

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION

July 30, 2019

The Vienna Transportation Safety Commission (TSC) met in regular session on July 30, 2019 in the Vienna Town Hall Council Chamber, 127 Center Street S, Vienna, Virginia. Chairman Ed Somers opened the meeting at 8:00 pm with the following Commissioners present: Leonard Ignatowski, Keith Aimone, Loginn Kapitan, Donna Smith, Charlie Strunk and SallyJean Penna. Commissioners Beth Eachus and Angela Sorrell were absent. Also present were Jennifer Sigler, TSC Clerk, Andrew Jinks, Department of Public Works (DPW) and Sergeant Pete Elias, Vienna Police Department (VPD).

Approval of the May 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Kapitan made a motion to approve the June 25, 2019 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Strunk seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, 7 – 0.

Department of Public Works (DPW) Report

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

Chairman Somers asked if “curb extensions” and “chokers” were the same traffic calming device, and if so, he would like one term to be consistently used to describe them to avoid confusion.

Mr. Jinks replied they are the same and he will be more consistent with terminology in the future.

Park Street NE Sidewalk - DPW is continuing to coordination with an on-call engineering consultant on the design phase of the project. The first public meeting will be this fall.

Shared Mobility Devices (E-Scooters) - DPW has begun developing the documentation required for a pilot program and has begun coordinating with an on-call engineering consultant to assist in developing, implementing, and analyzing the pilot program.

BAC Vice Chairman Strunk and PAC Vice Chairman Smith both asked to have their committees updated on the shared mobility devices pilot program.

Receipt of Petitions and Communications from the Public

These are non-action items for initial presentation only; three-minute time limit enforced

NONE

BAC Report

BAC Vice Chairman Strunk said the BAC discussed the bike corral on Church Street NW in front of Rita’s Italian Ice and is being used heavily, especially on weekends. He asked Mr. Jinks to adjust the time the corral is in storage during the winter months to be out as long as possible, such as only storing it from December – March. They have concerns about the reconstruction of the Freeman House bridge and how long the detour will last. In September, the BAC work

session will focus on bike routes and the BAC Guidelines. He asked Mr. Jinks to provide the date of the next Maple Avenue Multimodal meeting to be held in last August or early September and any information on upcoming meetings regarding the Bikeshare Feasibility Study.

Chairman Somers asked Sergeant Elias if it is OK to leave an adult-size tricycle on the sidewalk (out of the way, of course) since it doesn't fit in a traditional bike rack.

Sergeant Elias said as long as the tricycle is out of the way, it is fine. It is a problem only if it is obstructing the sidewalk.

PAC Report

PAC Vice Chairman Smith shared the PAC worked on incorporating public comments into the draft Street Safety Guide. PAC Chairman Sorrell and Committee Member Hays met with DPW Transportation Engineer, Mr. Jinks, to discuss the processes DPW and the TSC will take when receiving petitions from the public. PAC Chairman Sorrell and Committee Member Hays will meet with the Town Attorney August 15 to discuss the PAC Guidelines. The PAC will hold a work session on Thursday, August 22 to work on the draft Street Safety Guide.

TSC Chairman Somers asked about the inclusion of businesses in the petition process and about the sample petition verbiage stating signers agree to have the improvement or device in front of their property. He cautioned the language on the sample petition should be very generic and not indicate any specific solution or device, he encouraged the PAC to review the language.

PAC Vice Chairman Smith said a request had been made to include businesses in the process. If someone signs a petition, they should be willing to have the solution implemented in the best location, even if that is in front of their property. She will have the PAC review the petition language at their work session in August.

Reports of Commissioners

Commissioner Strunk shared his concerns about the school signage on Cottage Street SW between the shopping center and Oak Street. There are signs posted there that do not meet MUTCD standards. He intends to bring a motion to the September meeting regarding the signage and crosswalk situation on Cottage Street SW.

Commissioner Kapitan asked about the pedestrian safety plan for the I66 project at Nutley Street SW. He also asked if the Parks Department received any monetary compensation for the impact to Southside Park, like the public schools did.

Mr. Jinks said the asphalt trail on the southwest side of Nutley Street SW was to be widened from Tapawingo Road to the Town Line, south. He will contact VDOT to learn more about the I66 Nutley Street project and the pedestrian improvements.

Ms. Sigler will reach out to Leslie Herman, Director of Parks and Recreation, regarding any compensation she may have received.

Commissioner Ignatowski does not believe basketball backboards should be placed at the curblin in the street. He recently visited Spokane, Washington where he noticed there were a lot of e-bikes at a park. He spoke to a city engineer and discovered the city is opposed to stop signs, instead they use the “vehicle on the right has the right-of-way” rule. They discussed Vienna’s Traffic Calming Guide and the Spokane engineer was very interested in it. He concluded by asking about special needs signage installed for specific children – he wanted to know if DPW removes the signs after the child has grown or moves away and the need for the warning sign has passed.

Commissioner Smith agrees there should be a petition form to request such signage

Mr. Jinks said the MUTCD does not contain signage specifically for “deaf child” or “blind child.” The current signage in use is “watch for children.”

Chairman Somers asked Mr. Jinks if additional signage outside the MUTCD could be installed.

Mr. Jinks will discuss the use of non-MUTCD signage with DPW staff.

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Somers shared a motion from Town Council: “I move to direct the Transportation Safety Commission (TSC) with the support of Department of Public Works (DPW) resources to initiate a transportation safety improvement study for the area bounded by Courthouse Road SW, Nutley Street and Maple Avenue. The TSC will act as a convening body to receive information from the public on the nature of the existing issues, impact of future development on those issues, review study scoping in response to the defined set of issues with the DPW, review analysis and recommendations from DPW and convene meeting(s) with the public to review recommendations and to reach a consensus-based set of agreed upon projects for implementation.” For the September, 24th meeting, signs will be set out in the vicinity and notices will be mailed announcing the discussion of this motion. DPW will present an overview of the area and future plans at that meeting and public comments will be welcomed.

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Elections for Chairman and Vice Chairman of the TSC, BAC and PAC will be held at the September 24th TSC meeting. Commissioner Sorrell is the email point of contact for nominations.

Adjourn – 9:30 pm