



Town of Vienna

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Meeting Minutes Transportation Safety Commission

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

8:00 PM

Charles Robinson Jr. Town Hall, 127 Center
St. South

1 Call to Order

The Vienna Transportation Safety Commission (TSC) met in regular session on October 29, 2024 in the Vienna Town Hall Council Chambers, 127 Center Street S. Chairman Beth Eachus opened the meeting at 8:04 pm with the following members present: Vice Chairman Donna Smith and Commissioners Leonard Ignatowski, Ken Nahigian, Loginn Kapitan, SallyJean Penna and Kate French. Charlie Strunk was absent; there is one vacancy. Andrew Jinks (DPW), Sergeant Megan Gucwa, Vienna Police Department (VPD), and Jennifer Sigler, TSC Clerk, were also present.

2 Approval of the September 24, 202 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Nahigian made a motion to approve the September 24, 2024 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Kapitan seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7 - 0 (one member absent, one vacancy)

3 DPW Report

Project Updates: Capital Bikeshare - The Town has completed all the necessary design and documentation to proceed to the construction phase. DPW is currently waiting on VDOT to finalize contract documents on their end so that the project can officially enter the construction phase. DPW anticipates the installation of the stations sometime within the next 6 – 8 months. The stations take time to fabricate, and some locations will need a concrete pad to be constructed before installation.

4 Receipt of Petitions and Communications from the Public

Elizabeth DiFrancisco, 434 Knoll Street NW, has concerns about the students walking to school and having to cross Nutley Street NW. She would like to see additional crosswalks and possibly blinking stop signs along Nutley NW.

Penny Oszak, 221 Nutley Street NW, says drivers race down Nutley Street to beat the light at Maple Avenue. She believes stop signs are not being noticed and agrees with the blinking stop sign idea. She asked if the speed indicator signs (that show the speed of vehicles) might be an option.

Mr. Jinks said the school prefers the students cross at the corner where the crossing guard is located. He can deploy the blinking stop signs, but they are a temporary measure with the signs being in any one location for a month at a time. He feels the speed indicator signs would be useful, but they are being used in another part of town at the moment. If a speed table or other traffic calming measure beyond that is requested, a petition would be required.

Chairman Eachus summarized DPW will do as much as they can without a petition. If more traffic calming is requested beyond that, a petition will be required.

These are non-action items for initial presentation only; three-minute time limit enforced

5 DPW Review of Cottage St. and Plum St. SW Intersection

DPW reviewed the intersection configuration, sight distance, and other safety factors during site visits and in-office review. Based on speed and volume data gathered along both roadways from Tuesday October 8th, 2024, to Tuesday October 15th, 2024, DPW does not recommend additional traffic calming mitigations. The 85th percentile speed along Cottage Street was 28 MPH and the average speed was 24 MPH

Based on the traffic volumes, stop signs along Cottage Street at the intersection with Plum Street are not warranted.

DPW recommends advanced warning pavement markings along Cottage Street for the pedestrian crossing to help alert drivers of the crosswalks at the intersection. Identifying a pedestrian at the intersection can be challenging if a vehicle is parked on-street at 801 Cottage Street. The recommended pavement marking will help mitigate this issue. DPW anticipates the pavement markings to be either "PED-XING" or a person-crossing symbol/image. DPW will also continue to explore other MUTCD approved alternatives. DPW can add the pavement markings with a Work Order; there is no need for a motion from the TSC. The pavement marking may not be in place until the early spring, but DPW will try to install them earlier.

Mara Thayer, 818 Plum Street SW, said there are lots of kids and active seniors in the neighborhood. She has concerns about turning from Moore Avenue to Cottage Street and suggested it should be a 4-way stop.

Pegah Pirowski, 807 Plum Street SW, asked how the data for the traffic study is collected, for example, is there a police car present? She also wanted to know if the recommendation was made before or after the pedestrian accident that happened recently at this intersection.

Mr. Jinks explained there are no police cars or official vehicles present during the study. The device is small, attached to an existing signpost and is very discreet. It gathers information from both directions. There was one device counting on Plum Street and another device counting on Cottage Street. She also wanted to know if the recommendation was made before or after the pedestrian accident that happened recently at this intersection.

Pratima Saxena, 795 Plum Street SW, would also like to see a 4-way stop installed. Kids walk to Vienna Elementary from there. It's scary.

Melissa Edwards, 801 Cottage Street SW, says it should be about safety first. Speed is not necessarily the issue, just people ignoring the law. She asked what the harm was in installing a 4-way stop.

Sarah Perry, 803 Cottage Street SW, reiterated the intersection is very scary.

Jennifer Dlugosz, 805 Cottage Street SW, is alarmed by the crashes and accidents. She would like a 4-way stop installed, but if that's not possible please install advance warning signage for the 2 stop signs.

Marcus Walter, 708 Cottage Street SW, lives a few houses down from the intersection. He has observed people randomly stopping at the crosswalk even when nobody is there.

Neal Sikka, 706 Plum Street SW, says the new Plum Street sidewalks have made the

situation worse.

Kelly Beam, 701 Plum Street SW, agrees the intersection is dangerous.

Mr. Jinks will consider RRFBs and will add “cross traffic does not stop” signage for this intersection. This does not require a petition. He will share any additional information at the November 26 meeting.

6 BAC Report

The BAC discussed the Dominion detour and expressed concern that there were no social media posts about the Community Bike Ride, even though the PIO office was notified. There will be no more Community Bike Rides until spring 2025. It was suggested a food crawl theme (tacos, pizza, ice cream) would be a fun idea for the next ride. Finally, bicycle education for children and adults will be a focus in the future.

7 PAC Report

The PAC discussed the Robinson Trust sidewalk projects to be completed, future safety campaigns and the need for more eye-to-eye signage.

8 Reports of the Commissioners

Commissioner Nahigian suggested the Police and DPW co-author an article about speeding for the Vienna Voice Newsletter.

Vice Chairman Smith asked if the Town could use artwork to slow down drivers.

Commissioner French mentioned she has noticed people running the red light at the intersection of Maple & Nutley.

Sergeant Gucwa said the Eye-to-Eye Campaign and signage works.

9 Report of the Chairman

Chairman Eachus recently met with Council at a Work Session and shared with them the need for more communication from Council and other Boards and Commissions. She also asked Council to please fill any vacant spots on the TSC (and BAC & PAC) as soon as possible.

10 Meeting Adjourn

9:40 pm

THE TOWN OF VIENNA IS COMMITTED TO FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STANDARDS. TRANSLATION SERVICES, ASSISTANCE OR ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS FROM PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE TO BE REQUESTED NOT LESS THAN 3 WORKING DAYS BEFORE THE DAY OF THE EVENT. PLEASE CALL (703) 255-6304, OR 711 VIRGINIA RELAY SERVICE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED.