

## Citizens Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 8, 2024 • 6:30 PM • Municipal Center Rooms 220/221

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

### 2. Roll Call

*MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT:* Jeff McCard, Bill Everett, James Flynn, Rowland Myers, Assistant Township Manager Nick Valla, Public Works Director Eric Gartenmayer, Police Chief Joseph Bartorilla, Sergeant Mark McLeod, Officer Jeffrey Wagner, Steve Gozur (TPD).

*MEMBERS AND STAFF ABSENT:* Chris Haughey, Captain Peter Feeney.

*PUBLIC PRESENT:* Linda Pascali.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Members approve minutes of July 9, 2024, meeting by consensus.

### 4. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items Only)

Linda Pascali, resident, commented that she was knocking on doors in Swan Pointe and neighbors complained of speeding on White Swan Way. Chief of Police Joseph Bartorilla stated he has not previously heard of speeding concerns on White Swan Way and stated that the drivers speeding are likely also the residents who live there as it is not a cut-through street.

### 5. Old Business

#### a. Fulling Mill Road – Consider requesting PennDOT to conduct a study.

The Police Department monitored the road and did not express concern about speeding or volume of traffic. Public Works Director Eric Gartenmayer shared that he posted “Watch Children” signs at the request of a resident recently. Sergeant Mark McLeod added that crash history here is very low.

Discussion arose about the safety of the intersection of Fulling Mill Road and Ellis Road, which can have visibility issues during the summer months when foliage is dense. The Commission recommended sending both the speeding concern and intersection concern to PennDOT to study.

#### b. Business Route 1 (Near Team Toyota) - Parking

Assistant Township Manager Nick Valla shared that the Township Solicitor confirmed the Township can enact, post, and enforce parking restrictions on state highways. Chief Bartorilla shared that since signs were posted recently, no complaints have been made.

**c. Woodbourne Road Brake Retarders**

Mr. Valla shared that he addressed the Commission's inquiry about a Township-wide brake retarder restriction with the Township Solicitor, who stated that PennDOT must evaluate and allow the Township to restrict brake retarders on individual roads. A Township-wide restriction is not possible.

The Commission asked about how prevalent complaints are on this issue. Mr. Valla shared that one resident near the PennDOT construction on Langhorne-Yardley Road inquired about this which prompted PennDOT's study and recommendation. He added that he can only recall two or three other complaints about brake retarders. The Commission recommended not instituting a restriction at this time, but reevaluating at a later date if needed.

**d. Highland Park Way**

Sergeant McLeod shared that he recently conducted a study on Highland Park Way near Hope Road, which produced an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of speed at 29.5 MPH. He shared it is slightly higher than a 2021 study, but that it is still well below the 35 MPH requirement for traffic calming to be warranted. Mr. Gartenmayer added that "No Trucks" signs have been posted. No further action was recommended.

**e. Summit Trace Road**

Mr. Valla shared that the Township's Traffic Engineer, TPD, conducted a traffic study on Summit Trace Road as it was difficult for the Police Department to conduct a study with their device.

Traffic Engineer Steve Gozur stated that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of speed was 32 MPH traveling eastbound (toward SR 332, Newtown Bypass) and 33 MPH traveling westbound (toward SR 413, Langhorne-Newtown Road). The study was conducted near Hilltop Court. He stated he is waiting for accident history from the Police Department, but said he would look for at least five accidents per year to be at a level of concern. He stated that there were 910 vehicles on average each day across the two week study period in September.

Linda Pascali stated that she interacted with the TPD employee who installed the study device who shared with her that he made a comment of how fast cars were traveling. She reiterated her desire for safer pedestrian accommodations.

Mr. Valla shared that even though the study results appear to be short of the requirement for traffic calming, making improvements for pedestrian safety is not off the table. Discussion arose about various pedestrian solutions to contemplate. The Commission discussed the idea of replicating a line painting solution implemented in Snowball Gate for traffic calming, but noted how the wide shoulder has made safer pedestrian conditions, adding that it would be far less costly than sidewalks. Mr. Valla stated that he will work with Mr. Gozur as to the feasibility and cost of this idea.

## **6. New Business**

### **a. Maple Point Drive – Stop Sign Request**

Mr. Valla shared that he heard requests from a few residents for stop sign requests on Maple Point Drive at Waln Lane and Dilworth Lane as there are currently some stop signs for one direction of traffic and not the other. He added that the residents' concerns were for speeding, and that stop signs are not to be installed solely for traffic calming.

Sergeant McLeod shared that a study is being conducted currently. When results were checked earlier today, the average speed was only 26 MPH, noting it is unlikely to reach the requirement for traffic calming. Chief Bartorilla shared that studies conducted in recent years fall well below the requirements for traffic calming. Focused enforcement was recommended as an alternative. The Commission will review complete study results at the January meeting.

### **b. Frosty Hollow Road – Speed Limit Reduction Request**

Mr. Valla shared he received a concern from a resident in Upper Orchard who noted difficulty seeing cars traveling eastbound on Frosty Hollow Road as the road curves. TPD measured the intersection and noted that it currently meets the visibility requirements for the posted speed limit by a small margin, but is diminished if cars exceed the speed limit. The curves are posted for 15 MPH.

The Police Department noted that a speed limit reduction from 30 MPH to 25 MPH would not necessarily change driver behavior, and that the current speed limit is appropriate since homes do not have frontage onto Frosty Hollow Road. Mr. Gartenmayer stated that he can update signage and add reflective strips to improve nighttime visibility for drivers. No further action was recommended.

### **c. Flamingo Road – Stop Sign Request**

Mr. Valla shared he received a request for stop signs on Flamingo Road at the intersections with Forsythia Drive North and Forsythia Drive South as it dead-ends into through roads. The Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code does require motorists to stop at intersections when a road dead-ends into a through road.

Mr. Valla shared that if the Commission considers this request, it will need to contemplate other instances of dead end roads intersecting with through roads that are not stop-controlled, which can be found throughout Levittown. Officer Wagner suggested the idea of a social media campaign to remind residents of proper action instead of adding stop signs everywhere. No further action was recommended.

### **d. Canal Road – Stop Sign Request**

Mr. Valla shared that this request was rescinded from the resident and can be disregarded.

**e. Discussion of Updating School Zone Ordinance**

Mr. Valla shared that Core Creek Elementary School is expected to open in early 2025 and plans for Woodbourne Road in its vicinity to be a designated school zone. Mr. Valla shared that the existing ordinance regulating school zones is very outdated and should be updated to reflect all schools' current conditions. The Commission concurred with the recommendation.

**7. Other Business**

**a. PennDOT Improvement Project on Langhorne-Yardley Road**

Bill Everett recommended requesting PennDOT's contractor assure there are no lane or road closures on Election Day as there are multiple polling places in the vicinity of the construction zone.

**b. School Bus Enforcement Camera**

Officer Wagner shared that he is investigating the feasibility of school bus enforcement cameras, which would be used to issue violations to drivers failing to stop when a school bus is stopped to pick up or drop off children. He added that the potential violation photos would have to be reviewed by a uniformed officer before violations are issued. He also noted that exceptions can be made for violations made outside of the Township's jurisdiction.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2025.