



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: Friday, July 19, 2013

RE: Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Summary from July 10, 2013 Meeting

The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission met on Wednesday, July 10, 2013 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), Calvin Ferrell (Citizen Member), Len Van Wyk (Citizen Member), MPO Greg Deeds (Police Member), Brad Reed (Public Works Designee), Drew Williams (Public Works), Doug Stader (DMV), Ian Bennett (Fire)

Guests Present: None

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

New Business

1. Citizen concerns regarding left turns into Lowe's entrance on Linda Lane

Mr. Reed shared that there have been two recent citizen complaints regarding vehicles on Linda Lane stopping to turn left into the southernmost Lowe's entrance. This maneuver tends to block a line of vehicles that are also in the process of merging into a single lane at the same location, causing confusion and close calls between vehicles. To assist with this issue, Mr. Reed presented a proposal to mark a small left turn lane on Linda Lane at the Lowe's entrance, borrowing space from the southbound left turn lane at the nearby traffic signal. To compensate

for the loss in stacking space, the southbound stop bar would be moved forward 30 feet to result in a net loss of 20 feet, or about one car length, from the left turn lane.

The Commission recommended that city staff proceed with the proposed changes.

Other Business/Announcements

2. Presentation of Reservoir Street Improvement Project

Mr. Williams provided a presentation to the Commission regarding the Reservoir Street Improvement Project. Topics such as road configuration, status of right-of-way negotiations, and the reasoning for including a raised median between Neff Avenue and the south city limits. Mr. Williams requested that the Commission provide affirmation that the median is a necessary element of the project. The Commission affirmed this point and thanked Mr. Williams for the presentation.

3. New traffic laws in place July 1

Mr. Stader announced that new state laws went into effect on July 1, including texting as a primary offense with increased fines. Also enacted was a new set of laws related to mopeds, which requires drivers and passengers to wear helmets, requires the use of goggles or a windshield, requires the driver to have a photo identification, and requires the registration of the moped.

4. King Edwards Way complaint

Mr. Deeds shared that he received a citizen complaint regarding “cut-through” and speeding traffic on King Edwards Way. The Police Department performed a survey of the street and found that that 85th percentile speeds were not high enough to be of concern. There is no specific restriction on through traffic on this street and no issues with inordinately high traffic volumes were found.

5. City projects update

Mr. Williams updated the Commission on several city projects. Phase 3 of the Stone Spring Rd-Erickson Ave Connector has run into an issue with a water leak. This leak is actively being sought out, but the issue has delayed the completion date of the project to around October or November. It was previously expected that construction would be completed by the end of August.

Construction will be starting shortly on a portion of Stone Spring Road in Rockingham County from the south city limits to Port Republic Road. Also coming up in Rockingham County is the portion of Stone Spring Road between Reservoir Street and Route 33, which is anticipated to be completed in late 2016 or early 2017.

The city is finalizing work on sidewalk and other pedestrian & bicyclist improvements for the Waterman Elementary Safe Routes to School project, which is likely to be completed in August.

Phase 4 of the East Market Street sidewalk project will begin construction next Spring or Summer. This project includes the construction of sidewalk on East Market Street between Carlton Street and Hawkins Street and the installation of pedestrian signals at both of the signalized intersections.

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) planning is beginning for the city. It was recommended that the city consider adding as a project the installation of sidewalk on Reservoir Street between the Harrisonburg Crossing and Cantrell Avenue and on Carlton Street between Country Club and East Market Street.

A public hearing for the Reservoir Street & Carlton Street roundabout project will be held on Tuesday, August 6th from 4:30-6:30pm at Spotswood Elementary.

A public input forum for the Downtown Streetscape Plan will be held on Thursday, August 8th from 5:30-7:30pm at City Council Chambers.

Adjourn