

Memorandum  
Summary of Meeting  
Date: Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017

In Attendance:

Marta Driscoll	Council Member	Paul Lutz	PennDOT
Jeff Durst	Council Member	Eugene Blaum	PennDOT
Matt Houtmann	Borough Engineer	Ashwin Patel	PennDOT
Connie Windsor	Tom Killion's Office	Don Centofante	PennDOT
Linda Filippone	Chris Quinn's Office	Jim Brown	PennDOT
		Darren_____	PennDOT

Council Woman Anne Searl requested a meeting with PennDOT on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 . The above individuals met to discuss the traffic issues within the borough on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.

Below are the notes on the issues that were discussed and action items set at the meeting. Additional notes are also contained in the letter from PennDOT dated August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 addressed to Mr. Matt Houtmann(attached)

1. Valleybrook Rd. (SR3029) & Rt. 1 –
  - a. A Red Arrow was recently installed for WB Baltimore Pike traffic turning left onto Valleybrook Road to prohibit left hand turns except on a green arrow
  - b. Line striping was altered so there is now a separate right turn lane from EB Baltimore Pike onto Valleybrook Road.
  - c. Traffic signs upgrade is in the works with Charles Higgins.
  - d. Borough is working with their Traffic Signal Maintenance Contractor, Don Higgins, to replace the inductance loop traffic detectors with infrared detection. The switch to infrared detection improves signal efficiency, and reduces future maintenance costs, but does not necessarily make intersection safer.
  - e. Higgins has moved-up the schedule for the 2017 traffic signal inspection report so that the Borough can more completely assess the extent of up-grades required.
  - f. ACTION – MATT HOUTMANN
    - i. Coordinate with Higgins on budgeted signal upgrades for the loops/infrared cameras. Potential for end of year or early 2018 installation, or early spring 2018.
  
2. Valleybrook Rd. (SR3029) & Wawa Rd/Ivy Rd.
  - a. Site lines are a problem at this intersection due to vegetation and the curvature of the Road.
  - b. It is the Borough's responsibility to take appropriate action to ensure that the lines of sight are maintained at a Borough Road Intersection with a State Highway.
  - c. Vegetation that block sight lines is a violation of title 75 section 6112 –Removal of Traffic Hazards by Property Owner
    - i. The property owner is responsible and liable if notified, he doesn't correct the issue and an accident occurs.

- ii. Notification of the property owner is/should be triggered by a complaint from a resident or someone traveling on the road.
    - iii. It is the borough's responsibility to enforce the code if it's a borough road entering a state road.
  - d. PennDOT limits its vegetation clearing to the Legal right-of-way (for Valleybrook Road the legal right-of-way is established 16.5 feet from centerline of road).
  - e. ACTION\_Chester Heights
    - i. Contact JIM BROWN with specific vegetation issues to be addressed. He will let us know if it is our responsibility of if we can have a plan made up for PennDOT to Address.
    - ii. Any Bamboo issues will need to be coordinated and planned.
- 3. Valleybrook Rd. (SR3029) & Ivy Mills Rd. (SR 3036)
  - a. PennDOT has implemented the Traffic Sign Up-grades as noted in the August 3 letter.
  - b. The Borough is primarily responsible for ensuring that the lines of sight are maintained for the intersection. The Borough can inform the property to cut the vegetation or the Borough can trim the vegetation themselves.
  - c. Engineers Note: The Borough should proceed with excavating back the bank at the left side of Ivy Mills Road at the intersection with Valleybrook Road
- 4. Valleybrook Rd. & St. Thomas Church School
  - a. Traffic Light Process
    - i. Have Borough Engineer preliminarily review traffic volumes to determine if a traffic signal is warranted.
    - ii. Meet with St. Thomas and agree on the potential conditions for the traffic light and that they would be willing to meet all conditions if a sign was warranted.
      - 1. PennDOT highly recommends that a new traffic signal for St Thomas would need to be installed at the intersection of Ivy Mills Road and Valleybrook Road. Traffic circulation within the Parish Facility would need to be changed.
      - 2. Closing the northwesterly most intersection (between the two stone walls)
      - 3. Potentially having St. Thomas provide part of the funding.
      - 4. Investigate whether GVSD would participate in funding.
      - 5. The signalization of the St Thomas entrance may mandate the installation of a left turn lane on Valleybrook Road. Additional right-of-way would be required.
    - iii. The Borough cannot request a traffic signal warrant analysis unless the Borough is fully committed to installing the signal. If PennDOT performs a warrant analysis and the warrants are met, PennDOT will expect the Borough to install the signal.
    - iv. So, the process would be

1. Borough Engineer determines if warrants can be met
  2. Meet with St Thomas Parish
  3. Secure Funding for the light. All funds must be available or projected within a budget to fund the light if it is found to be warranted.
  4. Apply to PennDOT for a Study (including proof of funds to invest in light)
  5. PennDOT performs Study
  6. PennDOT tells us if a light is warranted.
  7. Borough approves funds, hires a contractor and installs light.
- b. Low Cost Improvements – No cost to the Borough
- i. These are available and a request has been triggered by Councilwoman’s Letter
  - ii. Improved Pavement Marking Lines to be drawn for turning into and from St. Thomas.
  - iii. Additional Signs warning of upcoming intersection with St. Thomas School
  - iv. ACTION\_PennDOT
    1. Implement these low cost options Spring of 2018
- c. If speed is an issue
- i. We can request an installation of speed measuring signs with the school flashers. The speed measuring signs would only be active during school zone hours
  - ii. ACTION\_Chester Heights
    1. Evaluate if speed during school hours is a problem if yes see above
5. Valleybrook Rd & Smithbridge Rd
- a. There was no immediate suggestions for Traffic Calming measures
  - b. PennDOT and/or Borough still have the ability to require the developer to re-analyze the signal timing and make adjustments to the cycle times.
  - c. Furthermore, the Chester Heights Market Land Development Plan contains a new access onto Smithbridge Road which allows PennDOT and the Borough to request improvements to the signalized intersection
  - d. A second permit was requested by the HOA and 1 Smithbridge Road.
    - i. Currently under review by PennDOT
    - ii. ACTION\_PennDOT & MATT HOUTMANN
      1. Receive PennDOT’s review and address concerns on borough’s behalf.
6. Valleybrook Rd. (SR3019) & Llewelyn Rd.(SR3023)
- a. Brake Retarder prohibition- requested and denied. None of the roads qualify. To qualify must be 4% grade over 500ft.
  - b. Flasher Permit for stop sign
    - i. Flasher permits are special case. They go up to the main office in Harrisburg . usually after they are approved a follow-up study is required to see if they are

effective. PennDOT individuals at the meeting believed that the flasher would not be approved, and not productive at that intersection.

- c. ACTION\_PENNDOT
  - i. Based on the letter issued a request has been opened to add additional signs at this intersection that would increase sign size and update “opposing traffic does not stop”.
  - ii. Also, additional pavement markings may be recommended by PennDOT such as a striped arc through the intersection and caution wording on pavement itself
    - 1. Projected implementation – Spring 2018
  
- 7. Valleybrook Rd. & Mattson Rd.
  - a. Have the recommended (Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>) Stop Bar and Skip lines been installed/placed?
    - i. This would be a borough expense. Should consolidate all striping into one Contract
    - ii. ACTION\_ MATT HOUTMANN & MARTA DRISCOLL
      - 1. Identify all striping required by the borough and include in budget.
  - b. Vegetation is also an issue see Vegetation above in 2b-2d
  
- 8. Lenni Rd (SR3032) & Llewelyn Rd.(SR3023)
  - a. Can we obtain updated crash data for this intersection?
    - i. PennDOT did not have accident data available for meeting; however note all crashes must be correctable to count. These are usually angle hits with no impairment of the driver.
    - ii. Site lines are not a concern at this intersection for PennDOT.
  
- 9. Any Highway Safety Grants available to help ease our traffic concerns?
  - a. ACTION\_ EUGENE BLAUM
    - i. To Provide Grant Information
  
- 10. When will the vegetation obstructions be addressed?
  - a. Where were they noted?
    - i. Along Valleybrook Road
  - b. Will PennDOT cut or request property owners to do so?
    - i. PennDOT deals with their roads, however obstruction of sightlines falls under Title 75, Section 6112 and is the homeowner’s responsibility.
    - ii. PROCESS TO CORRECT:
      - 1. Complaint triggers a letter from borough with copy of title 75 and picture of vegetation.
  - c. ACTION\_ MARTA DRISCOLL
    - i. Find out from Frank Daly how to coordinate Title 75 Section 6112 and our code so that we can enforce a state code.

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11. Additional Information:

- a. Nicole Throne is the inspector for vegetation. Crews are lead by Darren. Address issue to Jim Brown.
- b. This meeting addressed the concern of St. Thomas on October 24m, 2016 to perform a traffic study at Valleybrook Road and the Intersection with St. Thomas
  - i. ACTION\_Marta Driscoll
    1. Write a letter to St. Thomas about the meeting, low cost measures proposed and plan a meeting to discuss Traffic study.
  - ii. ACTION\_Marta Driscoll
    1. Send Thank you note to Connie and Linda