

MT. LEBANON TRAFFIC BOARD

Meeting Date: September 4, 2013

Members Present: Ms. Brown, Mr. Gerhardt, Mr. Adams, Mr. Byrne, Ms. West, Mr. Cooley

Staff Present: Lt. White, Mr. Magalotti, Ms. Kostelich

Mr. Byrne opened the meeting. Roll call was taken, Mr. Fitzgerald was absent.

Agenda Item 1 – Administrative Discussion

Agenda Item 2 - Minutes of June 5, 2013 Traffic Board Meeting and July 30, 2013 Special Neighborhood Traffic Calming – Newburn Drive Meeting

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 5 and July 30, 2013 meeting. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3 - Opening Remarks from the Chair

No additional comments.

Agenda Item 4: Follow up Items:

- a. Request for Sight Distance Study at intersections of N. Meadowcroft Road and Kenforest and Shadowlawn

Mr. Magalotti stated that Trans Associates evaluated the intersections on N. Meadowcroft Avenue between Shadowlawn and McMonagle Avenue for sight distance. He stated that there is insufficient sight distance at the intersections of N. Meadowcroft and Kenforest and N. Meadowcroft and Greenlawn. He suggested that based on the deficient sight distances stop signs may be warranted, but due to the absence of a significant remediable crash history he felt the Traffic Board should consider if additional stop signs were needed at these locations.

Mr. Frank Sanns 1782 Theodan Drive stated that he was not in favor of the stop signs. He stated that roadways were built for vehicular traffic. He added that each time a vehicle stops 1 gallon of fuel is used having an environmental impact along with the inconvenience. He felt that the stops would just push additional traffic onto the side streets.

Board members agreed to take no further action on this matter.

- b. Request to discuss Sight Distance and Crosswalk Safety Issues on Beadling at Cedar

Mr. Magalotti stated that Trans Associates performed a field review of this intersection and stated that all appropriate signs and paint are present, to include diagonal striping, pedestrian crossing warning signage with diagonal down arrow at the location. Board members requested that DPW check for any tree obstructions to any signs in the area related to cross walk. No further action was taken on this matter.

- c. Request for Removal of Parking Spaces on Washington Road North of Florence Place

Mr. Magalotti stated that based on the existing roadway geometry removing parking spaces along Washington Road would not help to improve sight distances at this intersection. Commissioner Fraasch asked if this request came from a resident. Mr. Byrne advised it was a business owner/resident.

No one was presented to speak on this item. No further action was taken.

- d. Request for No Parking on Dell Avenue Near N. Meadowcroft Avenue

Mr. Magalotti stated that Trans Associates performed a field review of this intersection and found that the curbs are currently painted yellow which prohibits on-street parking at these locations, due to the current curb markings no further restrictions were recommend. No further action was taken.

New Items

Agenda Item 5 - Request to Discuss Increased Traffic on Sundridge Drive

No one present to speak on this item. No further action taken.

Agenda Item 6 – Request for Slow Down signs on Cochran Road

Ms.Erika Show, 1596 Williamsburg Drive stated her driveway is on Cochran Road and it is very difficult to pull into and out of her driveway and vehicles do not slow down when attempting to pull into the driveway. She requested a Slow Down sign be installed in this area. Mr. Byrne stated that studies have shown that signage does not help in these types of situations and tend to cause sign clutter. The board requested that Police install the speed sentry in this area. Lt. White stated it would be placed on the Williamsburg side of Cochran Road due to the other side of Cochran Road being Scott Twp. This item will be placed on the October agenda as a follow up item. No further action was taken.

Agenda Item 7 - Request to Replace No Turn on Red Sign on Cochran at Washington Road

Mr. Olm, 152 Ordale Blvd. stated that there used to be two No Turn on Red signs at the light on Cocran Road at Washington Road and now there is only one. He said that it is placed in a way that is difficult to see. He asked that the second one be replaced. Mr. Magalotti stated that the sign will be replaced upon completion of the Washington Road construction which includes the installation of new traffic signals. No further action was taken.

Agenda Item 8 – Request to Change No Turn on Red on N. Meadowcroft at Beverly Road to During School Hours Only

Mr. Olm, 152 Ordale Blvd. also requested that the No Turn on Red signs on N. Meadowcroft at Beverly Road be changed to During School Hours Only. Ms. Brown stated that all the traffic signals on Beverly Road are being replaced and it was her understanding that all of the signs would be posted No Turn on Red 7:00am – 7:00pm Monday-Friday. No further action was taken.

Agenda Item 9 – Request to Have Flashing School Zone Turned Off on Holidays and School Delays

Mr. Olm, 152 Ordale Blvd. suggested that the flashing School Zones signs should be programed to adjust to school delays and holidays. He was especially concerned that the signals aren't adjusted during delays because when children are walking to school they are turned off. He stated that he understood that this was expensive to fix but thinks it is worth it for the safety of the children. Board members agreed. No further action was taken.

Agenda Item 10 – Parkview Drive at Bower Hill Road – Left Turn Options

Xia Zhong Ai, 838 Ella Street spoke against the turn restrictions. He was concerned about using Salem and going up the hill on Ella to his residence especially in the winter.

Ms. Noreen Haggerty, 831 Ella Street spoke against the restrictions. She stated there is not enough accident data and the restrictions would be a huge inconvenience for residents.

Ms. Janice Fawcett, 812 Chalmers spoke against the restrictions. She was concerned about the increase of traffic on Chalmers.

Mr. James Simmon, 5 Terraceview Drive spoke against the turn restrictions. He stated that there are no sidewalks and the increase in traffic will make it hazardous for walkers. He suggested installing a timed light for left turns.

Mr. McClure, 530 Parkview Drive spoke against the restrictions and thought the recommendation should be thrown out.

Commissioner Fraasch asked Mr. Magalotti if there were any comparison on any other streets that were studied. Mr. Magalotti said there were not.

Mr. Byrne asked the residents in attendance if anyone was there to speak in favor of the restrictions. He then asked who was in attendance to speak on this matter and how many were there to speak against. All in attendance, approximately 15-20 residents, raised their hands against the restrictions.

Board members agreed that no recommendations for turn restrictions would be made. The residents asked if the board would take a vote to make it official. A motion was made to not recommend the installation of the left turn restrictions on Bower Hill Road onto Parkview Drive. Motion passed with 4 yes votes, 1 no from Mr. Byrne, and 1 undecided from Ms. Brown.

Agenda Item 11 – Update on PennDOT Projects on Beverly Road and Washington Road

a. Leveraging PennDOT Projects to Reduce Traffic on Local Streets

Commissioner Bendel had asked that a PennDot representative attend to address the Beverly Road and Washington Road projects, but no one from Penn Dot was available. Commissioner Bendel stated that hopes are that more traffic will use main arteries instead of side streets once the traffic light synchronization program is complete. Mr. Magolotti stated that the projects are on schedule and should be complete by the end of the year. Commissioner Fraasch stated that she would like to make education of the motoring public a priority and suggested that the board discuss using some of the traffic calming funds for education media for pedestrian and vehicle safety. She presented samples she has collected from different cities. Ms. Kerry Descalzi also spoke in support of Commissioner Fraasch's suggestion..

Agenda Item 12 – Request for Removal of Parking Spaces on Academy Avenue

Mr. Byrne stated that at the June meeting board members voted to recommend approval of the removal of parking spaces on Academy Avenue near the apartment building at 60 Academy Avenue due to sight distance restrictions. He invited residence in attendance to speak on this item.

Ms. Rosemary McKenna, 50 Academy Avenue spoke against the removal of 8 to 10 parking spaces. She suggested 1 or 2 spaces would be sufficient. Removing parking spaces would take away parking for visitors of apartment building tenants. She also spoke against making Academy one way.

Mr. Marty Taube, 110 Academy Avenue spoke against any changes and requested things be left as is.

Ms. Kim Fox presented a petition with the signatures of 72 residents stating they were against making Academy a one way. She requested the minimum amount of change be done to alleviate the sight distance issue.

Mr. Kevin Delacour, 113 Shady Drive West spoke against any changes on Academy Avenue. He stated making Academy a one way would increase traffic on Shady Dr. West.

Commissioner Fraasch stated that Trans Associates made the recommendation because they deemed the sight distances as unsafe. She stated that the Commissioners were advised that if it was deemed unsafe by the engineers than it had to be addressed due to liability issues. The Commissioners then tabled the issue because Trans Associates had offered the option of making it a one way and keeping the parking and they wanted to take it back to the Traffic Board to look at the other possible options.

A resident spoke against the elimination of parking and requested the board rescind their recommendation and possibly recommend something else.

Mr. Byrne asked if there was anyone in attendance that was in favor of making Academy a one way or in favor of eliminating the parking. He also explained that the board did not vote to recommend making Academy a one way, only the elimination of parking spaces.

Ms. Brown stated that a request came from residents of Academy Avenue by way of petition for Traffic Calming not from Commissioner Fraasch. A study was conducted but Academy did not qualify for Traffic

Calming measures but Trans Associates did find that the sight distance at the driveway at 60 Academy was insufficient and the board then voted to make the recommendation for removal of parking and none of the residents in attendance at that time disagreed. Ms. Brown did not recall making Academy Avenue a one way being an option.

Mr. Tom Dempsey, 130 Academy Avenue presented a printed copy of an email that was placed on residents doors from Commissioner Fraasch. He presented a time line of the Academy Avenue request to include a meeting that Commissioner Fraasch had with Cindy Jampole after the Commission tabled this item. He stated that there is nothing in any of the records showing that a one way was ever recommended except a suggestion made at the meeting Commissioner Fraasch had with Ms. Jampole, that residents were not invited to.

Mr. John Williams stated he has lived on Academy Avenue for 21 years and he is opposed to any changes. He stated that Academy meets the standard for width and he does not feel that the recommendations are requirements.

Ms. Sandra VanDyke stated that she sent Commissioner Fraasch an email asking if there could be a third option of doing nothing, and she got a response that the recommended options came from a meeting with herself and Cindy Jampole of Trans Associates and doing nothing was not an option given.

Mr. David Messinda 121 Academy spoke against any changes and said if any changes were made, make Academy a private road.

Ms. Sarah Messinda, 121 Academy spoke against any changes.

Commissioner Fraasch stated that the board would have to make a motion to rescind their previous recommendation for liability reasons.

A motion was made to rescind the previous recommendation to remove parking spaces on Academy Avenue and request that Trans Associates present additional options at the October meeting. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bendel also asked about the possibility of installing a No Left Turn sign at the exit of the Academy Lot. Board members asked that Trans Associates look into the possibility of making the turn restrictions from the parking lot.

Agenda Item 13 – Newburn Road Updates

Mr. Byrne stated that traffic counting devices will be in place the week of September 9, to collect speed and volume data Morrison Drive. He stated that this is being done in order to establish a baseline of traffic on Morrison so that when traffic calming devices are installed on Newburn these numbers can be compared to see how many cars divert around Newburn to use Morrison. The board will hold a meeting on September 18 to possibly make a recommendation to the Commission for temporary speed humps on Newburn drive. No further action on this item.

Agenda Item 14 – Request to Add No Stopping or Standing to No Parking Signs Along Southminster Presbyterian Church Property

Pastor Dan Merry from Southminster Presbyterian Church requested that No Stopping or Standing signs be added to the existing No Parking signs on the roadway between the library and the church parking lot. He stated that at the end of the school day parents sit and wait for kids to get out of school causing a dangerous situation. A motion was made to add the No Stopping or Standing signage to the existing signs. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Board members also suggested that Pastor Berry speak with the juvenile protection officer about sending an email out to parents regarding this request. No further action.

Agenda Item 15 – Items from the Floor

Commissioner Fraasch stated that Commission would be addressing the mid-block crosswalk on Washington Road in front of Washington School at the September 10 meeting. She stated that funds were approved for improvements to the crosswalk, including new signage.

Ms. Fraasch stated that she has been in communications with Representative Dan Miller regarding RADAR/LIDAR and wanted the board to know that the use of RADAR by municipal police may soon be approved.

Ms. Fraasch requested that there be better communication between the board and Commissioners. She asked that if an item is voted on that the Commissioner of that ward be notified. She said she understands that the traffic board is now dealing with much more complex issues than in the past and she feels better lines of communication would help in handling issues.

Mr. Ed Meyers, 909 Summer Place requested that the the all-red period for the entire intersection of Bower Hill at Greenhurst be extended. He believes that this would be a very inexpensive way to ensure that all vehicles would be out of the intersection before another direction receives a green light. Mr. Magalotti advised that this intersection is scheduled for all new traffic signals and signal locations next year.

Ms. Kerry Descalzi and Ms. Jennifer Brandenstein requested to speak regarding the installation of stop signs on N. Meadowcroft at Kenforest and Shadowlaw. The board advised them that the topic had already come up for discussion and the board was unanimous in not taking action. Mr. Byrne advised that there was someone who spoke against the installation of stop signs and anyone who was in attendance had already left. He advised that if this item could be place on October agenda they wished to have the board readdress this item. Ms. Descalzi and Ms. Brandenstein stated they were late and missed the item when it came up and they were very disappointed that the board would not bring the item back up for discussion. Mr. Byrne asked if any board members would be willing to readdress this item. Only one board member, Ms. West stating she would be willing to readdress this item, all other board members agreed to place it on the October agenda. No further action was taken.

There were no additional items. Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2013

cc: All attendees
S. Feller
T. Kelley
R. Sukal