



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ADVISORY COMMISSION

CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

TO: Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Members, Council members, City Manager Kurt Hodgen

FROM: Brad Reed, Transportation Planner

DATE: Thursday, December 20, 2012

RE: Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Summary from December 12, 2012 Meeting

The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission met on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 8:30 AM in Room 205 at the City Municipal Building, 345 S. Main St.

Members and Advisory Members present included: Bill Blessing (Citizen Member, Chair), Len Van Wyk (Citizen Member), Calvin Ferrell (Citizen Member), Sgt. Roger Knott (Police Member), Brad Reed (Public Works Member), Lee Eshelman (JMU), Doug Stader (DMV), Deputy Chief Ian Bennett (Fire)

Guests Present: Ted Byrd (City Council)

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

Old Business

1. Parking and sight distance problem on Emerald Drive

Mr. Reed briefly explained the previous parking issues and the Commission's recommended resolutions, which can be found in the October 2012 meeting summary. Public Works was contacted by a neighbor living in the 290-300 block townhouse row immediately west of the original complainant on the south side of Emerald Drive. The neighbor expressed concern about the lack of sight distance looking east from their entrance and requested that the original parking restriction be restored. City staff had not been informed of this issue before or while

working on addressing the other parking complaints at this location. According to the complainant, the changes recommended by the Commission in October, which included marking edge lines and allowing parking on a portion of the block, inadvertently reinstated the sight distance issue for her entrance to the west.

The Commission recommended that No Parking be signed to 60 feet from the eastern entrance and that the edge lines be modified to add one space to the east. This solution will result in one space being lost overall and would provide the two entrances with an equivalent sight distance. This modification is shown on the attached map.

2. Request for convex mirror on West Water Street at Bank of America alley

Mr. Reed provided a brief explanation of this issue, which is covered in detail in the November 2012 meeting summary. No state or federal standard exists for convex mirror specifications or installation. Based upon information found on the types of mirrors used in other localities, city staff recommended using the larger, 40" mirror. This mirror would be mounted above the One Way sign across from the Bank of America alley and will be purchased by the alley's owner, Mr. McHone. The Commission agreed with this recommendation.

New Business

3. Request for support of parking restriction on Breckenridge Court

Mr. Reed shared a request from the Department of Public Transportation for a parking restriction on a select section (shown on the attached map) of the cul-de-sac on Breckenridge Court to provide buses with a clear turning path. At present, vehicles parking along certain portions of the cul-de-sac force buses to make multi-point turns to get around the circle. On two occasions, this backing has resulted in buses hitting parked vehicles. The Commission recommended that city staff proceed with signing the parking restriction as proposed.

4. Request for parking restriction on Oriole Lane

Mr. Reed shared a complaint from a citizen regarding blocked sight distance exiting Constitution Court due to cars parked on Oriole Lane between Constitution Court and Woodbury Circle. The citizen would like to see the area signed No Parking. The Police Department is unable to ticket these parked vehicles using the 30 feet from curb city ordinance because the ordinance only applies to intersections of public streets. Pictures provided by the complainant were shown to the Commission depicting these parked vehicles blocking sight distance. Based upon Police Department observations and the provided photos, it is apparent that the vehicles parking in this area are guests to residents of the North 38 complex. The Commission recommended that city staff sign this parking restriction.

Other Business/Announcements

5. Suggestion to mark diagonal crosswalks at South Main Street & Grace Street

Mr. Van Wyk passed along a citizen suggestion to mark diagonal crosswalks at the South Main Street & Grace Street intersection to indicate that pedestrians can cross diagonally with the traffic signal's exclusive pedestrian crossing movement. The citizen also mentioned seeing pedestrians crossing diagonally at South High Street & West Grace Street where there is not an exclusive pedestrian movement and indicated that marking the South Main Street & Grace Street intersection may help differentiate the operation of the two traffic signals.

The Commission discussed whether there is an issue at South High Street & Grace Street that could be resolved instead of paying to have more markings put down at South Main Street & Grace Street. Also questioned was whether these additional markings would have any effect on improving the safety of either intersection. No conclusions were reached on either question and it is unclear as to how frequently and why pedestrians are crossing diagonally at South High Street & Grace Street and why the conditions would be any different from other adjacent signalized intersections. Mr. Reed explained that the South Main Street & Grace Street intersection was recently upgraded with decorative crosswalk markings and that installing the diagonal markings with the same material would cost approximately \$15,000. Standard white thermoplastic crosswalks could be installed for much less, but would likely deter from the appearance of the decorative markings.

The Commission recommended that Public Works staff look into this issue and report back at a future meeting.

6. Bicycle Lane Requests

Mr. Byrd renewed a request for information that was first made at the November 2012 meeting regarding new locations for bicycle lanes. Public Works is preparing a response to this request and will also answer questions regarding how bicycle infrastructure projects are prioritized and what standards are followed for their installation.

Adjourn

1 inch = 30 feet

Sign No Parking
60' from Entrance

Shift Edgelines
20' to Add 1 Space



An aerial photograph of a parking lot and surrounding area. A red line is drawn across the parking lot, indicating a proposed parking restriction for transit bus turnaround. The text "Proposed parking restriction to allow transit bus turnaround (shown in red)" is overlaid on the image. The parking lot is paved and has several cars parked. There are grassy areas and buildings in the background. A street labeled "Breckenridge Ct" is visible at the bottom left.

**Proposed parking restriction
to allow transit bus turnaround
(shown in red)**

Breckenridge Ct

