



**Tredyffrin Township Traffic Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 16, 2011**  
**7:30 a.m.**

*The Tredyffrin Township Traffic Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 16, 2011. The following committee members were present:*

John DiBuonaventuro	Township Supervisor
Tom Scott	Asst. Township Manager
Steve Norcini	Public Works Director
Erin McPherson	Asst. Township Engineer
Kate Jones	Community Development Coordinator
Lt. Anthony Giaimo	Administrative Lieutenant
Cpl. Kreg Isleib	Traffic Corporal
Ofc. Tyler Moyer	Traffic Officer

*Those present from the community were:*

Toni Pulcini	T/E School District
Peggy Layden	
Carol Clarke	
Michele Burger	

1. **AUDIENCE CONCERNS**

- A. Swedesford Road and DuPortail light was out of sync – cycle was strange. We will review per Lt. Giaimo. The signal service was previously repaired then became out of sync again.
- B. Work was done on the light on Swedesford Road/ramp coming off of 202. Per Ms. Gleason, the controls were replaced so this should no longer be an issue.
- C. Great team work was displayed in improving Swedesford and North Valley. Resident asked if flashing speed signs could periodically be placed in order to raise awareness of

the 30 mph speed limit. The Traffic Unit will gather some data on that. We appreciate the input and assistance.

- D. Ms. Pulcini would like to thank Steve Norcini and the Public Works crew for all their hard work during the past snow storms. There was an incident involving a bus which was stuck and they did a great job. She wanted to publicly thank them. Communication has been great.
- E. Neighbors on Devonshire have voiced complaints about hills and valleys /holes in road. Several roads have buckled from freeze /thaw. Ms. Gleason will bring this to the attention of Public Works Department.

## 2. **NEW BUSINESS**

### A. **Swedesford Road Open Space Parking**

We have looked at solutions to curb activity. There is a small pull off in area and people attempt to make U-turns. Spoke with people in the area and PennDOT – discussed concerns and installation of upright markers.

### B. **PennDOT Route 422 Repair Project**

Comments were requested. Projects are getting into full swing - many will be night time activities. Everything will be hitting at the same time which will present some additional challenges. We will attempt to keep the same level of service, except for temporary road closures. Construction in Upper Merion will reroute traffic occasionally. Mr. DiBuonaventuro stated this year will be a challenging year with respect to traffic. All projects will affect all major arteries in one way or another and will have tremendous effect on freeing up alternative routes.

### C. **Street Light Plan**

Ms. Gleason distributed summary of plan. If it starts at all, it won't be until the Fall. We are looking at issues regarding energy and cost savings. We need to spend some time on cost analysis. We are looking at mostly straight-aways – definitely have to have a light. We are looking at other criteria, such as high volume of traffic and pedestrian activity. There will be a test period. We pay PECO per light whether the bulb is out or not. PECO has a mandate to see reduction in energy.

Lt. Giaimo commented on safety aspects. We will retain the same level of safety. In some areas there is a saturation of lights. Mr. DiBuonaventuro commented that this is a very delicate process. As Ms. Gleason indicated, each individual neighborhood would have to be evaluated. Resident pedestrian traffic will have to be considered. He is not a big proponent of turning off bunch of lights and remove lights. This will be debated at Board level. We will get numbers on the cost per light and the cost of maintenance. Police will evaluate Route 30 and commercial areas for safety. This will be debated at board level. We will go neighborhood by neighborhood to determine the most efficient use of taxpayer funds. In the end, citizens, through the Board, will determine the course of action. We will have lots of public dialogue. Resident suggested Board have a neutral person assigned.

**D. Sign Inventory Program**

We would try to partner this program. Criteria will be developed. We will take into consideration pedestrian areas. They will be helping with sign inventory as well. Throughout the country, people are suggesting doing things differently – energy conservation is key.

The cost of maintenance was discussed – about \$170 per light. The PUC has determined that electricity is paid per light. If a light is removed, that cost is eliminated. We receive a monthly bill which does not identify the pole number. We are working on that. We received a list of 1800+ fixtures by street name. Mr. DiBuonaventuro clarified that every single light fixture is attached to a pole that has a number on it. If we go to the Board, we will give an estimate. The database that Villanova students are doing will not be completed. This database will be helpful. Mr. DiBuonaventuro asked Mr. Scott to send Excel spreadsheet of 1800 fixtures. Villanova grad student is working on process – will develop plan of tier standardization.

**E. Road Closures – Mill Road and Howells Road**

Mill Road Bridge will close March 21 to November 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. DiBuonaventuro stated we had two recent conference calls with PA Turnpike Commission on Mill Road closing and one this week. Two concerns were expressed - what if someone takes out the bridge and what if truck cannot get over. Part of the contract will be putting up stop signs on both sides of Mill Road Bridge. Turnpike is working on access for large vehicles such as moving van or cement truck. They will come off eastbound on turnpike. Procedure has not yet been finalized. Summerhill neighborhood has been notified. If somebody is moving in, they will call Mr. Norcini. We are getting another update on Thursday.

A Fire truck can get there (not ladder truck, but we have water). If necessary, East Whiteland can access. It will be during the work day and it is when construction guys are there. The process is being worked out.

We can inform residents of the procedure in the event of delivery involving large trucks. This is an historic bridge – but not “protected historic”. Howells Road is similar. Turnpike Commission will need to intermittently close the roadway. These will be challenging times but we are managing. Flagmen will be utilized. Will be blasting in the Fall and at the end Allen Myers will be repaving. That will be the only closed time for Howells Road.

**F. Valley Forge Middle School**

Someone expressed interest in traffic unit looking at traffic in the morning – right turn lane is a private road – We need to look at whether we need to tweak distances. In the area of St. Isaacs Church - Resident voiced concern – past bus circle going into school, there are at least 6 cars parked – would like to see this become a no parking area. Resident discussed with Mr. Gibson and he asked teachers not to park there and it was wonderful. Now at arrival and dismissal, cars are parked on both sides. Parents exit and enter. It is extremely narrow and dangerous. The resident would like no parking on both

sides. Lt. Giaimo asked traffic unit to look at distances we have – sign placement possibly adjusted 50 feet would allow about 5 car distance. West Walker is listed as private road. Ms. Pulcini asked if anyone talked to school district engineer. She will find out.

Mr. DiBuonaventuro reviewed the area for 5 or 6 mornings last year, the section between bus loop and next loop. If parking is allowed, that whole entrance right side should be posted to remain clear for emergency vehicles. Lt. Giaimo requested that traffic unit look at ordinance. We can post as temporary no parking by order of Superintendent, at least, building side between both circles. The engineer is Colm Kelly.

Although it is temporary – it should be backed by ordinance, but should gain voluntary compliance. We can paint road markings. School can have cones placed there. At the end of the day, there is more of an issue. Resident asked, if it is determined to be township road, what is process such as expanding exit south on Valley Forge Road. This would run into a budget issue. This will be reviewed and may be managed by roadway markings.

Chesterbrook Boulevard is a township road. Question was asked regarding whether there is the potential for designing an exit which would only be open for dismissal to allow exit on Chesterbrook Boulevard. Ms. McPherson stated this was reviewed and sight distance was an issue. Bus capacity is down and most parents pick kids up. This will be placed on agenda for next meeting.

Comments were made about a significant accident which occurred on February 16<sup>th</sup> on 202, south of entrance, involving a disabled vehicle with 4-way flashers on. A large truck hauling straw, hay, manure, hit brakes and struck vehicle and drove down concrete barrier for a few hundred feet. We are still awaiting results. The roadway was closed roughly 3 hours. The roadway was open about an hour prior to police departure. There was a quick response and clean up of scene. It occurred at the worse time of day – 6:50 – 9:30 a.m. This brought on good discussion with PennDOT to take this model and make it work better . On one of the detour routes, a truck dropped drywall in roadway. It is a work in progress.

Mr. DiBuonaventuro discussed issue on Upper Weadley. Yesterday a call came through around 630 and when went to dispatch, displayed on screen as Weadley, but ended up being intended for Upper Weadley. There were 5 addresses that were changed then changed back. The data comes up on screen which is fed into system from Verizon and Comcast. Residents were instructed to make sure to change bills to read Upper Weadley. Mr. DiBuonaventuro investigated the incident and it was traced to erroneous data which came up on CAD. This has not been a frequent issue.

Mr. Scott stated that Verizon was notified last year and it was changed to Upper Weadley, but service calls ended up changing it to Weadley. Apparently, it doesn't take much to change it back. Now that we know what is driving it, we need to raise the level of awareness. Mr. Scott stated that letters will be sent to residents on Upper Weadley. As far as emergency vehicles are concerned, there is a high level of awareness of the issue.

### 3. **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Conestoga Road – Cross Walk**

Ms. McPherson stated there is no update. PennDOT was contacted. According to PennDOT, it did not appear to be a good location for crosswalk. It was originally in the plan for a crosswalk but ran out of money. One of the residents is still asking for a crosswalk. Lt. Giaimo stated we have two lines there for a crosswalk and concern was raised regarding the issue of a non-signalized mid-block crossing. There are some inherent problems with this. Presently, the speed limit is 35 mph and we are trying to get it to 25 mph. There must be 80 pedestrians per hour to warrant a crosswalk. We are not seeing that many pedestrians cross there. We will contact PennDOT and Traffic Unit will review as well.

#### **B. Devon Park Drive – Crosswalk**

The area has been painted as a crosswalk. It is a mid-block crosswalk, so a study has to be conducted to see if meets the criteria to qualify. There is also another one by Johnson Mathey we need to look at. Multiple counts need to be taken, in the a.m., lunchtime, 4 hour blocks, 40 people per hour. Vanguard has a lot of crossing back and forth.

4. Approval of March 11, 2011 meeting minutes.

*Meeting adjourned at 8:44 a.m.*