



**TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA**

TO: Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Members

FROM: Dastan Khaleel, Traffic Engineer

DATE: September 7, 2018

RE: Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Summary for August 30, 2018

The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission met on **August 30, 2018 at 8:30AM in Room 011 of City Hall, 409 S Main St.**

Commission members: Bill Blessing, Chance Ebersold, Leonard Van Wyk, Josh Humphries, Cpl Wayne Westfall

Advisory members: Mike Brady, Tom Hartman, Dastan Khaleel, 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. Intersection safety concerns:

a. Reservoir St @ Franklin St

Residents at Franklin St brought their safety concerns to Public Works (PW) about the sight distance to make left-turn at the referenced intersection. PW staff explained the problem and constraints to improve sight distance for left turn movement at this location. The commissioners explained that this issue has been brought up to the commission before, however they still don't think the cost of improvements makes them justifiable since the residents have alternative routes to make left turn movement where there is adequate sight distance. Commissioners recommended PW write a response letter explaining the constraints and the commission's decision to the residents.

b. S. High St @ W. Bruce St

Citizens brought up their safety concerns about the referenced intersection. Citizens said there is not adequate sight distance to make thru and left turns. PW staff explained and acknowledged to the commission that a sight distance issue exists, but the improvement options are limited by R/W constraints. Cpl Wetfall said he witnessed people park near the intersection, which makes the sight distance condition even worse. He suggested putting a “No Parking” sign in front of the house located at the corner of the intersection. As the traffic movement does not warrant a traffic signal and the residents have alternative routes, commission decided the “No Parking” sign near the intersection would be good step at this point, until the R/W issues are resolved.

c. Sharpes Dr @ Chestnut

The issue of vegetation impeding sight distance was brought up to the City at the referenced intersection. Commission members mentioned there are multiple places throughout the City that have this same problem and they recommended the City implement the Zoning Ordinance and work with residents to explain the problem and provide them with directions to meet the requirements of this ordinance.

2. 245 E. Water St. – Urgie’s Cheesesteaks

PW staff presented a letter from Michael Layman Law Group, P.C. and an adjacent property owner. The letter states there is an issue with parking and safety concerns with the E Water St traffic movements. The letter also provides suggestions for improvement such as making E Water Street one-way, removing parking on Mason St, limiting on-street parking to 30 minutes, and adjusting parking arrangements for in-between properties. Currently, the Urgie’s Cheesesteak business owner is looking to rezone this property from the conditional B1 zoning to B1 so that he can remove the three parking spaces on the property and use them for seating and to expand his space. The commission acknowledged the safety concerns at this street due to its geometry and limited sight distance, and they agreed that the existing three parking spaces at Urgie’s are not safe to use. However, the demand for parking is very high in this area. Cpl Westfall mentioned that most parking violations are coming from the Urgie’s Cheesteak costumers and he believes removing the existing parking will worsen the parking issue. Therefore, the commission decided to further investigate the parking issue in this area in the context of overall parking demand in the downtown. They suggest take this issue to a group of experts who study the downtown area. They also agreed to reduce on-street parking time to 30 minutes. Regarding the safety concerns, they had no objection with converting the Water St to a one-way street in the out-of-downtown direction to solve the sight distance at Mason St; however, the PW staff raised concern about the impact this may have on adjacent intersections. Therefore, the decision will be made after PW performs a traffic study to evaluate these impacts.

3. Baxter Dr. no parking signs

A business owner requested to add limited period on street truck parking at Baxter Dr., the commission discussed the request and decided to not add the on-street parking as the area is zoned B2 and the business should provide their own parking. The City does not provide on-street parking.

4. Reservoir St @ Martin Luther King Jr Way changes

Tom Hartman explained the new lane configuration at the referenced intersection to the commission. It has been determined, based on the traffic study performed by PW, that there were over 600 vehicle per hour left turns from Reservoir to MLK that warranted the double left turn lanes, and the reason behind striping the through movement lane at Eastbound Reservoir St is because of sight distance issues. Stopped vehicles at this lane will block the left turn sight distance during the left turn movement. He also mentioned that PW is monitoring the operation condition up to now and that it is functioning as expected.

5. Appoint new Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee member

Ms. Jennifer Toth was selected as a new Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee member.

6. Updates on Previous Items

a. Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program

- i. Portland East – PW had a successful meeting with residents to develop a draft plan. The finalized plan will be presented to the commission in the next meeting.
- ii. Sunset Heights – Citizens have submitted another completed petition. Public Works is reviewing the petition. The neighborhood meeting is scheduled for September 27th.
- iii. Northeast Neighborhood – Citizens are still working on collecting signatures for the petition phase of this program.

Adjourn

The commissioner **Josh Humphries** announced that he will be leaving the committee and this meeting will be his last meeting. The commission recognized his work and inputs to the committee. The commission will open the application process for his replacement.