



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ADVISORY COMMISSION

CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

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

FROM: Ian Pike, Transportation Systems Specialist

DATE: --

RE: Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Agenda for Wednesday, July 13, 2016

The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission met on **Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at 8:30AM in Room 011 of City Hall, 409 S Main St.**

Members present included: Bill Blessing, Chance Ebersold, Joshua Humphries, Russell Presnell, and Ian Pike.

Advisory Members & Guests Present: Jim Baker, Paul Helmuth, Cpl. Wayne Westfall, James Winger

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

1. Introductions & Welcome Ian Pike

Mr. Blessing welcomed Ian Pike as the newest member of the Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission.

Business

1. Revisit Parking Problems on Devon Lane

Cpl. Westfall has new concerns about on-street parking on Devon Ln. While traveling eastbound on Devon Ln, approaching Port Republic Rd, buses are crossing the double-yellow line in order to avoid parked vehicles. Mr. Baker explains the history behind this issue includes another townhome development closer to Port Republic Rd, Devonshire Village. There is not enough available off-street parking for this development so residents were allowed to continue parking on the street. To help

mitigate safety concerns, the centerline was shifted to allow more room for the westbound travel lane for as far as there is on-street parking on that side of Devon Ln. The current parking issue, however, involves a development that appears to have enough parking in the lot behind the townhomes. Mr. Baker recommends removing the street parking.

Other committee members share these safety concerns, but also have concerns about where the on-street vehicles will go. Cpl. Westfall suggests checking with community development first to ensure there is enough parking per unit according to their standards. Mr. Humphries suggest working with the nearby apartment complex at 865 Devon Ln to allow parking from the townhome residents in their parking lot. Mr. Helmuth explains that 865 Devon Ln assigns their parking to their residents so though it appears empty from the map view and during the summer, it is near or at capacity during the school year when the students return.

Mr. Baker will look for the original development plans to check what their requirements were for parking. He will also involve the necessary HOA's before making any changes.

2. Pedestrian Crossing Concern at East Wolfe St and North Mason St

Mr. Pike presented the concern that has been received by the City about potential safety problems for pedestrians at the intersection. The Commission inquired if there have been any pedestrian complaints from traveling through this intersection.

Cpl. Westfall did note that vehicles turning from westbound on Wolfe St to southbound on Mason St often do not yield for pedestrians. Mr. Ebersold noted that the curb ramp at the northwest corner did not properly align with the crosswalk. The Commission also noted the difficulty of adding crosswalks across other legs of the intersection due to the unusual geometry.

Mr. Baker suggested that no changes need to be made at this time.

3. E Gay St and Hill St Neighborhood Speed Complaints

Mr. Pike presented the concern that several citizens have about the speed of cars traveling through this intersection. Mr. Baker brought up that sight distance might be an issue due to overgrown foliage on the corner lot.

Cpl. Westfall noted that a speed study was conducted there several years ago but did not meet the requirements for the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program.

Mr. Blessing recommended making no changes until the foliage issue has been addressed. Mr. Baker said he will contact the homeowner.

4. "Do Not Block Intersection" Action Requested

Mr. Pike presented that several City officials were concerned with vehicles blocking the intersection during peak hours, which is in direct violation of City Code Sec. 13-1-12.

Cpl. Westfall noted that the intersection of MLK Jr. Way at S Main St, particularly turning left from westbound MLK Jr. Way onto southbound Main St, often features this problem. With the new deck and conference center being built at the intersection, however, other members expressed concern with addressing this problem now when the traffic patterns will be changing once construction is completed.

More signs, including ones noting an enhanced fine, were suggested, though Mr. Blessing noted that more signs are not always better. Cpl. Westfall also noted we would need to petition the City Council for an enhanced fine.

Mr. Pike suggested creating a public awareness campaign like other cities have done.

Mr. Baker said he and Mr. Pike will work to develop a program to identify intersections that would benefit from additional signs. Mr. Blessing suggested focusing on the Main St corridor to start.

Other Business/ Announcements

1. University Blvd & Evelyn Byrd Ave

Mr. Humphries noted that the signs have been changed and the intersection operations appear to have improved. Other members noted the same and agreed.

2. Reservoir Street Update

Mr. Baker stated that Public Works is still on schedule with the Reservoir Street Improvement project. The project is still anticipated to be completed by December 2017.

Adjourn

Next Meeting August 10, 2016, 8:30am