

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
May 19, 2015
3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Chief Paul Tiernan, Lt. Fred Nelson, Tom Coleman, Dave Gula,

Absent: Andrew Haines
Marvin Howard
Tom Parkins

Guests: Francis Farren, Newark resident
Mark Morehead, Councilmember District 1

1. REQUEST TO INSTALL STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTION OF ASHLAND WAY AND ODESSA WAY IN THE WOODS AT LOUVIERS.

Francis Farren provided a letter of support signed by a total of four residents. Mr. Farren said many people exiting the neighborhood on Odessa Way are traveling 35-40 mph. Mr. Farren said the residents are very concerned for the safety of the children and feel a stop sign would help to make the intersection at Ashland Way and Odessa Way a little safer.

Mr. Coleman said generally he is not in favor of installing stop signs if they are not warranted. According to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) stop signs are not an effective speed control measure. Mr. Coleman said cars will slow down to stop and then speed again or they will be completely disregarded. Mr. Coleman said there may be an issue that cars pulling in from Paper Mill Road would have to stop. Dave Gula asked what the queuing distance is between Ashland Way and Paper Mill Road. Mr. Coleman said it is about 200-300 feet, however he doesn't expect queuing to be an issue. Chief Tiernan said he would support the request to help enhance the safety. Lt. Nelson said there has only been one accident on Odessa Way within the past five years and that was an accident involving someone backing out of their driveway.

MOTION BY DAVE GULA SECONDED BY LT. NELSON, TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO INSTALL STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTION OF ASHLAND WAY AND ODEASSA WAY IN THE WOODS AT LOUVIERS.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 4 TO 0.

**2. REQUEST FOR “CHILDREN AT PLAY” SIGNS TO BE INSTALLED ON
TIMBER CREEK DRIVE.**

The request should be clarified to read Timber Creek Lane, not Timber Creek Drive.

Mr. Coleman said feels it would just be an added warning sign that would be ignored. Mr. Coleman feels the lawn signs would be more effective or decals for refuse containers. Mr. Gula said due to this being a short stretch of road he didn't feel signage would be necessary.

Chief Tiernan said Tim Filasky's email indicates there are small signs that already exist, however they are small. Mr. Coleman said considering the sign pole already exists, he could switch the small sign out for a larger one.

**MOTION BY DAVE GULA, SECONDED BY TOM PARKINS, TO SWITCH OUT
THE EXISTING SMALLER “CHILDREN AT PLAY” SIGNS FOR LARGER
SIGNS.**

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 4 TO 0.

**3. REVIEW A LINE OF SIGHT ISSUE AT THE INTERSECTION OF VICTORIA
COURT AT HAINES STREET DUE TO PARKED VEHICLES EAST OF HAINES
STREET SOUTH OF THE INTERSECTION.**

Lt. Nelson said he agrees it is difficult to see pulling out. Lt. Nelson said his suggestion would be to install a sign. Mr. Coleman said he will be working on sight distance calculations on Main Street and suggested a sight distance calculation be done at this location as well.

**MOTION BY LT. NELSON, SECONDED BY TOM COLEMAN, TO COMPLETE
A SIGHT DISTANCE CALCULATION AT VICTORIA COURT AND HAINES
STREET.**

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 4 TO 0.

**4. REQUEST FOR IMPROVED LIGHTING AT BOTH MID-BLOCK
CROSSWALKS ON ACADEMY STREET TO ENHANCE VISIBILITY.**

Lt. Nelson said this request was received from a resident through D.C. Farrall that in the evening hours it is difficult to see the crosswalks on Academy Street. Mr. Gula asked if they are the high cobra lights. Mr. Coleman said he believes the Electric Department had a lighting design for the crosswalks on Main Street and would suggest talking to Rick Vitelli regarding the request.

MOTION BY TOM COLEMAN, SECONDED BY LT. NELSON TO ASK THE ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW THE REQUEST FOR IMPROVED LIGHTING AT BOTH MID-BLOCK CROSSWALKS ON ACADEMY STREET.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 4 TO 0.

5. REQUEST FOR A BUMP OUT IN THE SHOULDER AT THE POMEROY TRAIL PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON WYOMING ROAD FOR THE SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS TRAVELING NORTHBOUND.

Mr. Coleman said DeIDOT has proposed striping upgrades to be completed and the city code will need to be changed in order to enforce "No Passing on Shoulder". DeIDOT is going to shorten the right hand turn lane to go into the UD facility of the south side. Lt. Nelson said he believes you are allowed to pass on the shoulder unless it is prohibited. Chief Tiernan said he believes Sgt. Davis had mentioned riding in the shoulder is illegal. Lt. Nelson said he would have to research this to make sure.

Mr. Coleman said the bump outs would be long term and the short term improvements would be striping with the possibility of installing bollards if necessary.

6. REQUEST TO PROHIBIT PARKING BETWEEN 701 ELKTON ROAD TO THE STOP SIGN AT SHORT LANE.

Mr. Coleman said he spoke to this resident on the phone. Mr. Coleman said the resident is having difficulty pulling out of this driveway due to a line of sight issue. Mr. Coleman recommended a sign that reads, "No Parking Here to Corner". This would require council approval.

MOTION BY TOM COLEMAN, SECONDED BY DAVE GULA, TO RESTRICT PARKING IN FRONT OF 701 ELKTON ROAD TO THE STOP SIGN AT SHORT LANE .

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 4 TO 0.

(Chief Tiernan reversed the order of Agenda Items #7 and #8.)

7. REQUEST TO ALLOW RIGHT TURNS ONLY FROM CORBIT STREET TO NEW LONDON ROAD.

Mr. Coleman said this request was received from Representative Baumbach. Mr. Coleman believes the reason is to restrict traffic on Corbit Street. Mr. Coleman said he feels if a sign is installed it will just be ignored. Lt. Nelson said within the last five years the accident history shows there have only been ten (10) accidents and only one (1) was caused by vehicle turning left onto New London Road from Corbit Street, the others were rear-end accidents caused by traffic turning left on Corbit Street from New London Road.

Mr. Coleman said this seems to be more of an issue. Mr. Gula suggested a time restriction to prohibit left turns from New London Road onto Corbit Street during certain times of the day.

MOTION BY TOM COLEMAN, SECONDED BY LT. NELSON, TO DENY THE REQUEST TO ALLOW RIGHT TURNS ONLY FROM CORBIT STREET TO NEW LONDON ROAD.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 4 TO 0.

Mr. Coleman said he would contact Rep. Baumbach that the request was denied, however, the committee would support a time restriction for left turns from New London Road onto Corbit Street.

8. CONSIDER REQUESTING DELDOT TO ERECT "USE OF COMPRESSION BRAKES PROHIBITED" SIGNS AT DESIGNATED PROBLEM LOCATIONS.

Chief Tiernan said back in 2001 the City approved to begin enforcement, however it would be impossible to enforce without sound meters. Mr. Gula asked for the problem locations. Lt. Nelson said one location was New London Road coming into the city. Mr. Coleman said he would obtain permission from DelDOT to install signs.

(Councilmember Mark Morehead entered the meeting)

Mr. Coleman asked Mr. Morehead which locations he was recommending. Mr. Morehead said the original location was 273 and Casho Mill Road and received the request for 896 as well from Rep. Baumbach. Another location was Christina Parkway. Councilmember Morehead asked if signs could be installed at all locations. Mr. Coleman said he would get a price for the sign cost. Mr. Coleman said he could definitely do 273/896 and Elkton Road. Councilmember Morehead agreed to cover the cost of the signs within a reasonable amount.

MOTION BY TOM COLEMAN, SECONDED BY DAVE GULA, TO CONTACT DELDOT FOR APPROVAL TO DISCUSS SIGN LOCATIONS AND INSTALL BRAKE RETARDER RESTRICTION SIGNAGE ON STATE MAINTAINED ROADS HEADING INTO THE CITY.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 4 TO 0.



Paul M. Tiernan, Chairman