



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

TO: Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Members

FROM: Ian Pike, Transportation Systems Specialist

DATE: Wednesday December 21, 2016

RE: Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Summary for Wednesday, December 14, 2016

The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission met on **December 14, 2016 at 8:30AM in Room 011 of City Hall, 409 S Main St.**

Commission Members present included: Bill Blessing, Chance Ebersold, Josh Humphries, Len VanWyk, Cpl Wayne Westfall

Advisory Members and Guests present included: Jim Baker, Mike Brady, Lee Eshelman, Paul Helmuth, Ian Pike, Lt Pete Ritchie, Doug Stader, 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. Appoint New Members to Bike/Pedestrian Subcommittee

Ms. Yancey provided the two recommendations to serve on the Bike/Pedestrian Subcommittee – Elise Barrella, assistant professor at JMU who has been serving on the subcommittee, and Dastan Kalil, a civil engineer at Valley Engineering. The subcommittee enthusiastically endorsed both candidates and they are recommended for appointment.

Mr. VanWyk made a motion to accept the members. Mr. Ebersold seconded this motion. The motion passed. Dr. Barrella and Mr. Kalil will start their 3-year terms on January 1, 2017.

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

Lt. Ritchie from the Harrisonburg Police Department gave a presentation detailing their D.D.A.C.T.S. initiative – Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety.

3. Speeding on Rt 42/Virginia Ave near VMRC

The Public Works department received a complaint from the CEO of VMRC that speeding vehicles on Rt 42/Virginia Ave made it difficult for residents to turn into and out of the VMRC campus. There is a plan for a new traffic signal to be installed at the intersection of Virginia Ave and Acorn Dr, but not in the immediate future. She asked if it would be possible to install the traffic signal sooner than planned.

Mr. Blessing noted that there's a similar issue when turning left off of Acorn Dr onto southbound Virginia Ave. Mr. Eshelman asked if it would be possible to realign Acorn Dr to meet the VMRC entrance and then signalize the new intersection. Mr. Baker responded that there are too many issues to overcome with realigning Acorn Dr, such as stormwater and right-of-way complications.

Mr. VanWyk recommended collecting speed data to determine if there is an actual or just perceived speeding problem.

Other Business/ Announcements

Stop Bar Location on S Main St at Grace St

Mr. Humphries mentioned that it is often difficult to turn left from Grace St onto southbound S Main St due to vehicles in the left turn lane on northbound S Main St stopping ahead of the stop bar. He asked if it would be possible to move the stop bar further back to allow for more room for turning vehicles. Mr. Baker noted that this is not a new problem, but the solution of moving the stop bar back further, thereby reducing the storage for left turning vehicles, introduces new problems. Instead, it would be preferred to adjust the lane markings that guide the left turning vehicles from Grace St.

"No Right On Red" at I-81 S Ramp and Port Republic Rd

Mr. VanWyk shared a concern about poor sight distance when turning right from the I-81 S ramp onto Port Republic Rd. This concern has been brought up in the past and he asked staff to look through the meeting minutes to determine what the recommendation was.

Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program in Sunset Heights

Mr. VanWyk asked for an update on the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program in the Sunset Heights neighborhood. Ms. Yancey explained that there have not been enough signatures gained yet to continue on with the program.

Speeding in Sunset Heights

Mr. VanWyk mentioned that there is a speeding problem through the Sunset Heights neighborhood when children are walking or biking to school in the morning. Cpl Westfall responded that there is an officer that sits at the school zone, but he will look into placing another officer.

Adjourn