

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

Traffic Committee Meeting
August 21, 2018
3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Lt. Dennis Aniunas, Mark Farrall, Tim Filasky, Marvin Howard, Tom Parkins, Dave Gula

Guests: Jerry Clifton, Councilmember, District 2
Marilyn Gleber, Newark resident
Mike Woodside, Newark resident

Lt. Aniunas said agenda item #3 will be removed from the agenda as requested by Mr. Filasky based on conversations with the resident.

Motion by Lt. Aniunas, seconded by Mark Farrall, to table agenda item #2 based on the resident being unable to attend the meeting.

1. Request for traffic calming and/or request for a stop sign at the intersection of S. Dillwyn Road at Adelene Drive and Mulberry Road.

Mr. Clifton said he is aware stops signs are not used for traffic calming due to motorists running stop signs. However, he mentioned in this specific case it is a wider road, an odd intersection due to how motorists approach the intersection and a line of sight issue. Mr. Clifton said he feels this request is unique compared to other locations brought before city council as this location has an accident history. Mr. Clifton said on August 14th an accident with injuries occurred at this intersection.

Mr. Clifton said at E. Village and W. Village Roads, it is similar that motorists yield to the main road and he feels without the visualization of stop signs motorists don't stop. Mr. Clifton asked for the committee to consider a four-way stop at this location.

Lt. Aniunas said there is a stop sign crossing Dillwyn Road on either side and speed bumps in county jurisdiction. Lt. Aniunas said his experience with stop signs can lead to bad behavior overall due to motorists running stop signs.

Cpl. Vernon said the speed trailer was setup on S. Dillwyn Road just past Adelene Drive from 2/26/18 through 3/26/18. The speed sign is designed to inform operators of their speed and records the data. Cpl. Vernon said every hour approximately 55 vehicles pass through the intersection. There is a low risk (25-34 mph), medium risk (35-44 mph) and high risk (45+ mph). There were 0 vehicles in high risk category, 0 vehicles in the medium risk category and 5 vehicles in the low risk category. The data reflects a 85% compliance. Lt. Aniunas said this study was performed with the speed indication sign turned on which may have acted as a deterrent.

Cpl. Vernon said Sgt. Davis performed an accident history back to 2012 at the intersection. It was noted the most recent accident wasn't reflected as part of the study. There have been 5 accidents (including the most recent) and all were considered minor collisions.

Mr. Clifton said in looking at Mulberry Road there is a line of sight issue. Mr. Clifton said in the past stop sign requests brought before city council had no accident history, however, there is an accident history here. Lt. Aniunas said in his opinion this isn't much of an accident history with less than 1 accident a year.

Mr. Gula said in a similar situation, there were perceived speed concerns on Country Club Drive. Mr. Filasky said they determined on Country Club Drive that it turned out to just perception.

Mr. Woodside said he is the Windy Hill Civic Association president. Mr. Woodside said on S. Dillwyn Road heading toward Capitol Trail there is a visibility issue approaching the intersection with vehicles speeding turning off of Capitol Trail in to the neighborhood. Mr. Woodside pointed out there have been many near misses that have occurred that won't be reflected in the data.

DC Farrall asked Mr. Filasky if it would be possible for Public Works to perform a line of sight survey. Mr. Filasky said he is almost certain that this location wouldn't pass. Mr. Filasky would like to perform an analysis first and discuss the options to improve the line of sight. Mr. Filasky said one option may be to install warning signs that read, "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop".

DC Farrall said there are many 2-way stop signs at 4-way intersections with the city and doesn't want to install stop signs if they aren't warranted. DC Farrall suggested Public Works perform a line of sight study and another speed study with the speed indicator turned off. The hope is this will provide more factual data that can be used in making a final decision by the committee.

Mr. Gula said if the tree is trimmed he would like to know if this would improve the line of sight. Mr. Woodside said recently moved into the neighborhood, within the past year and so far, seem to be open to the idea of trimming the tree. Mr. Filasky said he will perform a sight triangle and could notify the resident of how much needs to be trimmed.

Mr. Clifton asked once the data is compiled if it could be forwarded to himself, Mr. Woodside, and State Representative Osienski.

Motion by DC Farrall, seconded by Sgt. Davis, to table this to the October Traffic Committee Meeting to allow time to perform another speed study for one month as well as a traffic engineering line of sight study.

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Vote: 6 to 0

Cpl. Vernon said predominately across the country to address a traffic issue, education is the primary contribution to reducing traffic related concerns. If there continues to be an issue, the next step would be to step up enforcement.

Mr. Parkins asked if there is an automated photo detection for stop sign violations. Mr. Filasky said there is sophisticated equipment that analyzes intersections, however it is very costly.

Cpl. Vernon said there have been studies conducted with stop signs installed at 4-way intersections throughout the country. Statistics show out of 100 cars, only 5-20 cars make a legal stop, 40-60 cars perform a rolling stop and go through the intersection at 5 mph or less, 20-40 cars go through the intersection over 5 mph.

Other Business:

Ms. Gleber lives on E. Village Road and employees that work on Brook Bend Drive and would like to alert them of speeding in this area with pedestrians in the area. Mr. Clifton said this is a private road. Mr. Gula asked if they could install the radar speed sign.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Dennis Anunas, Acting Chairman

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