

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING  
TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

**OCTOBER 9, 2024**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Chief of Police Richard Tornielli (via Zoom); Public Works Director Kerry Grassley; Borough Manager Randall P. Miller; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Mayor Samantha Kaag was unable to attend.

**Visitors:**

Karen Livingood, Resident

James Rogers, Resident

Michael & Helen Witmyer, Residents

Dr. Angela Adler, Visitor

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lincoln at 6:00 p.m.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Rogers noted a handicapped parking space near 303 S. Third Avenue that is no longer needed, the home is currently for sale. Mr. Lincoln spoke of an internal policy that first verifies the need of the person who requested the space prior to placing a bag over the sign to allow time for other requests before removing the sign or designation within the ordinance.

Mr. Witmyer expressed his gratitude towards Mr. Grassley's promptness in addressing his water service line repair needs earlier today.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of September 11, 2024. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

**New Business**

**Franklin Street and Lakeview Drive Intersection** – A request was made to review the Franklin Street and Lakeview Drive intersection to create a multi-way stop. It was noted that traffic flows have increased from Park Road onto Spruce Street and Lakeview Drive. It was recommended to request PennDOT's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) review this intersection as well as review crash history data.

**Franklin Street and Third Avenue Intersection** – Mr. Lincoln noted receipt of resident concerns about traffic not realizing Franklin Street coming up to Third Avenue is not controlled. It was thought the lack of stop control heading westbound on Franklin Street was to assist larger vehicles in climbing the hill and all vehicles to traverse the hill during winter travel conditions. Mr. Lincoln recommended adding auxiliary advisory signage below the stop sign to alert drivers. Parking restrictions within sightlines may need to be reviewed in the future.

**FastBridge Fiber** – Mr. Miller noted fiber optic installations that began in Spring Township and Wyomissing Borough and plans to install cabling primarily above ground in West Reading Borough on existing poles. Fiber optics are considered a public utility that is regulated by the Public Utility Commission. He alerted residents to the possibility of existing utility rights-of-way that could cross tree lines or fence lines. Mr. Lincoln requested that FastBridge Fiber provide advance notification to residents, and that Mr. Grassley closely monitor their activities. The positive aspect to this project is fast internet service at a competitive price.

**Water Service Line Inventory** – Mr. Lincoln spoke of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirement being administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requiring all water service lines to be inventoried and to provide resident notification of lead or galvanized steel service line health effects. Most of the information gathered to date was thanks in part to the Code Department during rental and property transfer inspections, and the Public Works Department during meter repairs or replacements. Minimal feedback was provided through notices on the borough’s website, utility bills, and newsletter articles. It was recommended to spread the news to neighbors to visit the borough’s website to answer questions and provide images of service lines for the inventory. Federal level funding may be available to address lead hazards in homes. Mr. Miller indicated that regulations are being developed by the EPA who has recently decided that all lead and galvanized water service lines be replaced within ten years.

**Road Closure Policy** – Mr. Lincoln noted an internal policy that was developed about a year ago to better communicate and coordinate road closure requests and the inability to enforce these regulations in a resolution format. It was recommended to convert this policy into an ordinance for the ability to enforce. Mr. Miller recommended that a motion be made to Borough Council indicating that the committee is in favor of converting the policy to an ordinance. At that time Borough Council can choose to request the Borough Solicitor to draft an ordinance. Mr. Lincoln reviewed the parameters of the resolution that included all other options are to be considered prior to making such a request, a minimum of five business-day requests, and placement of road closure signs and no parking signs.

Motion to recommend Borough Council to formalize the road closure policy into an ordinance. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

## **Old Business**

**Additional Parking Space Opportunities** – The recommendations made last month as to various areas where additional parking spaces could be established were reviewed and feedback provided by the Public Works Department. Mr. Miller mentioned a variety of setbacks and traffic loop triggering issues that were found. However, with the combined review of the 500 block of Chestnut and Franklin Streets there were roughly twenty viable spaces identified.

Mr. Grassley recommended adding a space north of Penn Avenue on Fifth Avenue and converting one of the three 20-minute spaces to align with the three-hour Penn Avenue parking regulations. This may provide some relief for the three residential properties that do not have close proximity to on-street parking amenities.

Mr. Rogers referred to both Fourth and Sixth Avenue intersections south of Penn Avenue that appear to be similar, though parking is restricted to the west side of Fourth Avenue. Review of the width of these intersections was recommended.

Revisions to the east side of North Sixth Avenue were discussed to restrict parking for loading activity during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mr. Grassley spoke with Superior Oxygen who reported only one mid-day delivery per week, he was unable to connect with Legacy Cigar Lounge to determine their delivery needs. It was thought that four additional parking spaces could be created for evening and overnight use. A sketch of the proposed area was requested for review next month.

The advertised ordinance amendment to Section 430-21 Parking Prohibited at All Times was recommended to be adopted next week. Possible revisions based on tonight’s discussions could be addressed in a separate amendment.

**Reading and Sixth Avenues Traffic Study Update** – Mr. Lincoln shared results of an LTAP study for traffic control options and noted that a traffic signal was not warranted based on the varied daily traffic flows of 627 vehicles per day on Sixth Avenue and roughly 6,000 vehicles per day in each direction on Reading Avenue. A roundabout was suggested; however, it was thought there would not be sufficient roadway width. Mr. Lincoln spoke of a raised intersection that acts as a long speed table with visual difference that is typically completed with a decorative surface. Mr. Grassley noted plans to repave Reading Avenue next year from Seventh Avenue to Delaney Circle and will inquire with the paving contractor to determine cost differences. Mr. Lincoln thought that a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon type pedestrian crossing sign may be warranted for this intersection and could be included in the WalkWorks plans.

**Delaney Circle Update** – Chief Tornielli spoke with the family who agreed to move the memorial to Borough Hall and requested to be notified when the items are planned to be moved. Mr. Grassley spoke of pavement restoration and painting in the spring. It was thought that the traffic circle could be added to the Seventh Avenue paving project and painting of lines completed after paving. The projects are planned to be placed out to bid early next year to begin paving in the spring. Mr. Kaag spoke of creating rumble strips within the circle to slow traffic.

**Trial Sidewalk Replacement Program Update** – The trial program improved forty-one squares at ten different properties with a total material cost of \$4,500. The chosen locations were areas where borough trees had been removed. This was a comfortable amount of work done by the Public Works Department that was appreciated by property owners. The success of this program places the borough in a better position to lift the decade long moratorium that had been instituted because of the quandary in addressing borough tree related damage to sidewalks. Before and after images were viewed of the affected areas that were restored back to a safe condition for pedestrians.

Motion to recommend Borough Council to continue the trial borough tree damaged sidewalk repair program in 2025. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary