

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

DECEMBER 10, 2025

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Mayor Samantha Kaag; Chief of Police Richard Tornielli; Public Works Director Kerry Grassley; Borough Manager Randall Miller; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

Visitors:

James Rogers, Resident

Karen Livingood, Resident

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

Public Comment

Mr. Rogers recommended installing an additional parking space on the south side of the 400 Block of Chestnut Street, closest to Fifth Avenue.

Mr. Rogers reported that six vehicles are parked in the hospital's parking lot at the corner of Chestnut Street and Sixth Avenue this evening. He encouraged the addition of parking space designations in the 300 block of South Sixth Avenue to help drivers avoid parking tickets.

Chief Tornielli shared with Mr. Rogers that the individual with an expired vehicle inspection has been issued fifteen tickets this year and has paid all \$50 fines.

Mr. Rogers recommended designating handicapped parking spaces in various complex parking areas adjacent to Penn Avenue on Fourth and Seventh Avenues, which would be used intermittently.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of November 12, 2025. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried 6-0.**

New Business

Handicapped Parking Space Application – A single handicapped parking space application was reviewed for the 200 block of Spruce Street. Currently, there are no handicapped parking space designations within this block that would support three spaces, as per the policy of not exceeding 10% of available parking spaces.

Motion to recommend that Borough Council approve the designation of a handicapped parking space on the north side of Spruce Street near Second Avenue. **Moved** by Chief Tornielli and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Traffic Calming – 700 Block Cherry Street – Chief Tornielli shared that during a security assessment meeting last week with representatives from Sacred Heart School, discussions focused on speeding in the alley. It was noted that the block is closed from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during school hours. The limited availability of traffic-calming measures for this area was discussed. It was decided to install a traffic monitoring device to gather data for discussion with school representatives in the future.

T2 Parking System – Chief Tornielli shared information gathered from a vendor to improve the efficiency of parking enforcement efforts. It was noted that a module for permit parking is now available on the devices used by parking enforcement. This module would provide residents with a self-service method to apply for parking permits and the ability to report visitor vehicles for a specified period. The module would be able to assess fees for additional cars within a household and create zones within the borough. The system would also help enforce time-limited parking. The cost to equip two parking enforcement

vehicles with advanced GPS and license plate recognition was estimated at \$100,000. Grant funding opportunities will be reviewed.

Valet Parking Designation – Mr. Grassley shared a report from parking enforcement regarding the inability to enforce parking in the currently designated valet parking area in the 300 block of South Seventh Avenue, and the hospital’s decision to remove valet parking to create a patient loading and unloading zone. Chief Tornielli will contact the hospital for feedback on their wishes for this zone. Draft ordinance language could be presented to Borough Council next week.

Old Business

Council Chamber Audio Upgrade – Mr. Miller reported that the Public Works Department has installed parts to upgrade the microphones in the Council Chamber to improve the virtual experience. Zoom attendees reported no issues hearing the audience. The cost of these improvements was roughly \$600, a savings from the quoted \$3,100 to install a single drop-down microphone.

433 Penn Avenue Paid Parking Update – Mr. Grassley reported that stall lines have been installed in the parking lot, but ParkMobile signs have not yet been received. The barriers have been removed, and a few cars have begun parking in the lot. The metered rate of \$1.50 per hour has been approved by Borough Council. Amendments to the metered parking section of the ordinances are up for adoption next week.

Privately Owned Parking Lot Paid Use Agreement Update – A quote from the engineer to establish an accessible ramp from Reading Avenue to the Gage Personnel parking lot has been received. The proposal would not exceed \$3,000 to perform a field survey, prepare a base plan, and design. Placement of a ramp based on elevations was discussed; it was thought that ADA ramp access in the shopping center parking lot was close enough to avoid the need to create ADA access at this location. A proposal for stairway access from Reading Avenue to the Gage Personnel parking lot will be requested.

Micromobility Vehicles Ordinance Amendment – The Bicycle Ordinance, dating back to 1960, was redlined to adapt to present-day Micromobility Vehicles. The changes requested from last month’s meeting were reviewed. Changes to the definitions and operating times were reviewed, as were restrictions on public streets from sunset to sunrise, unless lights and reflectors were installed and operational. Audible devices were allowed, except for sirens. A braking system was required, and the operation of Pedal Cycles on sidewalks in residential areas of the Borough under the guidance of a parent was allowed for children up to 12 years old.

Motion to recommend that Borough Council approve the conversion of the Bicycle Ordinance to a Micromobility Vehicles Ordinance. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Sidewalk Café Safety Best Practices – Mr. Grassley spoke with two PennDOT Municipal Services Representatives regarding best practices for sidewalk café safety. It was discovered that PennDOT does not regulate sidewalks as long as they are not permanent fixtures. It was thought that the borough would create regulations specific to our existing conditions. Methods for preventing vehicles from entering sidewalk areas were discussed, including crashworthy planter boxes and removable bollards. Options will be reviewed for further discussion next month.

Public Comment

Mr. Rogers spoke about parking in Boot Alley; it was noted that this single ordinance amendment to prohibit parking would be incorporated into future similar amendments. He recommended adding a

handicapped parking space in front of 416 Penn Avenue. It was noted that a parked vehicle would block the line of sight for exiting the driveway. Motorcycle parking could be created in this space.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m. by Mayor Kaag and seconded by Chief Tornielli.

Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary