



Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission  
City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

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

**FROM:** Dastan Khaleel, Traffic Engineer

**DATE:** February 13, 2019

**RE:** Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Summary for February 13, 2019

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The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission met on **February 13, 2019 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. Port Republic Road Access Management Study presentation**

Public Works (PW) Traffic Engineer, Dastan Khaleel presented Port Republic Road Safety and Operations Study conducted by VHB under a study team formed from Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO), City of Harrisonburg, Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT), and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The presentation was mainly focused on highlighting critical corridor issues found from the study and proposed improvements from study outcomes. The improvements categorized in three groups of recommendations, Traffic Control, Geometric Changes and Access Management. In general, the Commissioners were in support of the proposed improvements and they thought the study well targeted and accomplished it's goals. The only improvement that attracted discussion was proposed pedestrian bridge on Port Republic Rd at Bluestone Drive, the Commissioners asked questions about the design and practicality of the solution and argued a bridge may not be pedestrian favored solution, PW team answered questions, and explained that the proposed improvement is in early planning level, and that there will be more detailed study in the

conceptual phase of design to determine the constructability of such an improvement. The public involvement phase will help determine if pedestrians are in favor of this solution. Finally, PW team invited Commissioners to attend and spread word about the public meeting about the study that will be held on February 20, 2019. Additional detail about the study recommendations can be found at <https://www.cspdc.org/2019/02/06/hrmpo-studies-port-republic-road/>

## **2. Grattan Street speeding issue**

PW has been contacted by residences of Grattan St about cut through traffic and speeding. A resident attended the meeting as well. He explained the issue that residents encounter daily with people driving too fast and high cut through traffic from people who presumably use E Grattan St to avoid the traffic signals on Martin Luther King Jr Way at Mason Street and S Main Street. The Harrisonburg Police Department put a speed radar on the street, which confirmed that there is a speeding issue, but due to the street being narrow, it is possible the data misrepresented speeds, due to limits of the speed radar capability. They suggest that PW put the traffic counters to get traffic volumes and speed in both directions. Also, PW asked Commissioners if they think residences on this street should enroll in Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program, or if the Commission agrees with studying the issue without enrolling in the program. The Commission agreed that the issue at this street can be looked into without enrolling in the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program as this issue is a Grattan Street problem, not a neighborhood-wide problem. They suggest PW collect data from Grattan Street and neighboring street (Paul Street) to compare the traffic situation on both similar streets and in the next meeting Commission will discuss the results.

## **3. Sunset Heights Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan**

PW staff gave update on how the program is going and talked about the neighborhood meeting held in late January to present the plan, which had very good turnout and the plan was well received by residences. Then, Erin Yancey, Public Work's Planning Manager presented Sunset Heights Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan to the Commission and explained implementation phases which broke down into three phases and after each phase the study will be conducting to find out if a next phase is needed. She shared comments received from the meeting. There was concern from the Fire Department about the proposed speed table for Maryland Avenue that could affect the response time of their vehicles. The plan will be amended to address the concern. The Commission voted to approve the plan with the amendment.

## **4. Update on Previous Items**

### **a. Jackson St**

PW works collected data to confirm the complaint and the results will be discussed in the next meeting.

### **b. Eastover enforcement report**

HPD shared enforcement reports that show drivers not complying with Stop signs which were mostly student drivers. The Commission was concerned about the number of violations, but the intersection has all needed signage and markings to communicate with drivers and thought the problem is more driving behavior rather than engineering. Therefore, they encouraged HPD to continue increasing enforcement to improve the condition, as the users are the same drivers who use this route regularly.

### *Other Business/ Announcements*

- A Commission member was contacted by a City Council member about a citizen concern with the traffic conditions at the Keezletwon Rd and Country Club Rd unsignalized intersection. The concern was the inability to make left turns in a timely manner due to insufficient gaps in traffic. The Commission discussed whether a traffic signal to create gaps was warranted at this intersection, and asked PW to do preliminary warrant analysis to see if further study is needed to change intersection control type.
- Commission member Marian Lebherz brought up her concerns about the segment of Vine Street between E Washington & N Main street. Due to road geometry challenges and increasing traffic volume, she is concerned that there may be increases in the number of crashes at this segment. PW staff told her that they will provide her with crash history data for the segment and will look into crash trends to see if the particular location has reoccurring crashes or growth in crash rate.

### *Adjourn*