

BOROUGH OF WEST READING TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

APRIL 8, 2026

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 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; Code Department Manager and Fire Chief Chad Moyer; Borough Manager Randall Miller (via Zoom); and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

Visitors:

James Rogers, Resident

Karen Livingood, Resident

Michael Witmyer, Resident

Greg Ciatto, Visitor

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

Public Comment

Mrs. Livingood requested consideration of installing additional lighting for the Borough Hall parking lot. Mr. Grassley noted plans to pave the parking lot next year and the possibility of trenching an electric line to install a light pole before paving.

Mr. Witmyer noted potholes on Reading Avenue that need to be filled. Mr. Grassley shared that the 400 Block of Reading Avenue is scheduled to be paved this year and that he would address these potholes tomorrow.

Mr. Rogers referred to a parking diagram provided by Systems Design Engineering for the old Schweitzer's parking lot at 433 Penn Avenue, where a total of eight parking spaces are on Penn Avenue between Tulpehocken and Fifth Avenues. Mr. Grassley indicated that parking stall striping has been added, creating seven parking spaces. Mr. Rogers also suggested an additional parking space on South Seventh Avenue near the church, and North Seventh Avenue near Nono Alby's, which would require the removal of one plantar box. Additionally, Mr. Rogers requested consideration of establishing a snow emergency route for the northern side of town, which has an additional 50 homes.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of March 11, 2026. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Chief Tornielli. **Motion carried 6-0.**

New Business

559 Penn Avenue Right-of-Way Agreement – Mr. Moyer reported that a zoning application has been received to install two handicap ramps as part of renovation plans to convert a single restaurant unit into three mercantile units. The proposed handicap ramps would be partially located within the right-of-way. Mr. Ciatto of Ciatto Construction is representing the property owner, who is out of town. Mr. Ciatto stated that the trash screening area would be reduced in size along North Sixth Avenue. Two new entrances will be created along North Sixth Avenue, with 15' and 8' long handicap ramps. Mr. Moyer indicated that the right-of-way on Sixth Avenue is 13', measured from the curb towards the building. Mr. Ciatto indicated that the proposed handicap ramp is 5' wide and offered to revise the plans to 4' wide with an open railing for line-of-sight purposes, and to maintain sufficient sidewalk width in the vicinity of the tree. A right-of-way agreement would be drafted that places maintenance responsibilities on the property owner and includes the understanding that the ramp may be removed by utility companies should the need arise to maintain underground infrastructure. Revised plans and a draft right-of-way

agreement were requested for review next month, to make a recommendation to Borough Council to act on the agreement during their Wednesday, May 20th meeting.

Mr. Ciatto departed the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

300 Block South Sixth Avenue 3-Hour Parking – Chief Tornielli stated that the hospital implemented 3-hour parking on its property from Spruce Street to the Clock Tower and has requested that the borough enforce these regulations. Chief Tornielli noted that enforcement could be difficult; the parking enforcement officer would need to chalk the tires to issue a ticket. An administrative discussion between the hospital and the police department was recommended.

Old Business

Traffic Calming – 700 Block Cherry Street – Mr. Grassley met with an LTAP representative yesterday to review this area. It was thought that calming measures were already in place, based on the posted "Play Street Closed 10 AM to 3 PM" signage and barriers. A brief traffic study will be conducted at this location soon. Most of the time was spent reviewing the Third and Penn Avenue intersection. There are plans in place to move the Black Cat traffic recorder from Cherry Street to the Third and Penn Avenue intersection.

433 Penn Avenue Paid Parking Update – Mr. Grassley reported that the ParkMobile signs have not yet been received. The parking lot is currently open for use at no charge. The gore striping on Penn Avenue near Fifth Avenue has been covered with black paint. The first stall line is a minimum of 20' from the crosswalk per the state vehicle code. Two additional parking spaces have been added to this area, bringing the total to seven. It was noted that since the borough purchased this property, six additional parking spaces have been added to Penn Avenue.

Privately Owned Parking Lot Paid Use Agreement Update

- **Gage Personnel Parking Lot** – Mr. Kaag shared some concerns expressed by the owner of this property last evening as to liability issues associated with stairways. He would prefer a ramp-type crossing from the Gage Personnel parking lot to the sidewalk on Reading Avenue. The engineer plans to have a stairway proposal ready for the April council meeting. Other, more costly options, such as a switchback ramp, could be reviewed.
- **Shopping Center Parking Lot** – Mr. Miller noted some additional changes to paid parking spaces that will provide a net gain of 20 paid parking spaces.

Mr. Miller departed the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

2026 Road Paving Projects – Mr. Grassley shared a change in plans for North Sixth Avenue paving due to two water main breaks in the last two weeks and a sewer line replacement at 559 Penn Avenue. He shared that the main from Penn Avenue is 12", it reduces to 4" around Court Street, increases to 6", and increases again to 8" at Reading Avenue. Replacement of the water main on this block was suggested prior to paving. Therefore, the 100 Block of South Fourth Avenue is planned instead. The increased cost of roughly \$7,000 should remain under budget.

300 Block South Seventh Avenue Valet Parking Update – Chief Tornielli reported that the hospital is again offering valet parking in the area near Spruce Street, where we recently established a patient loading/unloading zone at their request. To avoid costly ordinance amendments, it was accepted that the two uses were similar. Should a car be parked for an extended period, a citation may be issued.

Potential List of Parking Spaces Review – The list of potential parking spaces provided by Mr. Rogers was reviewed for feasibility. The following were recommended to be established:

Name	Side	Location
Cherry Street	South	One additional space west of Third Avenue
Penn Avenue	South	One additional space in front of 428 Penn Avenue
Penn Avenue	North	One additional space east of Fifth Avenue
North Seventh Avenue	West	Five additional spaces (4-20' & 1-18') setback 20' from Reading Avenue and Walnut Street

Mr. Rogers requested an additional parking space in front of the West Reading Motor Club. Due to line-of-sight issues exiting the driveway onto Penn Avenue, it was not recommended to add a parking space.

Public Comment

Mr. Rogers requested clarification on Juniata Street, where cars park in front of their garages. Some vehicles are off the roadway, and others have two wheels on the roadway. Chief Tornielli stated that unless the vehicle is causing an obstruction, a ticket would not be issued. Issuing a citation would be at the officer's discretion, due to the potential of costly appeals.

Clarification was also requested regarding the hospital's request to enforce parking on its property. Mr. Rogers recommended the hospital tow vehicles that park beyond the time limit.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Chief Tornielli.

Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary