



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ADVISORY COMMISSION  
CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

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

**FROM:** Dastan Khaleel, Traffic Engineer

**DATE:** December 10, 2018

**RE:** Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Summary for October 12, 2018

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The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission met on **December 12, 2018 at 8:30AM in Room 011 of City Hall, 409 S Main St.**

Commission members: Mr. William Blessing, Mr. Leonard VanWyk, Marian Lebherz, Mr. Chance Ebersold, Mr. Lawrence Kyle

Advisory members: Erin Yancey, Dastan Khaleel, Mr. Greg Deeds

*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. Evelyn Byrd horizontal curve at Lucy Drive accidents**

Public Works (PW) was contacted by a business owner at the southeast corner of the Evelyn Byrd & Lucy Drive intersection, who reported unsafe conditions due to drivers losing control at the bend on Evelyn Byrd. PW investigated the conditions at this segment and found that the horizontal curve (bend) at the intersection meets all design requirements for the posted speed limit. PW also shared the crash records with TSAC members - there were 13 crashes in nearly five years of recorded data: 11 of them were reported as "failed to yield," only two crashes reported as "failed to maintain proper action," and one reported as "cell phone distraction". This segment has been brought to PW before and in response, an advance warning sign was installed ahead of the bend with chevrons at the southeast corner of the intersection to provide better visualization. After discussion, commissioners advised PW to continue to monitor the situation, but did not suggest any action at the time as warning signs had already been installed and crash records did not warrant other intersection treatments or geometrical changes.

## **2. Garbers Church Road horizontal curve**

A business owner on Garbers Church Rd contacted PW to report speeding issue caused by younger drivers who have been disregarding the posted speed limit and unsafe condition at Garbers Church Rd due to the road bend. Garbers Church Rd is a two-way undivided roadway with two lanes in each direction, and a posted speed limit of 35 mph. The road is currently underutilized. PW staff explained that while the road meets all design requirements for the posted speed limit, speeding above the limit creates high risk conditions due to road geometry and un-signalized intersections. Crash reports shared with the commissioners showed that in the past five years of recorded data there have been eight crashes at this area - four at the Park Lawn Dr intersection and two at the Glanzer Ct intersection, all with a cause reported as "speeding". Since Harrisonburg High School is located on Garbers Church Rd and many of the observed speeders were thought to be high school students, commissioners suggested working with the School Board to run an educational program for the students. Officer Deeds from Harrisonburg Police Department mentioned that New Kent County has implemented a driver policy that has been very effective and said there the school board could possibly implement a similar policy. Also, the commissioners suggested that PW investigate the possibility of doing road diet project since the road is currently underutilized. PW staff were in support of this idea, but there are several considerations that need to be accounted for in order to align a road diet project on Garbers Church Rd with the city's long term transportation plan. A road diet project will be investigated and the commission will be informed about the process.

## **3. Jackson Street issues**

Public Works was contacted about drivers going the wrong way and speeding on the one-way section of Jackson St, between 3<sup>rd</sup> St and 4<sup>th</sup> St. Due to the width of the street, drivers run over neighboring property to avoid conflict. PW staff visited the site - there is a "Do Not Enter" sign along with a "One Way" sign, the street width is not meant to be two-way street, and it has limited access to the main arterial. The commissioners discussed the issue and thought most of the users of this segment of the street are the people who live on Jackson St. They advised HPD to contact neighbors to make them aware of the situation and suggested PW collect volume and speed data to confirm if people are driving wrong way and if there is speeding issue. The results will be brought back to the commission so alternative solutions can be investigated.

## **4. Appoint new Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee member**

Mr. Dudley Bonsal was selected as a new Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee member.

## **5. Update on Traffic Calming Program**

### **a. Sunset Heights**

Draft plan has been prepared by PW staff will be presented in an open house meeting for the neighborhood to comment in late January 2019.

### **b. Bluestone Hills**

PW will schedule a meeting with the neighborhood in January 2019 to listen to the residents highlight the issue and inform them about next steps to proceed with the Traffic Calming Program.

*Other Business/ Announcements*

- Officer Greg Deeds informed commissioners about the cut-thru traffic and stop sign running at Cardinal Dr. He suggested putting a stop bar or other intersection treatment at this location. Commissioners advised to increase enforcement and record the violation reports and present these to the commission.
- HDP staff brought up safety conditions at the Port Republic Rd & Hunters Rd intersection. They stated that the number of crashes are rising due to a long delay at the side street (Hunters Rd) and high traffic volume on Port Republic Rd. PW informed the commission that there is a study going on for the Port Republic Rd corridor to address safety and operational issues which include the referenced intersection. Currently, the study is in the analysis stage. When the study outcomes are provided to the City, PW will present them to the commission and public.
- Ms. Leberz brought up a concern that the number of cyclists using the sidewalks in the downtown area is increasing. She suggested the need of education and enforcement.

*Adjourn*