

# LTAC – Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2023

## Welcome

6:10pm – called to order

## Attendance and Introductions

<b>Local Traffic Advisory Committee (LTAC) Members:</b>		
Sgt. Scott Jones	Dave Tomko	Matthew Johnston (Matt)
Carol Shugars	Doug Rowe (LTAC)	Ofc. Matthew Hershowitz
Dan Wood, BOS	Stephanie Mason, Township Manager	
<b>GUESTS:</b>	Christian Jones, Warrington Twp Asst. Manager	Heather Schroeder, Turk Road
Nate Vernaci, Warden Road	Patricia Claus, Warden Rd	

## Call to Order/Welcome

Mr. Tomko, Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated that Ms. Ms. Manion was not available, and Supervisor Wood would be sitting in. Mr. Tomko stated that the staff, supervisor, and residents on the committee are all voting members. The Committee introduced themselves.

## Minutes Approval

On motion of Ms. Shugars, seconded by S. Jones the minutes of April 2, 2023 were approved with Dan Wood & Doug Rowe abstaining.

## Visitor Comments (Non-agenda items)

None

## Presentation of Speed Statistics

Ofc. Hershowitz and Sgt. Jones went over the speed statistics that the LTAC is well aware of and the work that they have done since 2011 to 3/2022 specifically on Almshouse Rd., Sugar Bottom and Cherry Lane indicating that the speed limits on the roads have been thoroughly reviewed, vetted and over 1,600 hours have been spent in speed enforcement with no compliance. Several of the roads received speed limit reductions and still no compliance has been achieved. The suggestion is that the Police Department has gone above and beyond with this enforcement, but that traffic commission and Police Department should move these roads back to a regular allocation of review and enforcement detail and not continuing to just focus on these roads for speed enforcement because compliance is not being achieved. These areas get focused on when groups come but the Township Police Department is on every single road daily, reviewing speeds and doing regular enforcement.

Residents from Warden Road inquired about VASCAR and were informed that it is not permitted in Pennsylvania for local municipalities only State Police.

## Turk Road Traffic Calming Request

**Speed Study** – a speed study by Ofc. Hershowitz was conducted and to complete the appropriate speed study a geometric review of Turk Road was provided. The sight distance on the roadway was reviewed and the accident statistics and speed statistics, in the attached report a summary and recommendations are included. The recommendation is that any changes and or reduction of speed limit would need to be done in cooperation with Warrington Township as the jurisdictional boundary for Turk Road is split between Warrington Township and Doylestown Township, the current speed limit of 35MPH meets the criteria as set forth by the MUTCD standard, which was adopted under Pennsylvania Title 67, Chapter 212.2.

Ms. Schroeder from Turk Road commented that the residents on the roadway just want to feel safe and that reducing the speed will do that. She also believes that more money should be allocated to the Police for traffic enforcement.

Mr. Wood commented on the budget process and the number of officers and man hours and how many miles of roadway are enforced.

Ms. Claus from Warden Road indicated that people even speed on her dead-end street.

Mr. Tomko indicated that the roads of Cherry Lane, Sugar Bottom etc. that are similar have been reviewed quite awhile and reduced in speed and still no compliances are achieved.

**Truck Restriction Study** – the second part of the study was the restriction on overweight vehicles, at present there are signs on the roadway restricting truck vehicles over 10,000lbs. to local deliveries only. Unfortunately, the sign was installed by Warrington inadvertently. Enforcement of the restriction is not an available resource to the Police Departments. Again, to complete the truck restriction study, the geometric review, weight restrictions of roadways was conducted, crash analysis, speed data and traffic volume. Based on the study the Police Department does not recommend Turk Road be posted to restrict commercial motor vehicle traffic over a specified weight. In accordance with PennDOT's publication and procedures they are recommending, we are unable to complete a pavement analysis experience of highway breakup as well as roadway structural analysis to include core sampling which is required to be completed by a licensed engineer. Although no core samples were obtained the Public Works Director indicated Turk Road was paved within the last year, he also indicated prior to this work roadway conditions were typical for its age and no base repairs were required.

Ms. Schroeder indicated that there are so many vehicles from UPS trucks to gasoline trucks that it is a cut through road to avoid the Bristol and 611 (Easton Road) intersection. Having appropriate signage to restrict traffic would be helpful. She also believes that contacting trucking companies and directing them to not utilize the road would be helpful. She stated that she had a conversation with Don Centafonte at PennDOT a core analysis is typically conducted, however, the information on hand speaks for itself regarding the roadway condition.

Ms. Shugars inquired as whether or not calls to companies could be made prohibiting them from utilizing Turk Road. Ms. Mason indicated that the Township Solicitor would have to be consulted regarding the legality of such informal restrictions.

On motion of D. Tomko, seconded by Sgt. Jones the LTAC recommended not to change the speed and remove the existing no trucks restriction signs. The motion carried.

**Traffic Calming Survey Results** – Mr. Tomko reviewed the results in the attached map showing the required number of survey results needed to meet the 70% compliance for a Traffic Calming Study. It was indicated that the petitions received at the request of Ms. Schroeder were not met as only 36% signed the petitions.

Ms. Schroeder indicated that at the April Board meeting some of the Board members indicated that they might consider doing a Traffic Calming Study regardless of the survey results.

Mr. Rowe indicated that he has a concern deviating from the policy established by the Township.

Ms. Shugars indicated that she would have preferred the study demonstrate 70% compliance but understands the interest from those that did sign the petition.

Mr. Wood indicated that although Boards and Commissions make recommendations it is up to the Board of Supervisors regarding the final say.

Mr. Johnston indicated that he would not vote on whether or not a Traffic Calming Study should be conducted as most likely Pennoni & Associates would conduct the study. He would abstain.

Ms. Shugars indicated that she would like to make a motion that the LTAC recommend that although the 70% was not achieved that the Board of Supervisors consider completing a Traffic Calming Study regardless. Motion seconded by Mr. Wood the motion passed with Mr. Johnston abstaining.

### 202 Parkway Jake Brake Restrictions

Mr. Tomko reviewed the information from provided by PennDOT regarding the requirement for where Jake Brakes signs are necessary and the recommendation to the Traffic Commission to post the Jake Brake restriction in accordance with PennDOT recommendations.

On motion of Mr. Tomko, seconded by Sgt. Jones that the Jake Brake Signs be installed in the locations and recommendations to the Traffic Commission to approve that. Motion carried unanimously.

### Warden Road No Parking Restriction Study

It was indicated that complaints had been received regarding the need for No Parking signs from 611 to the cul-de-sac, this was based on a review by Ofc. Hershowitz in a memo to Chief Logan indicating that a geometric review, site distance review, accident history and roadway width were evaluated and the recommendation for the No Parking Signs be erected recommended.

Mr. Vernachi from Warden Road indicating that the cul-de-sac should be included, a majority of the residents in attendance indicated that they have long driveways, and some have space within the road right-of-way but on their property to park cars should the need occur.

There was also discussion about using common sense when necessary. If the signs are installed, such as, large gatherings, short deliveries, and the like.

The consensus of the residents present was that the no parking restrictions made sense and they were in favor of the signs being installed.

On motion of Mr. Tomko, seconded by Sgt. Jones the recommendation to the Traffic Commission to post no parking signs from Easton Road through the cul-de-sac. The motion carried unanimously.

### Adjournment

The Chair called and the attendees agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie J. Mason, Township Manager