

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING  
TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

**FEBRUARY 12, 2020**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, with the following persons present: Councilman Patrick Kaag; Police Chief Stephen Powell; Mayor Andrew Kearney; Main Street Manager Mark Ratcliffe (departed the meeting at 6:21 p.m.); Borough Manager Nicholas Imbesi; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Chairman Christopher Lincoln and Public Works Director Dean Murray were unable to attend the meeting.

**Visitors:** Karen Livingood, Resident  
Sharon Wert, Resident  
Dale Miller, Resident  
Mary Arguelles, Resident

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. Due to the lack of a quorum the meeting was used as a workshop.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Miller expressed frustration with neighboring residents that do not utilize their off-street parking spaces, causing increased congestion along Sunset Road. It was also noted that a number of homes have approximately four cars per household and suggested revisions to the permit-parking program. Mr. Imbesi noted previous discussions by the committee to potentially implement a tiered permit-parking program. This type of program would allow each household to be issued two free parking permits with additional vehicles incurring a tiered cost per permit.

Ms. Arguelles expressed concern regarding Sunset Road becoming a major thoroughfare. Causes for the increased traffic are due in part to closure of the Parkview Road Bridge and GPS systems selecting this route as a faster alternative to Penn Avenue. Chief Powell noted a previous study in this vicinity via a radar speed sign, which indicated an average speed of 18 – 30 miles per hour, below the citable limit. Mr. Miller again requested white lines to be painted along the parked car area of Sunset Road to urge drivers to stay in the middle of the roadway, making it safer to enter/exit the vehicles. Mr. Imbesi plans to consult with the Chairman of this committee to ensure a traffic study would not be needed to paint these lines along Sunset Road prior to requesting Public Works personnel to install these lines when weather permits.

Mr. Miller requested increased monitoring of the stop sign areas of Fifth Avenue and Sunset Road and Sunset Road and Ann Street. Chief Powell offered to relocate the radar speed sign from Penn Avenue to this area again and increase monitoring of these intersections. Chief Powell also indicated that an inventory of stop signs throughout the Borough has been completed and plans for certified Borough personnel to perform traffic studies of areas that may require additional stop signs.

Mr. Miller stated that he contacted Berks County Intermediate Unit to report bus traffic along Sunset Road. Chief Powell stated that buses are exempt from certain restrictions and that this is public roadway.

Mrs. Wert shared concern regarding the intersection of Walnut Street and Tulpehocken Avenue where it is a 2-way stop, noting opposing traffic does not stop. Due to increased traffic from the Lofts at Narrow and new townhomes, Mrs. Wert recommended converting this intersection to a 4-way stop.

Mrs. Wert also expressed concern regarding the intersection of Walnut Street and Chiffon Way and recommended that vegetation be removed to increase the line-of-sight in this area.

Mrs. Wert requested increased monitoring of the Sixth and Reading Avenue intersection due to cars parking near the corner blocking line-of-sight as well as double parking on this busy roadway. Mr. Imbesi noted plans to paint the curbing near the restaurant yellow in an attempt to deter parking.

Mrs. Wert requested, "Please walk your bike" signage along Penn Avenue sidewalks to deter bicycle riding along these heavily used pedestrian areas. Signage would educate the public of this violation, allowing citizens to assist in enforcement of this safety hazard. Chief Powell stated that a new full-time officer is currently in training and would be designated to patrol the Penn Avenue area.

Mrs. Livingood noted that street cleaning season will begin again in the near future and asked if any solutions have been found to allow parking enforcement during employee vacation/sick leave. Chief Powell stated that a second full-time parking enforcement officer would be available to cover long leaves of absence and encouraged residents to contact the Police Department when parking violations occur.

### **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary