

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

JUNE 10, 2026

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, June 10, 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; Borough Manager Randall Miller (via Zoom); and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

Visitors:

James Rogers, Resident

Karen Livingood, Resident

Michael Witmyer, Resident

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lincoln at 6:01 p.m.

Public Comment

Mr. Rogers spoke about potential parking spaces in the 200 block of South Sixth Avenue and noted a discussion he had with a woman who was parking her vehicle nearby. She welcomed the idea of additional parking in the area.

Mr. Rogers also spoke about additional parking on South Seventh Avenue, south of Penn Avenue near the church, and noted that resident feedback has indicated that the traffic signal sensor in the roadway has not worked for years. He reported that a single tripwire is located seven feet from the curb. Mr. Grassley reported that all traffic signals are tested each year and that no issues were found at this signal. Mr. Rogers then asked whether the area closest to Penn Avenue could be designated as a handicapped parking space to benefit the church and local businesses.

Mr. Rogers referred to North Sixth Avenue, north of Penn Avenue, near the shopping center structure, which will have two new businesses with handicap-ramp access, and suggested that a handicapped parking space be added near Penn Avenue. It was noted that changes have been made to this block to support a loading zone during business hours, thereby opening parking spaces for residents and business patrons. An additional parking space was thought to impede the turning radius of delivery vehicles.

Mr. Rogers again referred to the South Fourth Avenue intersection near Penn Avenue, where he noticed vehicles speeding through the turn onto Fourth Avenue from Penn Avenue, and recommended creating a handicap parking space on the east side to intermittently slow traffic and offer handicapped parking to patrons of local businesses. Mr. Kaag noted an incident with a fire truck when someone was illegally parked in that space, and the school bus's use of this intersection, and could not comfortably allow an additional parking space in that vicinity.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of May 13, 2026. **Moved** by Chief Tornielli and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Old Business

Event, Construction & Road Closure Policies/Ordinances – Information has been drafted by the Code Enforcement Department for the committee's review, with plans to discuss it in July, when Mr. Moyer can join the meeting. This discussion was tabled.

433 Penn Avenue Paid Parking Program Update – Mr. Grassley shared his recent interaction with ParkMobile and a promise to provide tracking information for the delivery of signs within 3 to 4 business days. The shopping center lot is 73501, and the 433 Penn Avenue site is 73503.

Privately Owned Parking Lot Paid Use Agreement Update

- **Gage Personnel Parking Lot Access** – Based on the property owner's concern about a steep stairway, the engineer has provided two overhead views. Access from the parking lot has three steps down towards Seventh Avenue, followed by an 11-foot flat landing area leading to a 12-step staircase leading towards Reading Avenue. Mr. Lincoln had envisioned a more tiered, five-step landing approach that may not be feasible given the challenging bedrock. Mr. Grassley offered to take the illustrations to Mr. Gage for his involvement to determine if this rendition would satisfy his concerns. Wheelchair access from the parking lot to Reading Avenue is available via the sidewalks around the building. Information about this paid parking opportunity will be available in the ParkMobile App.

Subject to the property owner's consent, a recommendation was made to Borough Council to move forward with the parking lot access project. **Moved** by Chief Tornielli and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried 6-0.**

North Seventh Avenue Experimental Parking Update – Mr. Grassley indicated that the lines have been painted on the 100 Block of North Seventh Avenue to create additional parking spaces. To date, there have been no complaints. The experimental provisions will remain in effect while the process of adopting amendments to the ordinance is completed.

New Business

Third and Penn Avenue Traffic Study – A review of pedestrian safety recommendations from PennDOT's LTAP program suggests installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) in both directions. Additional recommendations included pavement marking treatments, such as yield-here-to-pedestrians markings in advance of crossings, traffic-calming bump-outs, pedestrian refuge islands, in-street signs, and increasing the visibility of the signs by trimming tree growth and installing signs on both sides of the street. It was noted that the engineer is moving forward with the RRFB grant application for this intersection. The installation of RRFBs was preferred before the PennDOT 422 bypass project began, which could shift more traffic onto Penn Avenue. The bypass project is slated to start in early 2028.

200 Block South Sixth Avenue Parking – An overhead view of this block, showing the implementation of six parking spaces on the east side, was reviewed. Ample room was allotted for line-of-sight at the intersection of Chestnut Street and the mid-block exit from the hospital's parking lot. The Parking Enforcement Officer has noted repeated abuse of the patient drop-off spaces on the west side of this block. Other viable options for the parking spaces on the west side will be reviewed, as will any restrictions on the new east-side parking spaces.

Motion to recommend the addition of parking spaces on South Sixth Avenue on the east side. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Traffic Incident Reporting – Mayor Kaag spoke about traffic incident reports on the Voices of West Reading Facebook page and her efforts to encourage filing these reports through other channels, such as email or phone. To date, no reports have been received. Chief Tornielli stated that it is best to speak with the complainant to understand the context of the violations to better direct patrols.

Public Comment

Mr. Rogers reported that he can watch the traffic circle from his home and stated that this is the number one location for traffic enforcement in the borough. It was noted that a single resident actively protests traffic enforcement in this vicinity.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Chief Tornielli.

Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary