

## TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION

January 26, 2021

The Vienna Transportation Safety Commission (TSC) met in regular session on January 26, 2021 via Zoom. Chairman Beth Eachus opened the meeting at 8:02 pm with the following Commissioners present: Leonard Ignatowski, Loginn Kapitan, Angela Sorrell, Donna Smith, Charlie Strunk, SallyJean Penna, Peter Hartogs and Joe Lowther. Also present were Jennifer Sigler, TSC Clerk, Andrew Jinks, Department of Public Works (DPW) and Sergeant Pete Elias, Vienna Police Department (VPD).

Chairman Eachus read the Resolution for Continuity of Government into the record. By roll-call vote, members voted unanimously to approve the resolution, 9 – 0.

### **Approval of the November 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chairman Sorrell made a motion to approve the November 24, 2020 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Strunk seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, 9 – 0.

### **Department of Public Works (DPW) Report - Project Updates:**

**Old Courthouse Road NE Sidewalk** - DPW is in the process of obtaining approvals from VDOT and Town Council to award a contract for construction. Construction will begin sometime in the spring.

Commissioner Smith asked if the blinking “curve ahead” sign would remain.

Mr. Jinks will investigate this and return with an answer at the next meeting.

**Freeman Store Pedestrian Bridge** - DPW is in the process of obtaining approvals from VDOT to advertise the project for construction bids. Construction should begin in the spring or summer.

Mr. Strunk asked about the handicap access from the W&OD trail to the parking lot.

Mr. Jinks will speak with NOVA Parks about that access point.

**Tapawingo Road & Kingsley Road SW Traffic Calming at Meadow Lane** - Our design consultant is currently updating the design and the proposed project now includes a high-visibility crosswalk across Kingsley Road SW at the Meadow Lane intersection.

### **Receipt of Petitions and Communications from the Public**

NONE

### **Traffic Calming Petition Re-Review – Windover Avenue NW**

DPW reviewed other potential traffic calming measures and recommended the installation of a temporary electronic speed indicator sign along Windover Avenue NW between Knoll Street and Pleasant Street, potentially in front of 313 Windover Avenue, facing east.

DPW also recommended installing a school speed limit sign in one location in each direction of Windover Avenue due to its proximity to Madison HS and Louise Archer ES. The eastbound sign assembly will be located just after the James Madison Drive intersection, the western terminus of Windover Avenue, and the westbound sign assembly will be located just after the Lawyers Road intersection, the eastern terminus of Windover Avenue.

## TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION

January 26, 2021

Windover Avenue does not qualify for speed limit reduction. The 85th-percentile is 28.9 and 28.3 MPH which helps to show that drivers are comfortable with the current speed limit and that the natural traffic flow aligns with the posted speed limit (25 MPH).

Mala Persaud, 550 Windover Avenue NW, has concerns about vehicles rolling through the stop signs. She suggested additional police presence at Walnut Lane and Lewis Street.

Sergeant Elias said he will send officers to keep an eye on those intersections.

Aldis Lulis, 446 Windover Avenue NW, is in favor of increased police presence at the Windover stop signs.

Paul Layer, 317 Windover Avenue NW, thanked DPW for their recommendations; he is in favor of both. He would like to see the electronic speed limit signs be permanent.

Commissioner Ignatowski expressed concern that only two school speed limit signs were to be installed and not signage at every intersection.

Vice Chairman Sorrell made a motion to accept the recommendation of a temporary electronic speed limit sign along Windover Avenue NW between Knoll Street and Pleasant Street, facing east. Commissioner Lowther seconded. The vote was unanimous, 9 – 0.

Commissioner Penna made a motion to accept the recommendation of installing a school speed limit sign in one location in each direction of Windover Avenue NW. Vice Chairman Sorrell seconded. The vote was 7 -2 in favor. Dissenting votes were made by Commissioners Ignatowski and Strunk.

### **Traffic Calming Petition – Ayr Hill Avenue NW**

DPW studied Ayr Hill Avenue NW between Lawyers Road and Center Street. Based on speed and volume data gathered along Ayr Hill Avenue from Wednesday January 6th, 2021 to Wednesday January 13th, 2021, DPW does not recommend traffic calming mitigations as it does not meet VDOT guidelines. The 85th percentile average speed was 29 MPH and the average speed was 25 MPH.

DPW reviewed the intersection of Ayr Hill Avenue and Lawyers Road configuration including sight distance and other safety factors. DPW recommended installing pavement markings at each corner of the intersection to tighten up the intersection, which should slow down vehicles turning on to Ayr Hill Avenue. DPW also recommended installing high visibility crosswalk pavement markings across Ayr Hill Avenue on the eastern leg of the intersection.

