request that the CTC reach out to other municipalities makes sense. Gary said the CTC is an advisory board with no power to allocate money; the Ferry Road issue was taken away from the CTC once it went to BOS. Sue said it takes residents' voices to keep the issue moving.

After the residents left, there was discussion of the next phase of the Safe Driving Campaign begun last October. Allison Smith and Andrea Meyers will take responsibility for chairing a subcommittee. Jeanne will ask Dave Kelliher to make two copies of the DVD from the Fall event, one for each of them. Ginni suggested that the CTC needs to brainstorm ways to engage adults and children.

**Frankford Hospital** – Gary has talked to Dave Truelove about the hospital project. Dave indicated he wants the CTC to testify. It is unclear at this time how Dave wants to proceed.

**Esther Lane** – per Heather, the residents' request for a third set of 25 mps speed markings (sign and pavement markings) should go on the annual report as a TIL in the next update. Heather also stated there are no funds in the 2009 LMT budget for this work.

**Washington Crossing/Stoopville Intersection Improvements** – Sue said as follow-up to the 11/19/08 BOS meeting, Terry Fedorchak is writing a letter from LMT to PennDOT regarding the application for the traffic signal at this intersection. The letter will:

- Request that a signal interconnect to the Highland Road intersection be included in the improvements.
- Include LMT's desire that bike/pedestrian facilities be constructed in the LMT portion of the intersection. (During the week beginning 2/9/09, Terry will meet with Township Managers of Newtown and Upper Makefield Townships to discuss LMT's desire for bike/pedestrian facilities at the intersection and along the Stoopville/Lindenhurst corridor. Terry suggested opening dialogue with PennDOT and Upper Makefield to facilitate the process.)

**Newtown Bypass** – Sue said the Bypass is still ill-functioning. Gary asked whether the CTC needs to take additional steps regarding the Traffic Signal Enhancement Initiative project for the Bypass. Sue said she

would advise him about this at a later date, as she's not certain that CTC should continue to be the "squeaky wheel."

**Scudders Falls** – Ginni spoke to the project manager. There is a holdup to the project because the Draft Environmental Assessment is not complete, one of the issues involving the bridge's impact on sturgeon, an endangered fish. They hope to release the Draft Environmental Assessment in February 2009. The engineers are in the process of compiling data. The Design Management Consultant contract was awarded to AECOM in November 2008. The design phase will probably begin in April or May, with one past public meeting in LMT prior to that.

**Annual CTC Report Update** – It was agreed it should be tabled until the next meeting. Ginni asked the Committee to look at their zones and do a brief report on changes, noting whether it is an MIL or a TIL. This will be sent to the Supervisors. Dick suggested that any new, accurate numbers for the Average Daily Traffic (ADT) on West Ferry should be added to the report.

**Matrix** – Ron said Matrix is soon going to start building the retail part of the project. TPD is reviewing plans for a bank and pharmacy.

Ginni reported on an April 13, 2008 letter from Tom and Debbie Parson, of 710 Fox Hollow Drive, to the Township, with regard to the speeding on Edgewood Road and the mulch piles across from the Township complex. Debbie told Ginni they had never gotten a response. Ginni will respond to the letter saying the mulch issue was referred to the EAC and she will mention the safe driving campaign.

The approval of the December 15, 2008 minutes was tabled. The next meeting of the Citizens Traffic Commission will be held on February 23, 2009, in the small room downstairs in the LMT Municipal building. The meeting adjourned at 10:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Bray, Recording Secretary

