

DRAFT  
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION  
October 27, 2020

The Vienna Transportation Safety Commission (TSC) met in regular session on October 27, 2020 via Zoom. Acting Chairman Beth Eachus opened the meeting at 8:01 pm with the following Commissioners present: Leonard Ignatowski, Keith Aimone, Loginn Kapitan, Angela Sorrell, Donna Smith, Charlie Strunk, SallyJean Penna and Peter Hartogs. Also present were Jennifer Sigler, TSC Clerk, Andrew Jinks, Department of Public Works (DPW) and Sergeant Pete Elias, Vienna Police Department (VPD).

Acting 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 September 29, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Acting Chairman Eachus made a motion to approve the September 29, 2020 meeting minutes, with minor edits.

Commissioner Sorrell seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, 9 – 0.

**Department of Public Works (DPW) Report**

**Answering Questions from Last TSC Meeting (September 29th)**

- Is there a crosswalk crossing Maple Ave at the Maple Ave and Follin Ln intersection?
  - o Answer: There is a crosswalk but no pedestrian signal. A pedestrian signal is proposed as a part of the Maple/Nutley Signal Improvements project.
  
- Why was the speed hump located near the Nutley St NW and Knoll St NW intersection replaced during the construction of the Louise Archer Elementary Sidewalk project? The speed hump was supposed to be permanently removed.
  - o Answer: The speed hump was proposed to be permanently removed in the design plans but during construction Town Council directed DPW to replace the speed hump. DPW directed the contractor to construct a Speed Table.
  
- What can be done with signage that may no longer be needed, for example blind pedestrian signage?
  - o Answer: DPW will confirm if the signage is still needed based on the nearby residents and if it is determined to no longer be needed the signage will be removed.

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

NONE

**Cottage Street SW – Plum Street SW Traffic Calming Petition**

Kim Gurley, 800 Cottage Street SW, has concerns about the speed of traffic and the bends in the road that cause poor visibility. It can be very difficult to cross the street safely. Families use this intersection to access Vienna Swim Club, Meadow Lane Park, School, etc. The intersection needs to be more visible and safer for pedestrians.

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Neal Sikka, 706 Plum Street SW, believes the intersection has become busier in the past few years. There are no stop bars at the stop signs on Plum Street. The curves make it difficult to see if anyone is crossing the street.

Thomas Hazzard, 708 Plum Street SW, is very supportive of the petition. It is difficult to see cars coming from either direction on Cottage Street. He suggested some form of traffic calming plus painted crosswalks with RRFBs.

Melissa Edwards, 801 Cottage Street SW, mentioned the curve of Cottage Street coming from Moore Avenue up to Plum Street creates visibility issues. There was an accident at this intersection involving a cyclist who was hit by a car.

Stephanie Corrigan, 809 Plum Street SW, has a 6-year-old, two 4-year-olds and a baby. She stands in the middle of the street to help her children cross the street. She would like crosswalks, flashing lights and possibly stop signs.

Mara Thayer, 818 Plum Street SW, is in favor of crosswalks. As it is, the intersection is not safe for children or the elderly.

Gillian Backus, 708 Plum Street SW, said the bus stop designated for her son was at the intersection of Cottage Street and Moore Avenue, but she decided it was too dangerous for her son to cross Cottage Street to get to that bus stop so she had him catch the bus at a further away but safer stretch of Cottage Street. She would like to allow her son to ride his bike to the pool, but it is too dangerous for him to cross Cottage Street.

Melissa Edwards, 801 Cottage Street SW, asked how DPW would deal with the lack of traffic during the pandemic with regards to a traffic study.

Mr. Jinks said if the traffic study does not reveal a problem of some sort, the petition would be revisited after the pandemic is over, or when traffic numbers return more to normal.

Commissioner Sorrell asked if bump-outs could help with the visibility problem.

Mr. Jinks said he would include the idea in his evaluation. He mentioned the signage for a crosswalk is a good indicator to drivers there is something ahead.

Ms. Corrigan pointed out her children are attending a private pre-school and must cross Cottage Street twice a day.

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Kate French, 808 Cottage Street SW, explained the bus stop at Moore Avenue is so difficult to get to she must walk with her 12-year-old to it. If nothing is done, she will do the same for her third grader.

Pratima Saxena, 795 Plum Street SW, has experienced all the difficulties the other petitioners have described. The visibility is poor because of the curve in the road.

Seema Javeri, 128 Moore Avenue SW, has a driveway that exits on Cottage Street. It is very difficult to back out of the driveway because the cars come around the corner fast and the line of sight is short.

Elizabeth York, 807 Cottage Street SW, agrees with her fellow petitioners.

**Cabin Road SE – DPW Recommendations**

(From the DPW Report) **Cabin Rd SE Petition** - Based on speed and volume data gathered from Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to Tuesday October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, DPW does not recommend traffic calming mitigations. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile average speed was 24.9 MPH and the average max speed was 28.8 MPH. DPW recommends revisiting this petition once traffic returns to a more normal operation, post pandemic situation, and once the proposed sidewalk is installed.

Tom Taaffe, 308 Cabin Road SE, does not agree that the review of the petition should be connected to the building of the new sidewalk. He would prefer a review once conditions return to normal, without regard for the new sidewalk.

Mr. Jinks asked Mr. Taaffe to reach out to DPW or himself if they see the traffic and speeds worsening so he can perform another study.

Dan Tucker, 307 Cabin Road SE, agrees with Mr. Taaffe.

Chris and Jen Corcoran, 314 Cabin Road SE, explained traffic was worse around 5:00 to 6:00 pm. She noticed the police were on Cabin Road about two hours before that, so they missed the rush hour traffic.

Michelle Kang, 315 Cabin Road SE, stated Cabin Road is a narrow road with cars parked on the street. Her car has been hit two different times, so slowing the traffic on the road will help a lot. She asked Mr. Jinks if the speed study warrants traffic calming, what types of calming measures would he consider.

Mr. Jinks said he would most likely recommend speed tables, but his decision would be based on the data.

Connie Leung, 508 Valley Drive SE, asked what threshold Mr. Jinks would be looking for.

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Mr. Jinks replied the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile to be 31 mph or more. DPW takes the average over the 7-day study.

Mike Cheselka, 317 Cabin Road SE, has lived in Vienna for 30 years. He supports everything his neighbors have said regarding this petition.

**Election of TSC Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Beth Eachus was nominated for TSC Chairman and Angela Sorrell was nominated for TSC Vice Chairman. By roll-call vote, members voted unanimously to approve the nominations, 9 – 0.

**BAC Report**

NONE

**PAC Report**

PAC Chairman Sorrell explained the draft “Street Safety Guide” was under review before it goes on a TSC agenda.

**Reports of Commissioners**

Commissioner Strunk mentioned the General Assembly changed the signage for crosswalks from “yield to pedestrians” to “stop for pedestrians”. He asked Mr. Jinks to speak on this at the next meeting.

Commissioner Smith asked when the Cedar Lane bridge project would be completed.

Mr. Jinks said it should be completed around Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Ignatowski suggested GPS may be contributing to the cut-through traffic problems in Town. He asked if the Town map could be included in the TSC packets. He asked if a map of the Fairfax County Public School bus stops could be included as well.

Commissioner Kapitan asked if there are guidelines for when an RRFBs should be considered.

Mr. Jinks will add that to his November memo.

**Report of the Chairman**

NONE

**Adjourn** – 9:48pm