

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION
June 25, 2019

The Vienna Transportation Safety Commission (TSC) met in regular session on June 25, 2019 in the Vienna Town Hall Council Chamber, 127 Center Street S, Vienna, Virginia. Acting Chairman Beth Eachus opened the meeting at 8:00 pm with the following Commissioners present: Leonard Ignatowski, Julie Hays, Loginn Kapitan, Donna Smith, Charlie Strunk and SallyJean Penna. Chairman Ed Somers and Commissioners Keith Aimone and Angela Sorrell were absent. Also present were Jennifer Sigler, TSC Clerk, Christine Horner and Andrew Jinks, Department of Public Works (DPW) and Sergeant Pete Elias, Vienna Police Department (VPD).

Approval of the May 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Strunk made a motion to approve the May 28, 2019 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Hays seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, 7 – 0.

Department of Public Works (DPW) Report

Tapawingo Road SW and Kingsley Road SW - DPW has started coordinating with our on-call engineering consultant to begin the design phase of the proposed curb extensions.

Receipt of Petitions and Communications from the Public

These are non-action items for initial presentation only; three-minute time limit enforced
NONE

John Marshall Drive NW DPW Recommendations for Traffic Calming - At the May 28, 2019 TSC meeting this commission heard the results of the traffic study along John Marshall Drive NW. TSC requested that DPW coordinate with the petitioner and complete a secondary study. This additional study was completed in June 2019. Please note that this location is not an emergency route.

Road Segments:	Local Road from Lawyers Road NW to Center Street N
	Not an Emergency Route
	609 Vehicles per Day
	5% traveling 5 mph or above speed limit (TCG = 15%)
	85th Percentile is 27 MPH (TCG = 31 MPH)

The road does not meet the Traffic Calming Guide qualifications for traffic calming. DPW is not recommending any improvements at this time.

Frank Farrugia, 612 John Marshall Drive NW, asked if the two studies performed on his street were analyzed separately or combined.

Ms. Horner explained they were analyzed independently. Additionally, she sent the study results to All Traffic Solutions (ATS), the company from whom the Town purchased the speed study devices, and had them confirm the results.

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Mr. Farrugia noted the study showed 30 or so cars per day were travelling 30 MPH or higher. At least one vehicle was clocked travelling 39 MPH. He believes the higher speeds occur during the time school is letting out and children are outside. He asks the TSC to consider these special circumstances despite the Traffic Calming Guide thresholds not being met. He asked if the speed hump had been measured and whether it meets the standard.

Ms. Horner said the speed table is 22' long and 3.5" high. It is in line with the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) guidelines for speed table length and height.

Mr. Farrugia asks if the pitch of the hump was checked. His concern is that the slope of the hump matches the slope of the road and therefore is less effective.

Cathy Hardman, 524 Lewis Street NW, had presented a petition for sidewalk in the area of John Marshall Drive NW several years ago. One of the concerns at that time was the high school students using John Marshall Drive as a cut-through to get to and from school. Another concern was children walking to Louise Archer Elementary and trying to cross the street.

Mr. Farrugia said many of his neighbors remember there used to be two speed humps or tables on John Marshall Drive NE, but after repaving one was not put back.

Commissioner Smith asked if two speed humps would be more effective.

Ms. Horner explained that since the road does not meet the TCG thresholds for traffic calming, the existing speed hump is effective and there is no need to explore a second speed hump option.

Commissioner Hays asked if there is sidewalk on one side or both sides of the street.

Ms. Horner replied there is sidewalk on one side.

Commissioner Hays said sidewalk on both sides would be safer. She wondered if the residents would be open to that.

Commissioner Ignatowski asked about a basketball hoop that is in the street in the study area. He believes it is an obstruction.

Mr. Farrugia said the basketball hoop does not get used and the residents do want sidewalk added to the other side of the street.

Commissioner Strunk noted the high school student drivers do seem to be a part of the cause of traffic and speeding on these roads.

Commissioner Penna asked if the speed limit could be made lower than 25 MPH.

Sergeant Elias said 25 MPH is a state law.

Commissioner Hays asked that the TSC consider allowing petitions that do not meet the TCG thresholds currently to be reconsidered after the new Street Safety Guide is approved and in place. The guidelines are different in the new version and may change the outcome.

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John Runyan, 315 Courthouse Road SW, suggested the presence of police with radar might have a positive effect on the speeders through this area, especially high-school age drivers.

Mr. Farrugia clarified the speeders are not just high-school age drivers, but commuters as well. He agrees that additional enforcement would be a plus. He is in favor of adding a grandfather clause to the new traffic calming guide to allow review of previously submitted petitions that resulted in no action.

Street Safety Guide Revisions and Public Comments

Bert Hackney, 300 East Street NE, sent in email comments prior to the meeting. He suggested that everyone who uses a street be included in the petition process.

Commissioner Penna pointed out a map that is referenced in one part of the guide is missing from the appendix.

Public comments will be taken until July 9, 2019. The most current draft revision will be heard at the Town Council work session September 9, 2019.

BAC Report

BAC Vice Chairman Strunk reported the Church Street bike corral has been relocated to its new home in front of Rita's Italian Ice. They would like to revisit the proposed bike route phases 2 – 5 that were dropped several years ago. The most recent community bike ride was successful – the next ones will be August 2 and September 22. The BAC has concerns about the restoration of a bridge next to the Freeman House that fell down years ago. The plan for the new bridge has it connecting to the W&OD Trail mid-block, which could result in accidents on the trail.

Cathy Hardman, 524 Lewis Street NW, is on the board for Historic Vienna and is a member of the Ayr Hill Garden Club. She is familiar with the bridge construction and explained it is not only for beautification but also to restore the bridge to the way it was originally. Additionally, it will provide handicap access from the trail to the Freeman Store grounds and the Town Green. She feels the trail from the caboose to the Whole Foods store should be a "walk your bike" area for safety reasons.

Commissioner Ignatowski agrees there should be dismount zones along the trail in Vienna and along the sidewalks on Church Street from Lawyers Road NW to Mill Street NE.

PAC Report

PAC Chairman Hays reported they discussed the Street Safety Guide revisions and public comments. They are reviewing their guidelines and will provide suggestions to the Town Attorney for updates. The PAC members plan to attend other Town meetings and report back to the committee.

Reports of Commissioners

Commissioner Ignatowski hopes the plan to widen Route 7 from Tyson's to Reston will alleviate some of the traffic on Lawyers Road.

Commissioner Kapitan introduced himself and is glad to be a part of the TSC.

Commissioner Hays asked if red light cameras are used in Vienna.

Sergeant Elias said the Town used to have several red light cameras, however they proved not to be cost effective. At this time, Vienna does not meet the Virginia state guidelines for red light cameras.

Commissioner Hays mentioned an email was received about the bike share program and the motorized scooter pilot program. The author of the email was opposed to the idea of these programs due to safety concerns.

Commissioner Penna introduced herself.

Commissioner Strunk would like to see sharrows added to Creek Crossing Road NE from the Town line to East Street to tie in with the bike lanes just outside the Town on Creek Crossing Road.

Commissioner Smith introduced herself. She asked if there was an increase in the number of red light runners in recent years.

Sergeant Elias said as vehicular, pedestrian and bicyclist volumes rise, so does the number of violations.

Report of the Chairman

Acting Chairman Eachus asked why the RRFBs on Marshall Road SW are not working. She also asked about a standing water issue on the W&OD trail as you head towards Reston.

Ms. Horner replied DPW is waiting for Dominion Virginia Power to supply electricity to the RRFBs. The water issue is caused by a clogged drainage pipe on NOVA Parks property, but there is no easement for it. She is working with Carl at NOVA Parks to resolve the issue.

Adjourn – 9:20 pm