



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ADVISORY COMMISSION  
CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

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**TO:** Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Members

**FROM:** Ian Pike, Transportation Systems Specialist

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 3, 2017

**RE:** Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Agenda for Wednesday, May 11, 2017

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The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission met on **May 10, 2017 at 8:30AM in Room 011 of City Hall, 409 S Main St.**

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

Advisory Members and Guests present included: Mike Brady, Lee Eshelman, Paul Helmuth, Ian Pike, 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.*

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*Welcome*

*Business*

**1. Recognition of Jim Baker**

Jim Baker was not present for this meeting so this item will be postponed to the next meeting.

**2. Update on Previous Action Items**

All-way stop at Hill St and E Gay St – the MUTCD outlines minimum conditions for an all-way stop application based on traffic volumes and crash history. At this time, the intersection of Hill St and E Gay St does not meet any of these conditions.

**3. Discussion with VMRC Representative on Rt 42/Virginia Ave Safety Concerns**

Due to an error on the agenda for this month, the VMRC representative did not attend this meeting, but will be invited back to the next meeting.

#### 4. Peach Grove Speed Limit

Mr. Pike shared the results of the speed study that was performed on Peach Grove Ave:

85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Speeds	Southbound	Northbound
Location 1 (200 ft north of King Edward Way)	32	30
Location 2 (200 ft north of Decca Dr)	35	37
Location 3 (600 ft south of Port Republic Rd)	31	34

According to engineering standards, speed limits should be set close to the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of traffic. With the travel speeds on Peach Grove Ave, there is potential to raise the speed limit from 25 mph to 35 mph.

Several commission members still raised concerns about raising the speed limit. Cpl Westfall mentioned the possible difficulty of getting out of the side streets if the speed limit were raised due to the need for increased sight distance with faster speeds.

Ms. Yancey asked if there have been any complaints from any of the neighborhoods. Cpl Westfall responded that several people that live on King Edward Way have complained about speeding cut through traffic and they might be looking into traffic calming efforts.

There was also a concern that an increased speed limit would increase traffic on Peach Grove Ave. An increased speed limit would also mean an increase in signage for the school zone. The Harrisonburg City Safe Routes to School coordinator has said that Stone Spring Elementary School has the lowest amount of walking and biking students. An increased speed limit could decrease those numbers further.

The commission requested more information about sight distance and the need for more school zone infrastructure before making a decision.

#### 5. School Zone Signing

Mr. Pike explained that Public Works is beginning to create an inventory of all signs and pavement markings that are used to mark school zones. It's an effort to establish a baseline for what is out there so we can better shape internal policy to be more consistent across all the schools.

Cpl Westfall also explained that according to [Virginia Code 873](#), an extra fine can be imposed upon drivers exceeding the speed limit in school zones if there are certain signs places – either a permanent sign with flashing beacons that come on in the morning when students arrive and in the afternoon when students are leaving, or a portable or tilt-over sign that is placed by a school administrator during the morning and afternoon. This will be used as a tool to increase enforcement possibilities in school zones, in conjunction with having more traffic officers available.

Mr. Blessing agreed that this is a positive initiative that would pair well with other biking and walking initiatives.

Mr. Pike then asked if the Minnick School, a private school managed by the Lutheran Services of Virginia, should be considered in this initiative. Mr. Helmuth also mentioned the Woodland Montessori School to possibly be considered. Ms. Yancey noted that we will be talking more with HPD and the Safe Routes To School coordinator but will include them initially when gathering data.

Mr. Ebersold asked if a “school crossing” is only one that connects to school property or if it could be any that students use on their way to school. Cpl Westfall replied that it doesn’t have to connect specifically to the school property, but it must be within the school vicinity. Part of this initiative is to try to determine a standard for the maximum distance from a school for a school crossing to be considered as such.

### *Other Business/ Announcements*

#### **Garbers Church Rd**

Several commission members brought up different issues along Garbers Church Rd:

- A sight distance complaint at Parklawn Dr and Garbers Church Rd
- A missing stop sign on Heritage Center Way at Garbers Church Rd – Heritage Center Way is privately owned and serves as an entrance to the radio station and a few private residences. In keeping with other private roads and entrances around the city, it is not required to have a stop sign.
- A speed complaint on Stoneleigh Dr from W Market St heading to the high school – Cpl Westfall responded that an officer regularly stations themselves on that road looking out for speeding vehicles.
- A detection complaint at Garbers Church Rd and W Market St – Mr. Pike acknowledged that this is a common complaint and will bring it up with the Traffic Supervisor at Public Works

#### **Click-it or Ticket Campaign**

Mr. Stader mentioned that the DMV will be running another Click-it or Ticket campaign starting on May 22.

#### *Adjourn*