

BOROUGH OF WEST READING TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

JANUARY 12, 2022

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Sergeant Ryan Phillips (via Zoom); Mayor Samantha Kaag; Public Works Crew Leader Kerry Grassley; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

Visitors:	Karen Livingood, Resident (via Zoom)	Jane Kelly, Resident
	Michael & Helen Witmyer, Residents	Nicholas Karetas, Police Officer (via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Public Comment

Helen Witmyer shared her continued struggles crossing the traffic circle even with reflective arm bands and sash. Sergeant Phillips confirmed that the Police Department has throughout his entire career, and continues to practice active patrols and enforcement of this area. Mr. Lincoln noted that there are limited options to modify motorists' behavior within the traffic circle other than the Borough's continued efforts to brighten the crosswalk markings and placement of portable pedestrian crossing signs. The option to install permanent flashing signage would require a PennDOT permit and incur an estimated cost of \$30,000 per sign. Methods to improve pedestrian safety within the traffic circle will continue to be monitored and discussed.

Jane Kelly spoke of the difficulty she experiences crossing the intersection of Fifth Avenue at Spruce Street and requested placement of a portable pedestrian crossing sign at the crest of the hill. The second intersection she spoke of was Museum Road and Parkside Drive North. She requested that no turn on red be implemented within this intersection. Mr. Lincoln indicated that an all stop during pedestrian crossing might be an option for this intersection, however this tends to create backup situations and a traffic study would be required for this type of change. Unfortunately, driver behavior is difficult to modify on a large scale.

Karen Livingood asked if the street sweeper could clean Linden Lane and the 200 block of Sycamore Road once the sewer project has been completed. Mr. Grassley promised to post these two streets as no parking on the first predicted day of 40 plus degree temperatures for cleaning. Secondly, Mrs. Livingood requested consideration to remove one parking space from the intersection of Third Avenue, Sunset Road and Parkview Road to improve line of sight. It was noted that generally the traffic on Sunset Road does not stop at this intersection. The particular space in question is located on Third Avenue, the first parking space south of Sunset Road. It was noted that a stop sign study had been performed at this intersection and would be reviewed for recommendations.

Old Business

Penn Avenue Infrastructure – Mr. Lincoln inquired as to correctional measures to the pedestrian crossing signal located at the Sixth and Penn Avenue intersection. Mr. Grassley indicated that Telco had visited the location and Officer Karetas indicated that he thought the device was operating properly. Officer Karetas stated that he would review this intersection tomorrow. Mr. Lincoln also noted that the signals located in the vicinity of the hospital that are malfunctioning were found to have broken loops. Mr. Grassley indicated that Telco visited the area twice today and would need clarification as to their findings.

Mr. Grassley anticipates the installation of a new trash can within the 400 block of Penn Avenue at the end of the month based on construction progress at 428 Penn Avenue. It was noted that graffiti removal along Penn Avenue is ongoing. Mr. Lincoln requested the graffiti located on the bridge abutment near the fire station be addressed when the temperatures begin to warm.

Mr. Grassley confirmed that as street lights go out along Penn Avenue, they will continue to be converted to LED fixtures.

Linden Lane Sewer Project Update – Mr. Grassley indicated that one and a half lateral lines will need to be installed. The old main was flow filled today, and two curbs are in need of replacement. The contractor anticipates a project completion date of Monday, January 17, 2022.

Walnut Intersection Studies – Mr. Lincoln recapped study conversations last month noting that the engineer is still working through the review of the Walnut Street and Cashmere Way intersection recommendation. It is hopeful that a recommendation to Council could be made next month.

Review of § 430-23 Parking Prohibited at Certain Hours – Mr. Lincoln provided a verbal recap for the benefit of visitors noting that the ordinance was reviewed in comparison to what is on the street. Mr. Kaag questioned the trash and recycling collection signage that was recently installed within the alley behind Fifth Avenue and Ann Street being different from ordinance regulations. Mr. Grassley indicated that a sign is on order per the ordinance regulations and that signs were installed to facilitate better access for the trash hauler.

Motion to recommend Council to approve modifications to Section 430-23 Parking prohibited certain hours.

Moved by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.** This amendment would be held to include stop intersection amendments.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of December 8, 2021 by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

New Business

Curb Replacement – Mr. Lincoln noted Council's recent decision to take responsibility of curb replacement and a resident request to replace curbing in conjunction to her planned sidewalk replacement project next spring. Mr. Grassley welcomed communication from the resident to coordinate these efforts. The code department will be asked to assist in the coordination of curb repairs by the Public Works Department when sidewalk replacement permit applications are received.

Review of § 430-16 Stop Intersections – It was noted that the stop intersections associated with the Villas at Narrow Subdivision had not been incorporated into this ordinance section. The remaining discrepancies were noted:

- Cherry Street westbound at Fourth Avenue should be added.
- Chestnut Street east and westbound at Third Avenue should be added.
- Deer Alley eastbound at Fourth Avenue should be added.
- Eighth Avenue north and southbound at Reading Avenue will be removed as there is a traffic signal at this intersection.
- Fifth Avenue southbound at Sycamore Road should be added.
- First Avenue north and southbound at Chestnut Street should be added.
- Fourth Avenue north and southbound at Chestnut Street should be added.
- Grape Street eastbound at Fourth and Fifth Avenue should be added.
- Grape Street east and westbound at Sixth Avenue should be added.
- Tulpehocken Avenue north and southbound at Walnut Street is currently under review.
- Walnut Street westbound at Seventh Avenue should be added.
- Walnut Street east and westbound at Olive Street should be added.
- Wayne Avenue eastbound at Lakeview Drive should be added.

Recommendations to Council will be held until the Walnut Street intersection studies have been decided upon.

Grape Street Alley – Mr. Grassley requested guidance regarding the Grape Street alley between South Sixth Avenue and the alley behind Kent Way in regards to winter maintenance. A plow truck vehicle cannot safely access to this narrow 100-foot roadway while vehicles are parked. Options such as posting signs that indicate no winter maintenance, closing the alley during winter months, or posting the street as no parking during winter weather were discussed. The Solicitor will be requested to provide guidance in labeling a roadway as no winter maintenance.

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. by Ms. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary