

# MT. LEBANON TRAFFIC BOARD

Meeting Date: October 2, 2013

Members Present: Ms. Brown, Mr. Gerhardt, Mr. Adams, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Fitzgerald

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

---

Mr. Byrne opened the meeting. Roll call was taken, Ms. Brown and Mr. Cooley were absent. Also present were Commissioners Kluck, Linfante and Fraasch.

## Agenda Item 1 – Administrative Discussion

Agenda Item 2 - Minutes of September 4, 2013 Traffic Board Meeting and September 18, 2013 Special Neighborhood Traffic Calming – Newburn Drive Meeting

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 4, and September 18, 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 Slow Down signs on Cochran Road

Mr. Magalotti stated that they conducted automatic traffic recorder counts for the southbound Cochran Road in the vicinity of Robinwood Drive on September 18-19, 2013. Based on the data collected the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was 38mph and the speed limit is posted 35mph he did not recommend any additional signage. No further action was taken on this matter.

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

Ms. Jennifer Brandenstein, N. Meadowcroft Avenue requested that the board install the stop signs on N. Meadowcroft at Kenforest. Mr. Byrne stated that after the vote in September to take no action on this matter, Ms. Brown pointed out that the report from Trans Associates showed that the sight distance was not just deficient, it was zero. A motion was made to recommend approval of the installation of stop signs on N. Meadowcroft Avenue at Kenforest making it a 3 way stop. Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

- c. Bower Hill Road and Parkview Drive SPC SINC-UP Project Proposed Turn Restrictions

Mr. Magalotti stated that the board voted to make no changes at this intersection at the September meeting. Commissioners requested that the board reconsider the installation of No Turn on Red signs on all approaches. Board members stated that the residents that were in attendance made it clear that they were not in favor of any changes at this intersection. A motion was made keep the recommendation made in September as is and monitor accidents for the next year. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- d. Report from Trans Associates on Options Regarding Eliminating Parking Spaces on Academy Avenue and Installation of No Left Turn Sign exiting Academy Lot

Mr. Magalotti presented his report detailing six options for sight distance improvements on Academy Avenue. The options were removing metered and on street parking spaces in front of 60 Academy Avenue: making Academy Avenue one-way, eastbound from Washington Road to Mapleton: making Academy Avenue one way west bound from Rollier's driveway to Mapleton: relocating parking to the southern side of Academy with two-way traffic flow; and remove all on street parking on Academy between Mapleton and Rollier's driveway.

Mr. Mike Haberman from Gateway engineers also presented his findings. He stated he agrees with all the recommendations from Trans Associates but he also feels that reducing the speed limit to 15mph is a viable solution and is enforceable due to the unique situation on Academy with the vertical curve near 60 Academy Avenue and the horizontal curve near the top of the road. He also stated that thermo-plastic markings would help with the speed.

Mr. Dave George, 65 Academy Avenue stated that he was skeptical about the data, he has never seen any really bad crashes on Academy. He stated neighbors have been attending meetings for months and asked the board to please make a recommendation. He requested that no changes be made or at least remove a couple parking spaces.

Mr. Marty Taube, 110 Academy Avenue stated that he lives right in the area of 60 Academy and he feels that removing any parking spaces would be detrimental to the residents. He also said that every house has the same issue when exiting their driveways and he does not feel that removing parking spaces will help.

Commissioner Matt Kluck, 174 Parkridge Drive asked if any spaces would be removed at the top of Academy near Washington. Mr. Magalotti stated there would not.

Mr. John Williams, 120 Academy Avenue stated he has lived on Academy for 21 years and has not seen any serious accidents. He asked if the Trans Associates reports would be made available to the public. Commissioner Fraasch stated that the reports are sent to Municipal Manager Feller just prior to the Traffic Board meetings. Commissioners do not get the reports until after the meeting.

Mr. Scott Zasadil, 126 Academy Avenue spoke against making Academy and one way. He felt it would be more dangerous with traffic making left turns from Washington Road if traffic went westbound and in the winter if the traffic was eastbound it would be difficult to get up the hill.

Mr. Kevin Delacour, 113 Shady Drive West spoke against making Academy one way. He feels it would push traffic onto Shady Drive West. He asked the board to make a recommendation that would have the least impact on the residents.

Mr. Dave Messenda, 121 Academy Avenue stated he has lived on Academy for 5 years. He is frustrated with coming to meetings and asked the board to make a decision. He said he has sent a formal request to Mr. Feller for information on the meeting that was held with Commissioner Fraasch and the residents of 60 Academy Avenue, because no other residents received notification of the meeting and Trans Associates has no documentation of the meeting. Mr. Messenda suggested that if the vertical curve is the problem, have engineers look at removing the curve. Mr. Magalotti stated that would not be possible because of the impact on the houses.

Mr. Tom Dempsey questioned Mr. Magalotti on the date that his report was submitted to Mr. Feller and asked if it was a draft or final report and if he was asked to make any revisions. Mr. Magalotti stated that it was submitted on September 24 and he was not asked to make any revisions. Mr. Dempsey asked what prevented Mr. Magalotti from making the report available to the public. Mr. Magalotti stated the report is addressed to Mr. Feller and it is up to the Municipality. Mr. Dempsey asked if a study was done regarding the impact on other streets and also Academy if they went with the option of making Academy one way. Mr. Magalotti stated there was not. Mr. Dempsey stated that he has been trying to get a copy of the Trans Associates report and was told it was not available to the public until the Commissioners see it. He stated that the board now has two professional recommendations from Trans Associates and Gateway Engineers and requested that the board consider the safety of the residents and also the impact of the resale of homes, and address the issue and send it to the Commission to vote on at their next meeting.

Ms. Sarah Missenda, 121 Academy Avenue thanked Mr. Magalotti and the board for the reports and stated that they helped to understand the recommendations. She requested that the board please consider the impact that their recommendations will have on the residents and the neighboring areas.

Ms. Elizabeth Tighe, 132 Academy Avenue spoke against making Academy one way and requested the board choose the least restrictive option and to considered the impact on the property values.

Ms. Janet Jordan, 60 Academy Avenue requested the least restrictive option. She stated that since they remove the 2 parking spaces on either side of the driveway it has made an improvement but she requested that the curb be painted yellow. She requested that they leave it as is with the two spots that have been removed and monitor the situation. Mr. Magalotti stated that the removal of two spots would not improve the sight lines.

A motion was made by the board to recommend approval of the removal of 1 metered and 5 unmetered parking spaces in front of 60 Academy Avenue. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### New Items

#### Agenda Item 5 - Request to Remove On Parking Space on Hilf Street Across from Driveway at 201 Pennsylvania Blvd.

Ms. Nancy Elbaum, 201 Pennsylvania Blvd. stated that she lives on the corner of Pennsylvania Blvd. and Hilf Street. Her driveway exits onto Hilf Street and the parking metered spaces across from her driveway make it difficult to exit her driveway especially in winter when snow is piled up. She requested on parking space be eliminated. Board members questioned whether they were to make recommendations regarding private driveways. Mr. Fitzgerald requested that this item be tabled in order for board members to go out and get a better look at the situation. Mr. Byrne agreed and also stated he would like more guidance from Commission on dealing with requests involving private driveways and sight distances. No further action was taken.

#### Agenda Item 6 – Request for Speed Study on Hoodridge Drive

Ms. Margaret Hamilton , 259 Hoodridge spoke regarding the speed, visibility and safety issues on Hoodridge near the intersection with Rockwood. She stated there have been numerous accidents near the intersection and feels they are due to speeding vehicles. They recently had a neighborhood meeting regarding their concerns and would like to see some safety measures taken to improve this section of Hoodridge.

Ms. Christine Weaver, 295 Hoodridge stated that her house is at the intersection with Rockwood and a vehicle recently crashed into her house. She stated that vehicles come up Rockwood Drive at a high rate of speed and are not aware that they have to stop and make a turn. She requested speed humps or stop signs on Hoodridge at the intersection with Rockwood.

Mr. Patrick Boyle, 318 Hoodridge stated that Hoodridge is used as a cut through for the Park & Rides and people are speed up Hoodridge to get to routes 88 and 19. He feels this is what causes the speeding and volume issues. He requested speed humps or at least stop signs at the intersection with Rockwood.

Ms. Margaret Bond, 301 Hoodridge stated that vehicles speed coming up the hill and visibility is bad at the intersection with Rockwood. She feels stop signs on Hoodridge would help.

Ms. Kristen Linfante, Commissioner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward stated she is concerned about the speed and accident history in this area. She is also concerned that there are two schools in the area. She requested any advise or studies to be done to help this situation.

Mr. Magalotti stated that he looked at the area and speed study was done. The 85% speed was 26MPH, not showing significant speeding. He suggested that neighbors get a petition and get on the list for Traffic Calming.

Board members requested that Mr. Magalotti look at the intersection for sight distance issues and the possibility of the installation of stop signs. Mr. Magalotti will report his finds at the November meeting.

#### Agenda Item 7 - Request for On Coming Traffic does not Stop on Ruth Street at Linda Lane and No Outlet sign on Foxland Drive at Linda Lane

Ms. Nicole Frye, 806 Linda Lane said that drivers are not aware that Linda Lane and Foxland Drive are dead ends and frequently drivers think it is a cut through to St. Clair Hospital. She requested that a No Outlet sign be installed on Linda Lane. She also requested that a stop sign be installed on Linda Lane at Ruth Street making it a three-way stop. A motion was made to install a No Outlet sign on Linda Lane, motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The board requested that Mr. Magalotti look at the intersection of Ruth Street and Linda Lane to determine if a three way stop is warranted.

#### Agenda Item 8 - Neighborhood Traffic Management – Newburn Road Updates

Mr. Magalotti stated that one of the speed humps was installed on Newburn and the second would be installed in the next couple of days. He stated that Morrison Drive is currently closed due to utility line work being done so no data will be collected until the work is complete and Morrison is re-opened.

#### Agenda Item 9 – Board Discussion on Vehicle and Pedestrian Safety Campaign

Commissioner Fraasch spoke about a variety of options and campaigns used nationwide for pedestrian, bicycle and driving safety. She requested that the board recommend to Commission the use of Traffic Calming funds for this campaign.

Ms. Elizabeth Scanlon, 723 N. Meadowcroft spoke in support of this type of campaign and said she works in marketing for Max and Erma's Restaurant and would be willing to work with the municipality at civic events.

A motion was made to recommend approval of the use of Traffic Calming funds for a Pedestrian, Bicycle and Driving Safety campaign. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### Agenda Item 10 – Items from the Floor

Ms. Elizabeth Scanlon spoke regarding a resident on Martin Avenue who does not have off street parking available. The resident is handicapped and is unable to walk from her permit parking to her house. Ms. Scanlon stated she is working with the resident to get a permit for overnight parking in front of her residence. She asked the board members please work with residents that come to them with this type of request.

Ms. M. J. Edwards, 229 Thornberry Circle requested traffic calming in the Woodridge plan. Board members advised to Ms. Edwards to get a petition together from neighbors and present it at the November meeting.

There were no additional items. Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2013

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