

Residential Traffic Commission
Meeting Minutes of Monday, October 3, 2022

The Residential Traffic Commission met on Monday, October 3, 2022, in the Lower-Level Conference Room #1 of the Municipal Government Center (Town Hall), 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The Commission was officially called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present

Brian Caney
Raymond L. Jones
Deepan Patel
Mark Norman
Jeff Phillips Vice-Chair
Sandy Grossman-Chair

Town Staff Present

Calvin Grow
Scott Parker
Officer Ryan Martin

Citizens Present

See Public comments

Planning Commission Liaison

None

1. *Approval of Minutes:* On motion by Jeff Phillips, seconded by Raymond L. Jones, the Commission approved the September 19, 2022, minutes.

2. *Public Comments:* RTC requested that this item be added to next RTC meeting with a Town staff recommendation regarding speed limit change once study has been completed. Margaret and Judd Puoto, Andrea Bond, Judy Kozacik, Mary Speidel, live on Memorial Dr./West Market St. and talked about speeding, stop sign running, stop sign location, passing vehicles on Memorial Drive and not stopping for pedestrians in the crosswalk. Also, cell phone use while driving. Chris Straight talked about speeding on W. Loudoun Street near the fire station.

Sarah Funkhouser talked about speeding on Bradfield Drive and Hawling Place SW. Requested an all-way stop installation and crosswalks at the intersection. LPD will conduct a study and get back to the RTC. Item will be added to the November meeting.

3 *Smart Trailer results:* Sgt. Ryan Martin presented the results of a recent speed study on Catoctin Circle near Foxridge, average speed was 30 MPH and the 85th percentile was 35 MPH. Catoctin Circle was added to the Selective Enforcement list and report back at the November meeting.

4. *Traffic calming on Morven Park Road:* Mayor Burk requested that the RTC review the roadway to see what traffic calming could be installed as part of the Morven Park Sidewalk improvements that are currently under construction. Traffic Commission reviewed the current data from the driver feedback sign on Morven Park Road near Ayrlee Ave, NW and several members had visited the site as requested (average speed was 15 MPH and the 85th percentile was 24 MPH, volume was about 500 VPH). The RTC recommend that because of the existing slow speeds on Morven Park Road that no

additional traffic calming is needed and requested that once the Capital Project sidewalk improvements were completed RTC would review the speed data again.

5. W&OD trail at S. King Street flashing pedestrian signage requested: The item has been moved to the December meeting so that the Parks Superintendent, Mark Whaley and Kevin Casalenuovo, Park Manager for W& OD Railroad Regional Park can attend the meeting. They will talk about what the Nova Parks is doing east of Leesburg to help motorists identify the locations of the trail crossings and help remind bicyclist to stop for the roadway crossings.

6. Speed reduction in the Downtown area: Town staff talked about the following items that have been completed to address the citizens' concerns:

1. Nighttime flashing of the traffic signal at Memorial Drive and W. Market Street has been removed as requested by the residents.
2. Memorial Drive and Cornwall Street. A. Additional stops signs have been installed in median for Memorial Drive NB and SB. B. Shrubs and tree limbs have been cut near intersection of Memorial Drive. C. Stop sign has been moved on WB Cornwall Street so that it was not obscured by tree branches.
3. LPD has conducted speed and stop violations through selective enforcement.
4. LPD has completed speed study on W. Market Street and Memorial Drive. The average speed northbound on Memorial Drive was 18 MPH and the 85th percentile was 22 MPH. The average speed southbound on Memorial Drive was 16 MPH and the 85th percentile was 21 MPH. The average speed westbound W. Market Street near Memorial Drive was 21 MPH and the 85th percentile was 29 MPH. The average speed eastbound W. Market Street near Memorial Drive was 22 MPH and the 85th percentile was 31 MPH.
5. LPD conducted a community meeting with residents on Memorial Drive, Cornwall, and W. Market Street to hear firsthand of their concerns.
6. Inova Loudoun Hospital Director of Community Relations, Dorri O'Brien (who lives on W. Loudoun St) attended the meeting and is going to investigate the following request from Memorial Drive residents. A. Install pavement markings on hospital road approach to Memorial Drive to narrow the traffic lane. B. Move stop sign closer to intersection and install stop bar pavement markings. C. Send email reminder to hospital staff not to drive using their handheld cell phones, stop for pedestrians in the crosswalks, stopping for the all-way stop signs at Memorial Drive and Cornwall Street and stopping on red light at SB Memorial Drive and W. Market Street before they make a right turn on red.
7. Town staff has reviewed the accidents at Memorial Drive and Cornwall Street and there has been one accident at this location in the last 5 years. The driver of the vehicle stopped at the marked stop sign on SB Memorial Dr. NW. She accelerated and lost control and struck a light pole in the center median. The driver stated she got the gas pedal confused with the brake pedal.
8. Passing of Vehicles on Memorial Drive. RTC recommended crosshatching an area next to the residents' homes on Memorial Drive. Narrow residential streets on existing wide residential streets are a measure to reduce speeds. There is a clear and obvious benefit of slowing traffic on residential streets, primarily the

- improvement of pedestrian and bicyclist safety. Slower traffic reduces the severity of accidents, reduces noise, and generally improves the livability of residential streets. Residents did not want these pavement markings on the section of Memorial Drive from W. Market to Cornwall Street, because it would not be aesthetically pleasing. The residents did request that this stripping be install on the hospital road leading up to Memorial Drive.
9. Town staff presented a report that the Town had contracted for a speed study in the downtown. The research from the study found that the 85% average speed is around the 25 MPH mark and the average speed in the study area is already below 20 MPH. The report indicates that there is not a speeding issue with the current posted speed limit. The report also counted pedestrian movements at key intersections and reviewed crash data from the past five years. The report found three pedestrian vs. vehicle accidents at that time.
 10. The study area only went out a few blocks from King and Market streets (Loudoun from Liberty to Harrison, King from the W&OD to North, and Market from Liberty to Church), so it does not cover Memorial Drive, Union Street or the East and West Triangles. Traffic counts were conducted in October of 2021. The report recommends dropping the speed to 20 MPH but cannot justify 15 MPH. State code allows localities to reduce the posted speed so long as the report justifies the speed and a public hearing is held. Given that affected residents wish to include more areas of the downtown in the reduced speed limit area, staff will have the consultant amend the report to include a larger footprint of the downtown with more speed data being collected. This will impact the deliverable meaning the RTC may not be able to review the additional data until their November/December meetings. Once the RTC reviews the updated report, a recommendation will be made to Council.

7. Speeding study on Tonquin Drive (Requested by Mayor Burk/Mr. Nelson): LPD will conduct speed study and report for December meeting.

8. Requested by Mayor Burk: List of traffic calming. The information is intended for informational purposes only and does not include the best course of action for each roadway.

Driver Feedback sign

Watch for children sign

On-Street painted parking

\$200 additional fees for speeding

Flashing Pedestrian crosswalk light/signs (strobe)

Flashing stop signs (Solar)

Mini roundabout

Speed hump

Raised intersection

Chicane

Choker

Corner extension/Bulb-Out

Lateral Shift

Median barrier/forced Turn Island
Road diet
Speed table
Cut-Through truck restrictions

9. RTC requested planning staff to provide a list of new homes/development that will be built in the town for the November meeting.

10. Next meeting date is November 7, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. on motion by Jeff Phillip, seconded by Brian Caney.