

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

**JANUARY 10, 2024**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Mayor Samantha Kaag; Borough Manager Dean Murray; Chief of Police Richard Tornielli; Zoning Officer Chad Moyer; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Public Works Director Kerry Grassley was unable to attend.

### **Visitors:**

Karen Livingood, Resident

James Rogers, Resident

Lauri Ahlskog, South Central Transit Authority (via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **Public Comment**

Mrs. Livingood expressed her delight as a resident to retain Mr. Lincoln as the Traffic and Infrastructure Chairman who brings his vast knowledge and background to the table. Secondly, she inquired as to how to encourage repair of the streetlights along the Route 422 bypass. Mr. Lincoln noted that the streetlights between the Lancaster Avenue and Penn Avenue interchanges are owned by various entities, such as the County, the City of Reading, and Met-Ed. The conduit of wiring that is imbedded in the roadway is experiencing wiring issue(s) in unknown locations. Mrs. Livingood offered to assist with resident petitions to encourage repairs. Mr. Lincoln recommended that the Borough contact PennDOT directly to discuss possible repairs prior to the planned bypass improvements.

Mr. Rogers shared a time when he marked streetlights that were out by placing duct tape on the pole to assist repair individuals in locating the streetlight in need of repair. He recommended wiring the poles together from the top along the bypass to temporarily provide illumination until the bypass improvements begin. Secondly, Mr. Rogers provided an update to the collection of Business Privilege Taxes noting that 252 accounts are delinquent and are being pursued for collection with an anticipated revenue of \$150,000.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of December 13, 2023. **Moved** by Mayor Kaag and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

### **New Business**

**Bus Shelter Proposal** – Mr. Moyer provided an overview of a request to relocate a public transit bus stop along South Seventh Avenue that is currently located near the Reading Hospital “T” Building entrance to a nearby location with shelter. The current bus stop location more than likely impeded access or egress to the valet entrance of the hospital. The hospital contacted the transit authority requesting relocation of the existing bus stop and plans were submitted to create an accessibly compliant concrete pad with shelter. The proposed bus stop with shelter would be located within the right-of-way which precipitates an agreement between the borough and transit authority. It was noted that the proposed placement of the shelter appears to be located outside of a clear sight triangle of the valet entrance. A right-of-way agreement has been drafted by the borough solicitor and presented to the transit authority. Ms. Ahlskog noted the need for South Central Transit Authority’s (SCTA) solicitor to review the right-of-way agreement prior to execution but does not foresee any issues.

Ms. Ahlskog confirmed the hospital's request to relocate the bus stop due to visitors waiting inside the building for the bus during inclement weather and rushing to the stop when the bus arrives. Ms. Ahlskog reported that a shelter with a small bench would be owned and maintained by the SCTA on a weekly basis by removing trash and providing maintenance as necessary. Cleaning of the shelter would take place once or twice per year. The shelter would be equipped with a solar panel on top to provide lighting for the interior of the shelter and advertising panels. The 5'x8' shelter would be placed on a 6'x10' concrete pad to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Mr. Lincoln requested that the site plan be updated to include the clear sight triangle that cuts close to the proposed shelter location. Ms. Ahlskog noted that the side of the shelter would have clear glass and that the bus would not linger at this location longer than necessary to pick up or drop off passengers.

Mr. Moyer alerted Ms. Ahlskog to advertisers needing to contact the Code Department to meet the off-premises sign permitting requirements. Ms. Ahlskog asked if SCTA could obtain a blanket permit, Mr. Moyer indicated that these advertisements would be permitted separately, but is not an integral part of gaining approval to relocate the bus shelter.

Mr. Kaag inquired as to the two adjacent trees interfering with the placement of the shelter. Ms. Ahlskog indicated that the shelter would not interfere with the trees.

Motion to recommend Borough Council to approve the proposed location of the transit shelter on South Seventh Avenue, subject to placement outside of the site triangle, and execution of a right-of-way agreement. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mayor Kaag. **Motion carried.**

**Mural Proposal** – Mayor Kaag noted a request to paint a mural on the rear of Tony's of West Reading at 449 Penn Avenue, facing Court Street. Trout Unlimited has chosen this location based on its proximity to the Schuylkill River. It was recommended to forward this request to the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation who has overseen mural placements in the past.

## **Old Business**

**North Sixth and Reading Avenue Radar Sign Data** – It was noted that a connection to the new battery had not been made and therefore data was not collected this past month. The connection has now been made and should provide data next month.

**Elm Street and Lofts at Narrow Driveway Entrance** – Mr. Moyer shared a complaint that was received today regarding snow compilation at the speed bump and vehicles driven through the grass area to avoid the speed bump. It was unclear as to whether the snow in question had been plowed by the owner of the property or the borough.

## **Public Comment**

Mr. Rogers inquired as to bus service for the proposed bus shelter. Mr. Lincoln noted that Red Rose merged with Barta to create South Central Transit Authority to service existing routes.

## **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Murray. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary