



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: Wednesday, November 16, 2016

RE: Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Agenda for Wednesday, November 9, 2016

The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission met on **Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 8:30AM in Room 011 of City Hall, 409 S Main St.**

Members present included: Bill Blessing, Chance Ebersold, Joshua Humphries, Cpl. Wayne Westfall, and Leonard VanWyk

Advisory Members & Guests Present: Chief Ian Bennett, Ian Pike, Doug Stader, James Wininger, and Erin Yancey

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. Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety Presentation from HPD

The presentation has been postponed to the December meeting.

2. Discussion on Truck Routes through Downtown

Cpl. Westfall brought up a concern about large trucks and tractor-trailers traveling through downtown. With the narrower lanes and the jog at Court Square, it seems that large, oversize trucks

cannot safely navigate through downtown. Mr. Blessing asked who had jurisdiction over trucking routes because they are typically handled at the state or federal level, not the local level. Mr. VanWyk asked where the trucks are coming from, where they are going, and why they aren't using I-81. Cpl. Westfall responded that most of the trucks are east- or west-bound on US 33 driving through the city. Trucks going north-bound on US 11 are typically making deliveries within the city. Cpl. Westfall also noted that most of the truck drivers he has stopped are just following their GPS unit, but not a truck-specific GPS. Mr. Blessing agreed that a majority of trucks driving through downtown are not familiar with the area.

Mr. VanWyk asked if the goal of this discussion is to limit truck traffic from traveling through the downtown core by directing them to other routes, but not limiting trucks making deliveries within the downtown core. Mr. Blessing noted that this seems to be the ultimate goal, but that it would have to be taken to city council for their approval. Cpl. Westfall agreed to work with city staff in various departments to determine what the appropriate routes should be and what other government agencies would need to be involved.

3. Street Parking and Traffic Safety Education

Cpl Westfall informed the commission that there have been changes to the parking ticket review and appeal process. The most common infraction they have found is from people parking on the street too close to corners. Cpl Westfall believes that most people don't fully know the rules around parking throughout the city and would like to develop a pamphlet to hand out listing the dos and don'ts of parking in the city.

Mr. Blessing reminded the commission of a similar campaign they did several years ago related to general traffic safety issues, placing posters and pamphlets in businesses. It was difficult to maintain and ended after a few years.

Mr. VanWyk asked if there is a specific location where this is an issue. Cpl Westfall responded that there are several locations throughout the city. A concerted educational effort would do more to address it than increasing enforcement. Cpl Westfall would like to have pamphlets to place on windshields, pass out during checkpoints, and leave with businesses. This was brought to the commission in order to generate more ideas on how to address this issue.

Cpl Westfall also mentioned that there are several new parking ordinances are being proposed that would need some form of public education. Cpl Westfall will work with city staff to determine the key points to be addressed and will present them at a future commission meeting.

Other Business/ Announcements

1. Neff/Reservoir Construction

Cpl. Westfall mentioned the regular traffic queues on Neff Ave at Reservoir St due to the construction along Reservoir St. Mr. Pike noted that he is aware of the issue when other traffic officers call Public Works. When such a call comes in, Mr. Pike places a manual call to the controller for Neff Ave to allow for the maximum amount of green time to push traffic through the intersection.

2. Planters by Urban Exchange

Mr. Humphries brought up a complaint about the planters along Water St. next to the Urban Exchange. Most of the planters have trees except for the two nearest the intersection with S Mason St. One planter is filled in, but the other is empty, leaving a hole in the sidewalk that Mr. Humphries said several people have already tripped in. Mr. Pike noted that he would bring up the issue with the maintenance crew at Public Works.

3. Applications for Two Seats on the Commission

Two seats will become available for the commission at the end of the year. Applications are now open through the end of the month.

Adjourn

Next Meeting December 14, 2016, 8:30am