



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

TO: Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Members

FROM: Ian Pike, Transportation Systems Specialist

DATE: Wednesday, August 2, 2017

RE: Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Agenda for Wednesday, August 9, 2017

The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission will meet on **August 9, 2017 at 8:30AM in Room 011 of City Hall, 409 S Main St.**

Commission meetings are open to the public and citizens are provided the opportunity to voice their views/concerns about any item before the Commission. It is the policy of the Commission to move relevant agenda items to the beginning of the meeting when citizens are in attendance to avoid detaining them for the entire meeting.

Welcome

Business

- 1. Welcome to New Member**
- 2. Update on Previous Items**
- 3. Appoint New Member to Bike/Pedestrian Subcommittee**
- 4. E Market St/Vine St/Hawkins St/Country Club Rd Intersection Citizen Complaint (see Attachment A)**
- 5. I-81 N/E Market St Interchange Citizen Complaint (see Attachment B)**
- 6. Letter to City Council Regarding Loitering in Medians**

Other Business/ Announcements

Adjourn

Attachment A

A citizen emailed the city council and the planning commission with a suggestion to connect MLK Jr Way to Country Club Rd, then limiting access at Vine St/Country Club Rd and building a roundabout at E Market St/Vine St/Hawkins St. The email is copied below for your convenience:

“Dear Harrisonburg City Council, & Planning Commission Members,

I'd like to propose a solution to the 6-way Problem-Intersection known as **Vine St.---Country Club Rd.---E. Market St.---Hawkins St.---Sheetz**

My goals here are:

- Not bulldozing houses.
- Removing as many traffic lights as possible.

My reasoning:

My original goal was a traffic circle at the Problem Intersection, but I realized that that wouldn't work because (1) Vine-->Country Club traffic, and (2) Sheetz-->Country Club traffic, both of which *avoid* the traffic circle, would have to CROSS Market-->Vine traffic, which would be at high speed, having just come 'off' the traffic circle. So to enable my original goal of a traffic circle at this problem intersection, the majority of Vine traffic would have to be rerouted south (to MLK Way), *bypassing* the problem intersection. Doing this would (1) enable those two traffic flows (1 and 2, above) to have the right of way, and not have to be watching out for other traffic-flows which they must cross. In short, I'm making an unimpeded corridor (without any lights) from Vine, along Country Club, straight to MLK Way. This is ideal, since MLK Way should be the natural junction-point for North-Harrisonburg traffic. Without any lights, I think that we can do that corridor with one lane, but at some point, we might have to 'up it' to 2 lanes.

The project would then be completed in 2 phases:

- **Phase 1** would be creating a 'release valve' for Vine Street traffic to skip further south (to MLK Way).
- **Phase 2** would be putting in the traffic circle at Market-Vine.

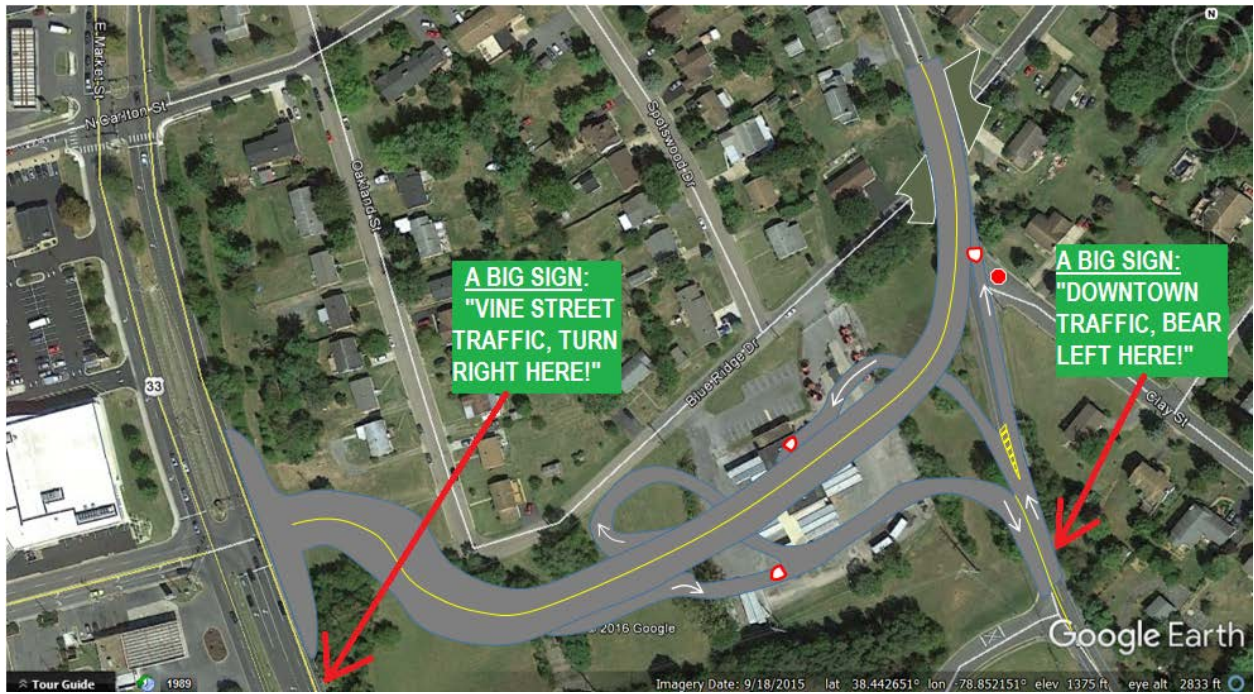
The only private property to be destroyed would be the Southern Freight Lines warehouse, immediately beyond MLK Way (at 241 Blue Ridge Dr). This warehouse would be replaced by the project's only short bridge.

Please see my 2 pictures, either attached, or below.

P.S. If anyone asks you **WHY** we need this project, tell them that:

1. It is consistently 1 minute shorter for Market eastbound traffic to go via Reservoir and Carlton, than it is to just stay on Market. (This is a testament to (a.) the problem intersection -vs- (b.) the *excellently* functioning traffic-circle at Spotswood Elementary. It is **NOT** a reason to impede that now excellently-functioning **NO-LIGHT-artery**.)
2. Because the 'Friendly city' will be friendlier when traffic can just harmoniously *flow*.”

Phase 1:



Phase 2



Attachment B

A citizen emailed Cpl Westfall with a different concern about the Vine St/Country Club Rd intersection and also brought up concern with the E Market St/I-81 N interchange ramp. The email is copied below for your convenience:

“Problem one --

Most times of daylight hours, when I need to exit onto Vine to go south to Market (about 100 feet) and on toward the Pharmacy or shopping off Burgess road, I cannot get out of Honeysuckle Ln onto Vine due to traffic either blocking the road entirely OR traffic proceeding downhill greatly in excess of the posted 25 MPH (Residential) Speed signs. Mostly this traffic consists of commercial "18 wheelers" and dump trucks, but many residential vehicles speed and block the intersection as well. This sometimes stalls me within two blocks of my home for 15 to 20 minutes before I can proceed to Sentara or doctors visits for my terminal cancer treatments.

When I do finally get out of my neighborhood (Reherd Acres #2) and proceed East on Market St, I run into Problem # 2:

As I approach the Northbound I-81 off ramp onto East Market St. -- (Ramp posted Speed Limit 40 MPH onto a 35 MPH road) -- I am again and again run out of my lane of traffic (right turn signal on) wanting to turn right, across two lanes, to get onto Burgess Road ahead - at the light - by all kinds of vehicles passing the YIELD sign on the ramp at speeds over 60 MPH and forcing me to slam on my brakes with traffic right behind me or totally forget the turn onto Burgess Rd where my pharmacy and shopping needs are located.

I have repeatedly had numerous close calls here since I moved back to Harrisonburg last June. I also see this happen to others in front of me causing me to stop in traffic to avoid hitting the vehicles in front of me.

This is extremely dangerous and I am sure HPD has had many calls on this problem.

I am aware that Harrisonburg was turned down by VDOT on the requested I-81 Intersection Redesign to help alleviate this problem and the same type of traffic mess with people trying to cross ALL lanes of Eastbound traffic on Market St in less than one block to make a left turn into the Motels/Lowe's.

Until these two problems are fixed by VDOT or whomever, I feel the only reasonable solution is Police Traffic control - patrols/arrests at these intersections and the possible posting of a "Do Not Block Intersection" sign on Southbound Vine St. at Honeysuckle Ln and the possible painting of a WIDE White Line across the two Southbound lanes of Vine Street just prior to the intersection so people know where to STOP until the two sets of red lights ahead allow ALL traffic to begin to flow again.”