

**Residential Traffic Commission
Meeting Minutes of Monday, April 3, 2023**

The Residential Traffic Commission met on Monday, April 3, 2023, 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

Sandy Grossman-Chair
Melissa Simonetta
Cherie Jones
Mark Norman
Raymond Jones – Vice Chair
Ray Delpesche

Town Staff Present

Niraja Chandrapu, PE, PTOE
Officer Ryan Martin
Scott Parker, AICP

Citizens Present

See Public Comments

Town Council Liaison

Ara Bagdasarian

1. *Approval of Minutes:* On motion by Commissioner Mark Norman, seconded by Commissioner Raymond Jones, the Commission approved the March 6, 2023, minutes.

2. *Public Comments:*

Ms. Betsy Bainbridge the president of Homeowners Association (HOA) for Meadowbrook residential community has expressed concerns on behalf of residents regarding the safety of pedestrians and vehicles at two intersections, namely intersection of Battlefield Parkway and Odyssey Park/Idyllic Place and Axios Street and Mason Lane. Battlefield Parkway divides their community into two, with all community amenities such as clubhouse, swimming pool and tennis courts, and much of the development located on the other side. This means that the residents frequently need to cross Battlefield Parkway to access these amenities. The primary focus is to maintain a quiet neighborhood without any unnecessary traffic and ensure a traffic flow that allows for easy and safe entrance and exit from their community. She has highlighted potential vehicle and pedestrian traffic changes that have occurred over the past four years, which should be reviewed.

Currently, there are around 400 homes using the intersection of Battlefield Parkway and Odyssey Park/Idyllic Place, and there has been an increase in commuter traffic due to people returning to work after three years of COVID and excessive u-turn at the intersection (school traffic). Furthermore, the proposed opening of Axios Street as an exit from their community may have an impact on traffic flow. Additionally, speeding on Battlefield Parkway has been identified as a major concern, especially for pedestrians. Speeding on Battlefield Parkway makes it dangerous for vehicles turning onto Parkway from their community.

To address these issues, she has suggested potential solutions, such as raised crosswalks across Battlefield Parkway, restricting U-turns at intersection of Battlefield Parkway and Odyssey Park/Idyllic Place and closing through traffic from Axios Street. By implementing these measures, the community hopes to improve the safety of pedestrians and vehicles, maintain peaceful neighborhoods, and ensure easy and safe access to their community.

Ms. Lourdes and Mr. Mark added that vehicles backup on Idyllic Place due to the absence of a signal at the intersection of Battlefield Parkway and Idyllic Place. Commissioner Sandy mentioned that it is not uncommon for a community to be divided by a road like Battlefield Parkway, and that they will look into those models to evaluate their concerns.

Mr. Charles Lotridge added that to avoid a couple of lights, drivers are making a u-turn at the intersection of Battlefield Parkway and Idyllic Place and are using Mason Lane to get onto Route 15. During commuter peak hour at the subject intersection, Mr. Lotridge made observations and indicated that approximately 12% of vehicles coming from westbound Battlefield Parkway (212 vph) make a U-turn, about 5% make a left turn into their community, about another 12% make a right turn, and the remaining percentage of traffic goes straight through the intersection. Mr. Lotridge indicated that in future with the opening of Axios Street, drivers will use their community as a cut-thru to get onto Mason Lane. Additionally, speeding on Battlefield Parkway (motorists driving 10 to 15 MPH over the posted speed limit) has been identified as a major concern, especially for pedestrians crossing to access the amenities located on the other side of the major road. Mr. Lotridge recommended conducting a feasibility study installing an all-way stop sign on all approaches for the safety of pedestrians and slowing the traffic on Battlefield Parkway.

Mr. Ben Sibley added that Heritage School students are the ones who make u-turn to get to school to avoid extended queues in left turn lanes at the school entrance. Mr. Sibley indicated that with the opening of Axios Street, the vehicles will make a left turn movement into their community from Battlefield Parkway and use as cut-thru to get onto Mason Ln and requested to close Axios Street. To which the staff responded that Axios Street is planned and is approved of with the subdivision development.

Ms. Audrey Carpenter from the Country Club Green Community, raised a safety concern regarding the behavior of drivers coming from Route 15 exit ramp at the intersection with Club House Drive SW. She requested the installation of a flashing beacon stop sign on Route 15 exit ramp at Club House Drive SW intersection. Route 15 exit ramp is maintained by Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Upon Ms. Audrey request, VDOT performed a study and concluded that the study do not support the installation of flashing beacons to the stop sign. However, Ms. Audrey mentioned that Mr. Farid from VDOT came out and shot his own video and agrees that the intersection was a trouble spot. She requested that the commission look into some type of mitigation for the consistent problem of drivers not stopping at the stop sign. To which commissioner Sandy mentioned that per request of VDOT, the traffic management group added the subject intersection to selective enforcement watch. The commissioner responded that we would review the data to find if there were any citizen contacts.

Mr. Judd Fuoto, the resident of 239 W. Market Street requested the commission install curb extensions at the crosswalks to slow the traffic at the intersection of W. Market Street and Memorial Drive. To which Commissioner Sandy mentioned that Memorial Drive will be evaluated after the completion of all proposed improvements. Commissioner Sandy also mentioned that this may have to wait until the speeds limit signs and traffic calming measures are implemented on downtown streets.

3. *SMART Trailer Results*: Sargent Martin (LPD) shared the following SMART Trailer Results.

39 Catoctin Cir SE, EB: The data was collected over 8 days (3/2 to 3/9). The posted speed limit is 25 MPH. The average speed is 27.23 MPH, the 85th percentile speed is 32.18 MPH, the total vehicular count is approximately 41,339 vehicles and the average volume per day is 5,167.4 vehicles per day. 39 Catoctin Circle was selected for selective enforcement for 2.5 hours, during which one citizen contact was observed.

Crosstrail Blvd/Russell Branch Parkway, NB: The data was collected over 13 days (3/21 to 4/3). The posted speed limit is 40 MPH. The average speed is 37.22 MPH, the 85th percentile speed is 50.02 MPH, the total vehicular count is approximately 69,877 vehicles and the average volume per day is 5,375.2 vehicles per day. Sargent Martin indicated that drivers are speeding on Crosstrail Blvd with some of them driving at 70 MPH. Crosstrail Blvd south of Russel Branch Parkway is maintained by Loudoun County. The speed limit to the north of Russell Branch Parkway is posted at 35 MPH and to the south of the intersection is posted at 40 MPH. Loudoun County did not receive any complaints regarding speeding on Crosstrail Blvd as the developments along the roadway are still under construction. Niraja mentioned that she will reach out to Loudoun County Transportation Division to see if they can investigate speeding on Crosstrail Blvd. Crosstrail Boulevard at Russell Branch Parkway was selected for selective enforcement for 2.5 hours, during which two citizen contacts were observed.

Sargent Martin indicated that they have done selective enforcement on Battlefield Parkway at Fieldstone Dr NE for 11.5 hours for crosswalk violations and observed zero citizen contacts. The EB Battlefield Parkway is continued to be on selective enforcement for 20 hours for red light running and crosswalk violations and observed 21 citizen contacts.

Sargent Martin reported that selective enforcement was conducted at Club House Drive and Bypass Route 15 Exit Ramp (stop-controlled intersection) intersection for 5 hours, during which no citizen contacts were observed. He mentioned that this enforcement activity will continue for one more month.

Sargent Martin mentioned that they have done selective enforcement at the West Y intersection (Market Street and Loudoun Street) for 2.5 hours, during which one citizen contact was observed.

4. *Discussion of speeding, signing and U-turn volume on Battlefield Parkway at Idyllic Pl/Odyssey Park Drive SE*: The staff and commission members discussed the issues raised by Meadowbrook residents during public comments. To which Niraja responded that Battlefield Parkway is designed to allow U-turns to occur at the intersection of Battlefield Parkway and Idyllic Place for Mason Lane users. So, installing a no U-turn sign might not be an option and will investigate further on it. One of the commissioner members inquired about a signal at the subject intersection, to which Niraja indicated that side streets volumes do not warrant a signal. She recommended installing an "Intersection Ahead" sign on Battlefield Parkway and evaluate the intersection to enhance pedestrian safety.

5. *Update on the conversion of street lighting with LED lighting on Hope Parkway at crosswalks located at Burnell Place SE and Park Gate Drive SE:* Niraja provided an update to the commission that she reached out to NOVEC and waiting on them for a quote.

6. *Update on crosswalks visibility on Foxridge Drive and Deerpath Avenue:* Niraja provided an update to the commission that she is working with staff to install a “No Parking” sign approaching the crosswalk on Foxridge Drive and install a “Pedestrian Crossing Ahead” sign approaching the crosswalk on Deerpath Avenue.

7. *Traffic Calming Measures on Market and Loudoun Streets approaching the core downtown area:* Niraja presented several traffic calming measures during the meeting, including optical speed bars, rumble strips, traverse stripes on median, traverse stripes on shoulder, driver feedback signs, and word pavement markings. She shared the advantages and disadvantages of each measure with the commission. As a result, the commission decided to discuss the implementation of these measures on the streets leading to the Leesburg downtown area in the next meeting.

8. *Commission Member Concerns:* None

9. *Next meeting date:* Monday, May 1, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m., on a motion by Commissioner Ray Delpesche and seconded by Commissioner Raymond Jones.