

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

**OCTOBER 8, 2025**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 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; Public Works Director Kerry Grassley; Fire Chief & Code Enforcement Department Manager Chad Moyer; Borough Manager Randall Miller; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Mayor Samantha Kaag was unable to attend.

**Visitors:**

James Rogers, Resident

Michael Witmyer, Resident

Karen Livingood, Resident

Thomas & Rebecca Moyer, Residents

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lincoln at 6:02 p.m.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Rogers inquired about creating a handicapped parking space on the east side of South Seventh Avenue, next to the church. This will be reviewed with consideration given to comments received from the business survey on suggested Penn Avenue parking amenities.

Mr. Rogers inquired about the legality of parking motorcycles in front of garages along South Third Avenue, which had been posted on the Voices of West Reading Facebook page. Chief Tornielli stated that parking complaints lodged through the proper channels, such as calling the Police Department, are investigated. Social media is not an accepted manner of reporting parking complaints. It was confirmed that a motorcycle is considered a vehicle and would not be allowed to park in front of a garage.

Mr. Rogers inquired about placing a portable pedestrian crossing sign at the Third and Penn Avenue intersection to encourage drivers to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. It was noted that a rubber base sign had been placed on the center line, as required by law, and had been destroyed by vehicular damage. Chief Moyer indicated that the ladder truck would not be able to make a right turn from Third Avenue onto Penn Avenue with a sign located on the center line.

Mr. Rogers inquired about creating a parking space on Pine Street near South Fifth Avenue, where an old bus stop had previously been located. It was thought possible to create a single parking space on the south side of Pine Street. Mr. Lincoln reported that the list of potential parking spaces has been reviewed by staff, and Mr. Lincoln will review for comment next month.

Mr. Rogers inquired about an additional one or two parking spaces on Obold Street near Chestnut Street. Mr. Grassley noted difficulty accessing this road with a truck without a plow, and Chief Moyer expressed concern about the ladder truck gaining access to this roadway from both access points. Mr. Rogers also reported that parking stall lines have not yet been added to this block.

Mr. Rogers inquired about additional parking spaces in front of 619 Franklin Street. Committee members noted a prior lengthy review, which included legal advice and a decision not to make any changes at this time.

Mrs. Moyer requested that consideration be given to expanding the permit parking program. She noted that permit parking amenities are available throughout the vicinity of the 300 block of Spruce Street and requested that this block be included in the program. It was noted that this topic is on the agenda for this evening.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of September 10, 2025. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 5-0.**

## **New Business**

**Permit Parking Program Revisions** – Mr. Moyer provided a map with suggested areas throughout the borough for expanding the permit parking program to include additional participants. The example used for the 300 block of Spruce Street noted designations on South Fourth Avenue and the 400 block of Spruce Street southside, and the difficulties posed by allowing those residents to use the 300 block of Spruce Street for parking, yet the residents of the 300 block of Spruce Street cannot park on South Fourth Avenue or the 400 block of Spruce Street. The program aims to mitigate the effects of commuter traffic on residents. However, in this case, the program creates hardship for neighboring residents. Committee members agreed to this concept until a borough-wide program can be established. The extension of the permit parking area for participants was discussed, and it was decided to use a block approach, rather than portions of adjacent blocks. Verbiage changes would be needed to Section 430-29 E. for the application process. Reference to a map or resolution could be made and updated as needed without an ordinance amendment.

Based on the minor changes to this ordinance section, a recommendation was made for Borough Council to approve the list of additional permit parking program participant areas. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Municipal Trash Collection Service for Businesses** – Mr. Grassley noted that tipping fees have lessened over the last few years due in part to changes in the bulk trash collection policy and a change in landfill contracts. He reported that a few neighboring municipalities do not allow businesses to participate in municipal trash collection services and noted the non-uniformity in trash generation between occupancy types. The current fee is assessed per unit, regardless of whether one individual or a restaurant occupies it. It was noted that food establishments tend to generate a higher volume of trash. Per ordinance, structures with more than four units may opt out of municipal collection. Mr. Miller inquired about tying trash collection to the number of EDUs assessed by parcel. Mr. Moyer stated that there is no master chart listing the number of EDUs per parcel because record keeping was not as efficient as it is today, and the costliness of having the engineer review each parcel. The solicitor will be asked to provide feedback and to draft an amendment. It was noted that the trash hauler contract could be either extended for one year or put out to bid next year. It was thought that extending the contract one year would allow time to adjust the total volume of trash collection borough-wide for a new bid proposal.

## **Old Business**

**Towing Contract** – Mr. Grassley recommended reviewing the pricing of all three local towing contractors, regardless of the availability of a wrecker, to keep costs down for the residents. He thought that a wrecker contract could be established separately. Chief Tornielli stated that a separate wrecker contract would place the borough at a lower priority with emergency personnel standing on the highway for extended periods of time. Chief Moyer emphasized the importance of having access to a wrecker in a timely manner, particularly in instances where large vehicles need to be moved to rescue an individual in need. Fees associated with the towing contractor selected last month are lower than those of the current towing contractor, and wrecker fees would be assessed on an as-needed basis. It was noted that Mr. Grassley missed part of the discussion last month when he was called out to meet with the paving contractor. Fees associated with towing and storage were reviewed last month, including the more convenient proximity of storage for residents. Chief Tornielli reported that per

ordinance, the towing contractor must adhere to the approved fee schedule. Unfortunately, the current contractor has not submitted a fee schedule since 2019 and has been charging exorbitant fees. Moving forward, a towing contractor and fee schedule will be appointed/approved during the biennial reorganization meeting. Chief Moyer appreciates Mr. Grassley's drive to save residents money; however, in this instance, unless it involves snow removal, most costs are covered by the insurance company. There were no changes to last month's recommendation to the Mayor.

**Juniata Street Direction of Travel** – Mr. Moyer reported that a notice of violation has been issued to remove the vegetation that extends over the sidewalk and into the alley. Mr. Miller indicated that there is a 20-foot cartway and 22-foot right-of-way, which would extend one foot on either side of the street. Mr. Miller spoke with the solicitor, who suggested that the vegetation be trimmed to determine line-of-sight issues. If there are issues, removal of the shrubbery could be required. As for limiting the direction of travel, it was concluded that this is not the best solution in this case, as people would be bypassing onto private property to access Buttonwood Street. Signage and a stop bar could be installed once the shrubbery is removed. Mr. Moyer will review the cartway, noting the ability, through the nuisance ordinance, to remove vegetation from the right-of-way, with the requirement that the owner reimburse the borough. Additional information will become available at next month's meeting.

**Privately Owned Parking Lot Paid Use Agreement** – Mr. Kaag shared that the owner of Gage Personnel is open to the idea of establishing a walkway from Reading Avenue to his parking lot. Mr. Grassley shared a conversation he had with the owner of the old Vanity Fair parcel, expressing a willingness to create a paid-use agreement during evening hours, from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Overnight parking was not an option. Chief Tornielli reported that a citation can be issued for parking on a private lot; however, the vehicle cannot be towed. The agreement with the shopping center owner allows vehicles to be towed from a privately owned lot. Mr. Lincoln recommended that the subject of establishing a walkway from Reading Avenue to the Gage Personnel parking lot be proposed to Borough Council to determine their interest in engineering ADA access.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Rogers inquired about fire truck access to Boot Alley if cars are parked in the alley. Ordinance regulations will be reviewed for the ability to park in this alley. If parking is prohibited, signs will be posted, and enforcement pursued.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Mr. Kaag.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary