

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION

April 30, 2019

The Vienna Transportation Safety Commission (TSC) met in regular session on April 30, 2019 in the Vienna Town Hall Council Chamber, 127 Center Street S, Vienna, Virginia. Chairman Ed Somers opened the meeting at 8:04 pm with the following Commissioners present: Leonard Ignatowski, Keith Aimone, Angela Sorrell, Julie Hays, Beth Eachus and Tamara Redmon. Vice Chairman Becky Allison and Commissioner Charlie Strunk were absent. Also present were Jennifer Sigler, TSC Clerk, Christine Horner, Department of Public Works (DPW) and Sergeant Pete Elias, Vienna Police Department (VPD).

Approval of the March 26, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Eachus made a motion to approve the March 26, 2019 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Redmon 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

Dave Minyard, 635 Tazewell Road NW, suggested the police ticket any driver exceeding the speed limit by one mile an hour or more to encourage drivers to obey the speed limit.

John Runyan, 315 Courthouse Road SW, reported it is difficult to turn left from Courthouse Circle SW onto Courthouse Road. When asked if he would be preparing a petition, his reply was no.

DPW Recommendations: Traffic Calming on Casmar Street SE

At their March 26, 2019 TSC meeting this commission heard the results of the requested traffic study on Casmar Street SE from Park Street to DeSale Street. The road did not meet the Traffic Calming Guide qualifications for traffic calming. After further discussion with the petitioners, TSC requested that DPW complete additional analysis on the intersections of Park St at Casmar Street SE and Desale Street at Casmar Street SE. Based on this additional analysis, DPW is recommending the addition of high-visibility crosswalks at the following intersections:

- Crossing Casmar Street SE at Park Street
- Crossing Fardale Street SE at Park Street

DPW is not recommending crosswalk markings at the intersection of DeSale Street and Casmar Street SE.

Chairman Somers asked Ms. Horner to explain why recommended crosswalks at only two of the three intersections.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION

April 30, 2019

Ms. Horner explained there is a VDOT recommendation to mark crosswalks that are immediately between two pedestrian generators, Cedar Park Shopping Center and the medium density apartment complex on one side and Cunningham Park Elementary School on the other side. The DeSale Street and Casmar Street SE intersection is in a low-volume residential area and it is not between pedestrian generators.

Commissioner Ignatowaski complemented Ms. Horner because she included the Fardale/Park intersection in her plan to add crosswalk markings.

Commissioner Sorrell agrees this is good news for the schoolchildren and other pedestrians.

Dale Ringer, 124 Casmar Street SE, says the problem is not pedestrians, it is the drivers coming up and down Park Street and DeSale Street SE.

Jim Wasilewski, 125 Casmar Street SE, added the vehicles parked on Park Street and on the corners with Casmar Street SE and Patrick Street SE. He would like to see additional enforcement of the parking laws at the corners.

Sergeant Elias said the police are also eager to address the parked work trucks and illegally parked vehicles in that area. Unfortunately, Park Street is outside town from Fardale Street to Cedar Lane and therefore is in Fairfax County's jurisdiction. However, if a vehicle is parked at the corner, Vienna Police can ticket those vehicles as they are just over the Town line.

Chris Poch, 121 Casmar Street SE, has been calling Fairfax County regarding the parking on Park Street and the County replies that Park Street is in the Town of Vienna. He feels communication between Vienna Police and Fairfax County Police would help clear up the problem.

Alyssa Alter Morschauser, 101 Casmar Street SE, lives at the corner of Casmar Street SE at DeSale Street. She suggested a bollards be added to the crosswalks to make them even more visible and to help vehicles drive in their lane instead of cutting the corners short.

Ms. Horner said the traffic study did not warrant traffic calming. The crosswalks are not for traffic calming, they are for pedestrian safety.

Amjad Ashkar, 130 Casmar Street SE, is in support of the crosswalks. He is concerned about the work vehicles that park overnight on Casmar Street SE.

Alex Covell, 111 Casmar Street SE, agrees with DPW's recommendation regarding the crosswalks.

Dave Minyard, 635 Tazewell Road NW, reiterated his support of the Police Department.

Commissioner Eachus made a motion to accept DPW's recommendation to add high visibility crosswalks at the intersections of Casmar Street and Park Street SE and Fardale Street and Park Street.

Commissioner Hays seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.

Ms. Horner said she would check to see if DPW's striping contractor could add these two crosswalks to their 2019 schedule for street marking. They are currently in Town this week and may be able to stripe the crosswalks soon as part of their contract.

New Petition – John Marshall Drive NW Traffic Calming

Dave Minyard, 635 Tazewell Road NW, lives near the petition area and agrees there is speeding in the area. He believes traffic calming is necessary on John Marshall Drive NW and elsewhere in Town.

Leah Kritzer (lead petitioner), 612 John Marshall Drive NW, has lived on John Marshall Drive NW since 2013. Speeding vehicles on John Marshall Drive is an ongoing problem. There is sidewalk on one side of the street only. She would like to see additional speed humps or other traffic calming to slow down the speeding cut-through traffic and delivery trucks.

Ben Edwards, 608 John Marshall Drive NW, believes the existing speed hump is too low and it is on a hill. People cross over the speed hump and accelerate on the hill and just keep accelerating. There is a lot of cut-through traffic between Lawyers Road and Malcolm Road NW. He would like to see the existing speed hump improved or relocated and an additional speed hump or possibly chicanes.

Kevin Brandt, 605 John Marshall Drive NW, is new to the area. He agrees the existing speed hump is ineffective. He would also like to see additional traffic calming.

Commissioner Aimone lives in this neighborhood. He requests the height of the existing speed hump be checked because it seems pretty low. There is a school bus stop at the corner, so there are a lot of children in the area. It is posted as a "no trucks" zone. He will be very interested to see the traffic study data.

Chairman Somers asked Ms. Horner if there was any reason the results of a traffic study would not be heard at the next TSC meeting on May 28th.

Ms. Horner said if the existing speed hump is not the appropriate height, it should be repaired before performing the speed study.

Mr. Edwards suggested the speed hump is not just ineffective, it is also in the wrong location. Ms. Horner said DPW would return at the May 28th meeting with the results of the speed study and speed hump investigation.

Street Safety Guide Draft Presentation

PAC Chairman Hays stated the PAC's 2nd draft of the "Guide to Improving Street Safety" would be presented at the June 25th TSC meeting for review and public input. It will go before Council at their work session on September 9th. She requested the TSC commissioners email her with any suggested edits prior to the June TSC meeting.

BAC Report

BAC Chairman Eachus announced the bike rodeo will be held on May 4th, May 6 – 10 is Bike-Walk Challenge week at the elementary schools, May 8th is National Bike to School Day, on May 13th the Mayor will read a proclamation declaring May "Bike Month," May 17th is National Bike to Work Day and the first annual Town of Vienna Community Bike Ride which leaves from the Community Center at 9:30am. She said the Multimodal Transportation Study would be on the June 10th Council work session agenda. The PAC would like the Town to work with Fairfax County to ensure newly added bike lanes in the county do not end abruptly when they reach the Town line. The Church Street bike corral new potential locations will be discussed at the May 13th Council meeting – there is potential for space in the Bazin's parking garage.

PAC Report

PAC Chairman Hays advised in addition to the Street Safety Guide, they had discussed ideas for being proactive about crosswalk striping. Additionally, it was suggested that a PAC member should attend the MAC (Maple Avenue Commercial) meetings that are being held so the PAC, BAC and TSC will be up to date.

Reports of Commissioners

NONE

Report of the Chairman

NONE

Adjourn – 9:50 pm