

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

Traffic Committee Meeting
August 15, 2017
3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Lt. Dennis Aniunas, Andrew Haines, Tim Filasky, Marvin Howard, Tom Parkins

Absent: DC Mark Farrall, Newark Police Department
Dave Gula, WILMAPCO

Guests: Polly Sierer, Mayor
Mary Ellen-Gray, Planning & Development Department
Sgt. Curtis Davis, Newark Police Department
Megan McGuriman, Administration
Mark Deshon, BikeNewark
Jim Kozel, BikeNewark
Linda Laurenceau, Newark resident
Jay Leaning, Newark resident
Alan Schweizer, Newark landlord
Joey Tosh-Morelli, Newark resident
Vicky Tosh-Morelli, Newark resident
Kristen Tosh-Morelli, Newark resident
Josh Shannon, Newark Post

1. Request for “Stop Ahead” road markings at the intersection of Casho Mill Road and Church Road.

Lt. Aniunas said the Mayor received a letter with a diagram from Joey Tosh-Morelli. Lt. Aniunas thanked the Tosh-Morelli family for attending the meeting.

Mr. Filasky said the Public Works Department was forwarded the letter from the City Secretary’s office. Mr. Filasky said he reached out to the Delaware Department of Transportation for input as four of the five legs of the intersection are state maintained roads.

Mr. Filasky said DelDOT concurred with the recommendation and would like to implement the stop ahead road markings in conjunction with installing a "Stop Ahead" sign. Mr. Filasky said the city is willing to take on the cost of installing the signs and maintaining the road markings. Additionally, the city will cut tree limbs to improve the line of sight. Mr. Filasky said this was a great suggestion that the city will implement.

Mr. Schweizer said he owns the property at 107 Casho Mill Road. Mr. Schweizer said he is concerned by adding more signs and now road markings will lower property values.

Mr. Parkins asked if the signs and road markings would be placed on all four sides of the intersection or only in both directions on Casho Mill Road. Mr. Filasky said he would check with DelDOT, however the discussion was to implement in both directions on Casho Mill Road.

Mr. Deshon asked Joey how he thought of the idea. Joey said he was in the vehicle with his grandparents in New Jersey and saw the words "Stop Ahead" painted on the road. He mentioned that with the screeching and beeping he has heard he thought it would be a good idea and his mom suggested he write a letter to the Mayor.

A resident said he lives at 12 Casho Mill Road and has lived there since 2002. He said he has witnessed at least one accident a year at this intersection and feels it is only a matter of time before there's a fatality.

Ms. Tosh-Morelli said she has found research that shows a significant increase in safety when "Stop Ahead" is painted on the road.

A resident said it is best to be proactive and something needs to be done to inform the public they are approaching stop sign and that Casho Mill Road isn't a freeway.

Mr. Deshon said the speed limit increases to 30 m.p.h. beyond this intersection. Mr. Deshon said Downes Elementary School has secured a safe routes to school grant and has developed a committee to explore options on how to slow traffic down and expects with improvements to the bike lanes on this stretch may help to mitigate speeding.

Mr. Parkins asked if there are other locations within City of Newark limits with "Stop Ahead" road markings. Mr. Filasky said he is not aware of any locations where they currently exist. Sgt. Davis said there may be stop ahead marking heading down Country Club Drive at Delrem Drive.

Motion by Mr. Parkins, seconded by Sgt. Davis, to install a "Stop Ahead" signs and paint "Stop Ahead" markings on Casho Mill Road.

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Vote: 5 to 0

2. Review proposal for Orchard Road mini circles pop-up project.

Ms. Laurenceau said she was filling in for Ms. Grasso in her absence. Ms. Laurenceau said the purpose of this meeting was to answer and address key details from the previous Traffic Committee meeting.

Mr. Filasky said upon performing the test with a refuse truck it was determined the size of the circle would need to be adjusted.

Mr. Filasky said the refuse truck could make it through a reduced size circle that includes the bump outs. The bumps outs will be made smaller and the circle can remain the same size. Mr. Deshon asked Mr. Filasky to send the revised dimensions to him.

Mr. Filasky said he reached out to Aetna Fire Department and is waiting to hear back to schedule a time to perform a test with the fire trucks.

Ms. Laurenceau asked Mr. Filasky if the materials were available. Mr. Filasky confirmed they have enough material for both locations.

Lt. Aniunas said from the police department and safety perspective would like to temporarily close the road during the mini circle implementation. Mr. Filasky said they would need to fill out the form for a Block Party permit.

Ms. Laurenceau said the neighborhood will get together to organize the activities around the project.

Mayor Sierer said we will need to receive a decision from Aetna as soon as possible prior to moving forward with the project.

Mr. Leaning said they will keep sight line in consideration and have plans on using low plants. He also added the plastic pots would be no larger than 15" in diameter.

Mr. Haines said Mr. Coleman, City Manager supports this project. Mr. Deshon said BikeNewark is also in support of this project.

Motion by Mr. Haines, seconded by Mr. Howard, to move forward with the pop up mini circle project as specified in the project outline.

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Vote: 5 to 0

Other Business:

Lt. Aniunas said Mr. Deshon would like to share an educational video related to the contraflow lane on Main Street. Mr. Deshon said this was a recommendation approved by the Traffic Committee. This video will be put out through social media and will use to educate University of Delaware students on the proper way to use the contraflow lane.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Aniunas", with a stylized flourish at the end. The signature is written over the printed name and title.

Dennis Aniunas, Acting Chairman

Any supporting documents pertaining to this meeting will be held on file at the police department.