

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
December 15, 2009
5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chief Paul Tiernan, Lt. George Stanko, Rich Lapointe, Dave Gula, Tom Parkins, Marvin Howard

Absent: Carol Houck

Guests: Victoria McHugh, Newark resident

1. REQUEST FOR A 3-WAY STOP INTERSECTION AT APPLE ROAD AND RITTER LANE.

Victoria McHugh lives at 501 Apple Road and said speeding is an issue on Park Place traveling toward Dallas Avenue. Ms. McHugh commented that the Newark Police Department has conducted speed enforcement on Park Place in the past. Ms. McHugh said it is very difficult backing out of her driveway due to a poor visibility in both directions. Ms. McHugh said at least a couple times every week she has a close call when backing out of her driveway.

Ms. McHugh feels that a considerable amount of traffic is contributed to the close proximity of the city depot. Ms. McHugh is concerned for the safety of her two young children, other families with young children and the daycare located across the street. Ms. McHugh said an increase in traffic was noticed when the stop sign was installed at Beverly Road and Dallas Avenue a couple of years ago. The majority of the traffic coming from Elkton Road and Route 896 has been rerouted to Apple Road and Ritter Lane.

Rich Lapointe asked Lt. Stanko if there has been an accident history. Lt. Stanko said there is no accident history. Lt. Stanko explained that stop signs are not intended to slow vehicles down, but rather provides a false sense of security that motorists will stop when in fact they just disregard the stop signs. Lt. Stanko suggested continuing with enforcement in the future if officers are removed from patrol and reassigned to the traffic division. Lt. Stanko suggested setting up a radar speed sign on Park Place with the hopes to promote driver awareness and for the purposes of obtaining a speed histogram.

Ms. McHugh said her concern is also the speeds taken around the corner of Park Place and Ritter Lane. Rich Lapointe said prior to considering a 3-way stop intersection, certain criteria must be met as set forth by the Uniform Traffic Control Manual. The criteria is based upon speed, traffic counts and accident history and must reach a certain level prior to considering the installation of a stop sign. Rich Lapointe said a traffic control study was conducted five years ago on Ritter Lane and Chrysler Avenue at which time the results did not meet the criteria. Rich Lapointe said he would consider approving this request on the basis of a safety concern.

Dave Gula suggested first installing the radar speed sign. Tom Parkins recommended that the committee first evaluate the results of the speed histogram prior to making a decision.

Lt. Stanko said as soon as M/Cpl. Davis is available from patrol he would see that the radar speed sign is installed. Ms. McHugh thanked the police department for conducting speed enforcement. Chief Tiernan said due to recent retirements resulting in a lack of manpower, the traffic division has been assigned to patrol, however is optimistic that that enforcement will resume in the Spring of 2010.

MOTION BY TOM PARKINS, SECONDED LT. GEORGE STANKO TO INSTALL A RADAR SPEED SIGN ON APPLE ROAD FOR PURPOSES OF OBTAINING A SPEED HISTOGRAM. RESULTS TO BE REVIEWED BY THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE IN THE FUTURE.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 6 TO 0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Crosswalk Request at Elkton Road and Beverly Road

Rich Lapointe said as a follow up to the request for a crosswalk at Elkton Road and Beverly Road he is waiting on a return phone call from DelDOT. Lt. Stanko said one day DelDOT noticed the heavy pedestrian volume at this location as the ELI students were departing the bus.

Country Club Drive Traffic Calming

Chief Tiernan inquired as to the status of traffic calming for Country Club Drive. Rich Lapointe said traffic counts and speeds have not been obtained due to the lack of manpower. Rich Lapointe said he has completed sketches that still need to be reviewed by the committee. Rich Lapointe said he would like for the Public Works survey crew to be trained on setting up the traffic counter.

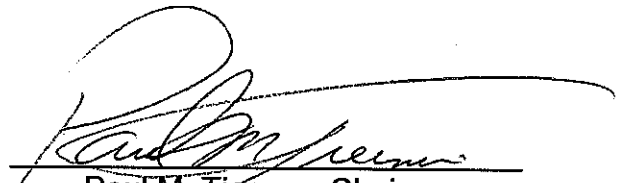
NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Tiernan asked Lt. Stanko to brief the committee on the toll plaza project. Lt. Stanko said the toll plaza project is scheduled to begin on April 1, 2010. A detour will be in place to reroute traffic from I-95 to Elkton Road to Christina Parkway to S. College Avenue to I-95 and vice versa. Lt. Stanko said improvements will be made to the intersections of Otts Chapel and Elkton Road and S. College Avenue and Christina Parkway. The project is expected to last 500 days.

There being no further business, Chief Tiernan called for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION BY RICH LAPOINTE, SECONDED BY LT. GEORGE STANKO, TO
ADJOURN.**

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 6 TO 0.



Paul M. Tiernan, Chairman