

**LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
CITIZENS TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

September 2009 Update:

**“TRAFFIC SAFETY, TRAFFIC FLOW ISSUES IN
LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP”**

Submitted to

Lower Makefield Board of Supervisors

January, 2008

Citizens Traffic Commission Members

Gary Gilman, Chair

Virginia Torbert, Vice-Chair

Sue Herman

Art Cohn

Scott Weaner

Dick Davino

Supervisor Liaison, Ron Smith

Recording Secretary, Jeanne Bray

Engineer, Heather Sherk/Christy Staudt, TPD

To: LMT Board of Supervisors
From: Citizens Traffic Commission
Date: September 1, 2009
Re: **First update to original report, titled "Traffic Safety, Traffic Flow Issues in Lower Makefield Township," dated January 2008**

Per Township Resolution 2111, we are providing this update on the status of the priority list of traffic improvement projects submitted by the CTC in its original January 2008 report titled **"Traffic Safety, Traffic Flow Issues in Lower Makefield Township."**

As outlined in **Attachment I**, the Township has completed numerous smaller projects recommended in the original report. In **Attachment II**, we have also supplied the Board of Supervisors with a summary of the status of the larger projects contained within the Major Clusters outlined in the original report.

In addition, since the publication of our original report, the Citizens Traffic Commission has had a number of worthwhile accomplishments, which we have listed in **Attachment III**. We have divided these into three categories: Assistance to the Township, Traffic Calming Implemented/Considered, and Community Activities. **Assistance to the Township** has included testifying before the Zoning Hearing Board on the Aria Hospital issue and chairing meetings of the West Ferry Working Group to find a solution to cut-through traffic. **Traffic Calming** successes have included reducing cut-through traffic in the Hillside Terrace area and improving safety on Creamery Road near Quarry Hill School and on Bluestone Drive. **Community Activities** have included the televised Safe Driving workshop we conducted last October, which featured experts on teen, senior, impaired, and distracted driving, which was just the beginning of our ongoing initiative.

We appreciate this opportunity to update the Board on the Priority List, and we are available to answer any questions the Board might have regarding this update.

Sincerely,

Gary Gilman

Chair

Citizens Traffic Commission

**Attachment I: PROJECTS ON, WHICH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE
SINCE JANUARY 2008 CTC REPORT**

Attachment II: MAJOR CLUSTERS UPDATE

**Attachment III: CTC ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE JANUARY 2008 CTC
REPORT**

Cc: CTC Members

Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager

LMT Planning Commission

Heather Sherk, TPD

Christy Staudt, TPD

Jim Majewski, Remington, Vernick, and Beach

Ken Coluzzi, LMTPD

Hank Hoffmeister, LMTPW

Projects on Which Progress Has Been Made Since January 2008 CTC Report

ATTACHMENT I

Zone	Cluster	Project #	Location	Update
1	O	12	Stoopville Rd & Washington Crossing Rd/Rt 532	On April 1, 2009, the LMT BOS approved a plan presented by Gilmore & Assoc. that included a traffic signal at this intersection to facilitate traffic calming. The plan also included accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians. Improvements to the Village Market site will also improve traffic flow and safety.
3,4,5	B	17	Stony Hill Rd from Yardley-Langhorne to Big Oak Rd	Traffic signal at Heacock and Stony Hill has been upgraded and a right turn lane added for traffic heading north on Heacock turning onto Stony Hill. These improvements were made in connection with the Sunrise Development. Also, improvement of signage at curves has been completed on some sections of the road.
4	B	18	Stony Hill Rd & LMT Shopping Center	Lanes have been adjusted, as south-bound thru traffic can now use the right lane when passing through intersection. PennDOT is proposing the creation of dedicated left turn lanes from Stony Hill into the Shopping Ctr and Cardinal Dr and reducing Stony Hill to a single lane heading southeast between Cardinal and Heacock.
4	O	20	Big Oak Rd & Township Line Rd	The roadway has been repaired at the railroad tracks and the stop signs have been replaced. This intersection was the scene of a recent fatal accident, and safety challenges remain.

Projects on Which Progress Has Been Made Since January 2008 CTC Report

ATTACHMENT I

Zone Cluster Project # Location Update

7	C	37	Black Rock Rd from Yardley-Morrisville Rd to River Rd	The Delaware Canal culvert replacement project was completed in the spring of 2009. It included an area sufficient to install a multi-use pathway across the canal. The widening of the shoulders and the completion of the multi-trail system from Westover Rd to Glen Dr is currently in the design phase.
2	T	49	Creamery Rd from Quarry Rd to Yardley-Newtown Rd	Safety and traffic calming improvements have been completed by LMT Public Works and LMTPD. The flashing lights have been moved back for better visibility, streetlights installed and new pavement markings for pedestrian crossing added.
5,6	T	53	Bluestone Rd/Roelofs Rd from Stony Hill to Makefield Rd	Traffic calming work has been completed. A new stop sign has been installed at Lang Ct. The stop signs have been reversed at the intersection of Lang Dr and Hidden Oaks (moved from Lang to Hidden Oaks). 25 MPH markings, Pedestrian crossing signs, crosswalks and in-road pedestrian crossing markings have been installed.
3	T	54	Knox Dr/Knox Ct & Schuyler Dr	Trees are still partially obscuring stop sign at Knox Ct. and Schuyler. Knox Drive location has been cleared.

Projects on Which Progress Has Been Made Since January 2008 CTC Report

ATTACHMENT I

Zone	Cluster	Project #	Location	Update
5	T	55	Esther Lane	Additional 25 MPH pavement markings have been installed.
7	T	56	West Ferry Rd from Big Oak to Yardley-Morrisville Rd	Some minor traffic calming measures were implemented in 2008, including signage and pavement markings. The CTC, at the request of the BOS, facilitated the progress of the West Ferry Area Working Group to seek a reduction in cut-through traffic on West Ferry. Four meetings were held and a traffic calming plan was developed by TPD for consideration by West Ferry residents.
3	T	57	Schuyler Dr. between Edgewood and Knox Drive	Signs were installed on Schuyler between Knox Dr. and Edgewood Rd. warning traffic to watch for pedestrians on Schuyler. (New project, not on 2008 report)

Attachment II

Major Cluster Update

The Scudder Falls Bridge Project has not moved forward to the final design phase and final public hearings have not been held. The Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC) has, however, agreed to include most of the additional sound barriers requested by LMT, and is still considering providing a bike/pedestrian lane on the southbound side of the new bridge. A recent update (May, 2009) from the DRJTBC estimates completion of the Environmental Assessment by fall of 2009, with a final public hearing in Lower Makefield this summer. The CTC urges the Township to make application to the DRJTBC's Compact Authorization Investment (CAI) program for additional grants to fund traffic improvement projects throughout the township, including the interim safety improvements at the I-95 Yardley Interchange, until more permanent changes can be made. Such funding could also be used to fund transportation studies to improve traffic flow on West Trenton Avenue, which would relieve cut-through traffic in the West Ferry area.

The Newtown Bypass/Stony Hill Road intersection continues to experience high levels of congestion and accidents. This congestion has been well documented recently in a study performed by Remington, Vernick, and Beach. Accident data supplied by Lower Makefield Police Department (LMTPD) confirms the continuing frequency of accidents at this location. Forty acres on the southwest corner of the intersection (Fleming tract) have been purchased by Aria (Frankford) Hospital and a

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Attachment II

Major Cluster Update

lengthy hearing process before the Zoning Hearing Board is currently underway.

In addition, the Newtown Bypass is still not functioning at peak efficiency. The CTC has not received results of an after-study to evaluate the effectiveness of the Traffic Signal Enhancement Initiative project (TSEI). This issue is currently being handled by Newtown Township and Newtown Borough and these municipalities will be addressing it at meetings of the Southeastern Bucks League of Municipalities. The CTC recommends that LMT continue to initiate coordination with Newtown Township to monitor system maintenance and periodic study of the effectiveness of the signalization on the Bypass.

Economic conditions have delayed the Matrix development and the related traffic improvements along Oxford Valley and Big Oak Roads. Matrix has recently proposed, and the BOS has approved, building a smaller retail (bank and pharmacy) portion of the development first and deferring most of the major road improvements, though their plans do include a realignment of Old Oxford Valley Road. Construction has recently begun on the project.

The intersection of Big Oak Road and Pine Grove Road continues to be an issue of significant concern, as it has been associated with many accidents and congestion problems. Also of concern is the single lane bridge on Stony Hill over Brock Creek. Both of

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Attachment II

Major Cluster Update

these problem areas have been on the Township's TIP for a number of years, and we urge the Board to give them high priority should additional transportation funding, for example, through the economic stimulus package, become available.

Finally, because it was recently the scene of a fatal accident, we believe it is important to highlight Project #20, the **intersection of Big Oak and Township Line Road** near the railroad tracks. We understand Middletown Township would also be involved in addressing safety concerns at this location and that the accident is still under investigation. Accordingly, we urge the Board to pursue, in cooperation with Middletown Township, further safety improvements (based on available resources) such as a three-way stop, traffic signal, road realignment, etc to help make this area safer and less congested.

We appreciate this opportunity to update the Board on the Priority List and we are available to answer any questions the Board may have.

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Attachment III

CTC ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 2008

REPORT TO BOS

1. ASSISTANCE TO TOWNSHIP

- TESTIFIED BEFORE THE ZONING HEARING BOARD ON THE PROPOSED FRANKFORD/ARIA HOSPITAL PROJECT
- ORGANIZED A WORKING GROUP TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN THE WEST FERRY AREA
- REVIEWED DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND TOOK POSITIONS REGARDING THE WASHINGTON CROSSING ROAD/ STOOPVILLE ROAD INTERSECTION, THE VETERANS CEMETERY, AND REQUESTED CONTINUOUS BIKE/PED FACILITIES IN THE VICINITY
- REVIEWED DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND/OR TRAFFIC STUDIES/MAPS AND TOOK POSITIONS ON THE MAKEFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT, WILLIAM PENN MIDDLE SCHOOL ENTRANCE, CAPSTONE, SUNRISE, AND VILLAGE MARKET.

2. TRAFFIC CALMING (Projects Implemented/Considered)

- **HILLTOP ROAD** - TURN RESTRICTIONS REDUCED CUT-THROUGH TRAFFIC, RESIDENTS REPORT REDUCED TRAFFIC
- **BLUESTONE** -. MADE INTERSECTION OF BLUESTONE LANG DRIVE AND LANG COURT INTO A FOUR WAY STOP, IMPROVING SAFETY AND REDUCING SPEEDS
- **ROELOFS** – NEW PAVEMENT MARKINGS, CROSSWALKS AND SIGNS TO SLOW TRAFFIC - POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM RESIDENTS
- **ESTHER LANE** - RESIDENTS APPEAR TO BE HAPPY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF REQUESTING AN ADDITIONAL PAVEMENT MARKING NEXT TO ONE OF THE SIGNS INSTALLED;

Attachment III

CTC ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 2008

REPORT TO BOS

- **LANG DR @ HIDDEN OAKS** – REVERSED STOP SIGNS (MOVED FROM LANG TO HIDDEN OAKS) DUE TO CHANGES IN VOLUME TO REDUCE SPEEDING.
- **LIBERTY DR** - RECOMMENDED NO ACTION BECAUSE FIELD OBSERVATION SHOWED NO PROBLEM; LATER SEVERAL RESIDENTS STATED THEY DIDN'T WANT ANY ACTION TAKEN, SUPPORTING THE CTC POSITION
- **CREAMERY ROAD** – STREET LIGHT, PAVEMENT MARKINGS ADDED AND FLASHING LIGHTS MOVED UP NEAR SCHOOL CROSSING FOR ADDED SAFETY.- POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM RESIDENTS

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3. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- CONDUCTED SAFE DRIVING WORKSHOP IN OCTOBER 2008; DEVELOPING EXPANDED PROGRAM FOR CURRENT YEAR
- TABLE AT COMMUNITY PRIDE DAY, PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ON SAFE DRIVING, IMPAIRED DRIVING AND SURVEYS FOR RESIDENTS TO COMMUNICATE TRAFFIC CONCERNS
- PROVIDE MONTHLY OPPORTUNITY FOR LMT RESIDENTS TO VOICE CONCERNS ABOUT TRAFFIC SAFETY/CONGESTION ISSUES