Susan Shields, 107 Ayr Hill Avenue NW, asked if the speeding issue would be revisited after the Covid-19 pandemic is over. She also asked if additional signage or rumble strips were to be added on Ayr Hill Avenue at Center Street to help prevent vehicles from rolling through the stop sign.

Mr. Jinks said as soon as the traffic returns to normal, the lead petitioner should reach out to him and he will run new speed studies. As for rumble strips, Mr. Jinks has reservations about installing them in a residential area because of the noise associated with them. He will consider adding “stop ahead” signage to the intersection.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION  
January 26, 2021

Sergeant Elias will increase police presence at that intersection as well.

Michele Harris & Peter Isaacs, 111 Ayr Hill Avenue NW, park their car on the street deliberately to slow down traffic and have had their side mirrors broken off by passing vehicles.

Jacob Davis, 103 Ayr Hill Avenue NW, find it hard to believe there was no speeding detected during the study period. They often see vehicles speeding on Ayr Hill Avenue. They would like to repeat the speed study once volume and speeds return to normal.

Francis Bordelon, 114 Ayr Hill Avenue NW, asked if road repairs were planned to fix the erosion at the edge of pavement near the ditches.

Mr. Jinks replied the erosion is probably due to drainage issues and could be resolved with the installation of curb and gutter.

Commissioner Kapitan made a motion to accept DPW's recommendations for pavement marking improvements on Ayr Hill Avenue NW. Commissioner Hartogs seconded. The vote was unanimous, 9 – 0.

**Traffic Calming Petition – Cottage St and Plum St SW**

DPW reviewed the Cottage Street and Plum Street SW intersection configuration including sight distance, and other safety factors during site visits and in office review. DPW recommended adding high visibility marked crosswalks across Cottage Street SW at the intersection with Plum Street along with the appropriate signage and curb ramps. All the curb ramps will likely need to be replaced. At least one of the curb ramps will be replaced utilizing the Robison Trust Fund as there is a proposed a Trust Fund sidewalk to be constructed along Plum Street.

Commissioner Lowther asked if the curved nature of Cottage Street would cause a sight distance issue.

Mr. Jinks studied that curvature and found there was no sight distance issue.

Commissioner Penna asked if the crosswalks would qualify for center bollard signage.

Mr. Jinks will consider that as a separate DPW request.

James Orsinger, 408 Plum Street SW, is pleased with DPW's recommendations.

Kim and Van Gurley, 800 Cottage Street SW, thanked the TSC for their attention to this petition.

Melissa Edwards, 801 Cottage Street SW, thanked the TSC for the recommendation.

Tom Hazard, 708 Plum Street SW, asked if the crosswalks would be high visibility crosswalks.

Mr. Jinks stated the crosswalks will be high visibility crosswalks.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION

January 26, 2021

Vice Chairman Sorrell made a motion to accept DPW's recommendations for installation of high visibility marked crosswalks and appropriate signage. Commissioner Strunk seconded. The vote was unanimous, 9 – 0.

**New Petition on Orchard St NW Traffic Calming**

Jacqueline Wirth, 540 Orchard Street NW, presented her petition to have speed humps installed on Orchard Street NW between Malcolm Road and Nutley Street. The safety of children is at risk, largely due to the disregard for safe speed limits by motorists traveling on Orchard Street. Also, the odd numbered houses' mailboxes are on the even side of the street, so the residents must cross Orchard Street to pick up their mail.

Chairman Eachus explained that the TSC normally does not take action the first time they hear a petition. The TSC usually asks DPW to review the petition and to perform a speed/traffic study of the area in question and to evaluate the requested traffic calming methods. She expects DPW to return with recommendations at the February 23, 2021 TSC meeting.

Gaenita Williams, 548 Orchard Street NW, is a long-time resident of Orchard Street. Because of the speeding on Orchard Street, her 24-year-old disabled son is not allowed to get the mail even though her mailbox is on the same side of the street as her home. She suggested the speed study be performed in the afternoon and evenings when traffic is worse. She is in favor of installing speed humps on Orchard Street NW to slow traffic and protect the residents.

Paulette Pearson-Washington, 503 Orchard Street NW, is the daughter of Robert Pearson, 93, and has lived on Orchard Street since 1968. She is very concerned for her father's safety, as well as the safety of the many children that live on Orchard Street. Orchard Street is very straight, and people tend to speed because of this. She is in favor of the addition of speed humps.

Nruti and Ben Brown, 541 Orchard Street NW, has concerns that the pandemic will delay action. Speeding is a real problem – speed humps would be welcome.

Susie Chang and Brad Aldrege, 549 Orchard Street NW, recalls there was a speed hump about 15 years ago that was taken out due to snow plowing and was never replaced when the road was repaved. There has been a lot more pedestrian traffic due to the pandemic.

Sarah and Jon Couchman, 512 Orchard Street NW, are in support of the petition. She asked DPW to consider creative traffic calming as well, such as bump outs, parking lanes, etc. when coming up with their recommendation to TSC.

Karen Van Raaphorst, 553 Orchard Street NW, is in the process of building a home at this address. She has small children and has concerns about the volume and speed of vehicles on Orchard Street.

Charles and Sara Frey, 529 Malcolm Road NW, would like the TSC to consider the impact traffic calming on Orchard Street may have on Malcolm Road. They would like a before and after speed study to be performed on Malcolm Road NW to show any negative effects that may turn up.

Edward Scheidemann, 545 Orchard Street NW, pointed out Orchard Street NW is in several school zones.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION

January 26, 2021

Sharon and Richard Hong, 505 Orchard Street NW, agree that speed mitigation needs to happen on Orchard Street.

Nruti and Ben Brown, 541 Orchard Street NW, are concerned nothing will be done regarding this petition and eventually a child will be run over. They would very much like to see traffic calming put in place to prevent this outcome.

Vice Chairman Sorrell asked Mr. Jinks to look at the intersection of Orchard Street and Malcom Road, which looks very wide to her. She believes it would benefit from some tightening up.

Commissioner Smith agrees with Mr. and Mrs. Couchman that creative solutions and thinking outside the box are important.

Commissioner Ignatowski noted there is no parking on one side of Orchard Street NE. He suggested taking away the no parking restriction might help their situation.

Commissioner Strunk agrees with Vice Chairman Sorrell regarding the Malcom Road intersection. He mentioned Orchard Street is identified as a bike route, so additional paving markings may help. He would like to see more than just speed humps considered.

Commissioner Hartogs walks his dog around the Northwest, including Orchard Street. He believes this street needs some traffic calming attention.

Commissioner Ignatowski suggested the median strip on Malcom Road at Orchard Street should be removed and a new median strip be installed on Orchard Street at Malcom Road.

The Transportation Safety Commission (TSC) asked the Department on Public Works (DPW) to conduct a study and recommend potential traffic calming and pedestrian safety improvements to Orchard St NW.

**New Petition on Noise Concern regarding Speed Cushion on 400 Tapawingo SW**

The lead petitioner was not in attendance so Commissioner Kapitan, who signed the petition and lives at the speed cushion location, spoke instead. He explained due to the I66 construction and replacement of the Cedar Lane Bridge, three speed cushions had been installed on Tapawingo Road, funded by VDOT. The landscaping trucks and trailers cannot progress over the speed cushions at the posted speed limit, and they create a great amount of noise slowing down and trying to drive over them. The worst noise occurs early in the morning. A speed indicator sign was installed which did help with some of the car traffic/speeding, but the trucks must slow down, cross the cushion and then accelerate to get back up to speed. He and his fellow petitioners would like the speed cushion removed from the 400 block of Tapawingo Road SE.

Kevin and Yu Krisko, 403 Tapawingo Road SE, appreciate the intent to mitigate traffic, but the resulting noise is awful. Additionally, trucks going over the speed cushions often lose some of their load – sometimes leaving large debris behind.

Commissioner Strunk agreed that the noise from the trucks is a big issue.

## TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION

January 26, 2021

Chairman Eachus would like the lead petitioner, who was not present at this meeting, to have a chance to speak on the record. Therefore, she would like to review this petition again at a subsequent meeting.

The Transportation Safety Commission (TSC) asked the Department on Public Works (DPW) to conduct a study assessing noise resulting from the recently installed speed cushion as well as necessity of a speed cushion in light of other traffic calming measures on 400 block of Tapawingo Road SW.

### **Code Create Vienna**

Kelley O'Brien, Principal Planner, Planning and Zoning Department explained Code Create Vienna, an online engagement platform for the Zoning Code and Subdivision Ordinance Update. For more details, please visit <https://www.codecreatevienna.com/>.

### **BAC Report**

BAC Chairman Strunk announced it is time to renew the application for the Bicycle Friendly Community Status which is due February 10, 2021. Fairfax County Department of Transportation are updating their Bicycle Master Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan. He would like to see some Town of Vienna representation at the Fairfax County Active Transportation planning meetings; he noted at the last meeting neither Vienna nor Herndon were discussed.

### **PAC Report**

PAC Chairman said the PAC is still working on the Street Safety Guide which is currently under review with the Town Attorney and Town Council members. There are four Maud Robinson Trust sidewalk projects – Cabin Road SE, Holmes Drive NW, Plum Street SW and Cherry Street SW – which are moving forward and there are 20 more potential projects in the works.

### **Reports of Commissioners**

None

### **Report of the Chairman**

None

**Adjourn** – 10:54 pm.