

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING
TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Nicholas Imbesi; Police Chief Stephen Powell; Main Street Manager Mark Ratcliffe; Public Works Director Dean Murray; Borough Manager Cathy Hoffman and Assistant to the Manager Cynthia Madeira.

Visitors: Karen Livingood, Resident
Michele Bare, Borough of Wyomissing
John Woodward, Borough of Wyomissing

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of Wednesday, August 8, 2018 by Chief Powell and seconded by Mr. Imbesi. **Motion carried.**

Bike Lane

Michele Bare expressed interest by the Borough of Wyomissing to jointly apply for a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant to connect bike trails/lanes. John Woodward remarked as to the interest demonstrated by the community to commute via bicycle and the importance to begin planning. Assistance in meeting the required 50% match of grant funds could be collectively requested from the Reading Hospital and Vanity Fair developer, Equus Capital Partners. Adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan could improve probabilities in acquiring DCED grant funding. Ms. Bare provided a Strava Global Heatmap illustrating areas within Wyomissing Borough currently frequented by bicyclists, which is being used as an instrument to determine potential bike lane routes. Points of interest through West Reading were discussed to include connectivity of the Vanity Fair complex; Reading Hospital and the river/park trails, including the intended pedestrian bridge that would replace the Parkview Road Bridge. Wyomissing Borough intends to partially delineate shared bike lanes via a sharrow, which is a double-chevron road marking indicating a shared cycle/vehicle lane warning motorists of the cycle route. With PennDOT approval, permission to cross Penn Avenue with a bike lane may be as simple as adding a note to the current PennDOT Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement. Ms. Bare will share a copy of Wyomissing Borough's potential bike lane route(s) with the Committee for review and discussion on potential connecting route(s) during the October meeting.

Ms. Bare and Mr. Woodward departed the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Old Business

Parking – A meeting between the solicitor, Mrs. Hoffman and Mr. Ratcliffe will be arranged to make revisions to the parking lot lease agreement and discuss requirements to enforce over-time parking with use of a kiosk. A goal to provide Council with draft documentation was set for the September 29th Budget meeting.

Green Light Go Grant – There was nothing new to report.

7th & Walnut Intersection – Mr. Murray reported concrete work has been completed, including installation of a handicapped ramp and stop sign. A request has been made to obtain pricing to mill and overlay Walnut Street to determine if sufficient funding is available in the budget prior to completing blacktop patching/repair.

Parkview Road Bridge – Mr. Murray reported half of the bridge has been removed. Chief Powell stated due to UGI working near Sunset Road traffic has been minimal on this roadway. The traffic count sign has not indicated citable speeds on Sunset Road and will be moved to Sycamore Road until completion of UGI work. The following suggestions were made to slow down the anticipated increased traffic on Sunset Road:

- Lowering the speed limit from 25 mph. Mr. Lincoln indicated a traffic study would be required and would need to result in an 85th percentile of recorded speeds below 20 mph.
- Addition of a double yellow line. Mr. Lincoln indicated the roadway would need to be measured and he would obtain width requirements to allow installation of a double yellow line. Chief Powell noted this would allow police officers to pull over a vehicle that crosses the median line.
- Adding a 25 mph speed limit sign at the entrance to Sycamore Road from Fifth Avenue.
- Removable speed bumps to allow removal during snow events.

Penn Avenue Infrastructure – Mr. Murray noted that due to weather conditions completion of painting light poles within the 300 block of Penn Avenue has been delayed. Also, due to a recent accident within this block a light pole will need to be replaced.

Grant Funding – There was nothing new to report on a pedestrian bridge or Pine Street water grant funding. Mr. Murray noted PennVEST funding, which would be an option should a low-interest, long-term loan be needed for infrastructure improvements.

New Business

Pavilion Sewer Backups – Mr. Murray reported on four different occasions this past month during heavy rain events the Joint Municipal Authority interceptor line has been backing up into the Fieldhouse. Favorable communication with the JMA has been made to request their assistance in funding back flow preventer valves. Mrs. Hoffman requested Mr. Murray to inquire with the three lower Playground Drive residents whom have experienced backup issues in the past to ensure installation of back flow preventer valves would not convey backup issues to their homes.

Parking Enforcement – Chief Powell reported 474 parking citations were issued during the month of August doubling the number of citations issued during July. The additional part-time parking enforcement officer has been productive.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m. by Mr. Imbesi and seconded by Chief Powell. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Assistant to the Manager

Cathy Hoffman
Borough Manager