

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

Members: Richard, Chairman; Martin, Vice Chairman; Musser, Member; Buohl, Alternate; Burkholder, Staff

Attendees: Committee: Richard, Chairman; Musser, Member; Buohl, Alternate
Council: Reinhold, Ressler
Staff: Burkholder; Harris
Guest: None

The Highway Committee met on August 28, 2023, at 5:30 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Burkholder provided confirmation of the following:

1. The meeting agenda was posted on the Borough's website and at Borough Hall no later than 24 hours in advance of the time of the meeting.
2. The meeting agenda included a listing of each matter of Borough business that will be or may be the subject of deliberation or official action at the meeting.
3. There were no changes made to the meeting agenda after it was posted.
4. The meeting agenda was made available to individuals in attendance at the meeting.

Committee Chair Richard asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, Mr. Richard asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Mr. Musser moved, and Mr. Buohl seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed and discussed the results of Bid #23-4 for Intersection Safety & Signal Improvements. Burkholder advised the Committee that most of the work associated with this project will be re-budgeted in 2024 due to expected long-lead times for signal poles and mast arms. Burkholder reminded the Committee that the Borough has secured a \$222,400 ARLE Grant to offset Borough costs in completing this project. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council award the bid to the apparent low bidder: C.M. High, Inc. in their total bid amount of \$390,000 at their September 11, 2023, meeting.
2. The Committee discussed a request by an EAJA contractor replacing a water main along East Main Street to modify road closure and detour time parameters to improve efficiencies in their planned work. The Committee will recommend conditional approval of modified work hours to 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM, Monday evening through Thursday morning subject to eastbound 322 detour performance and Ephrata Police review at their September 11, 2023, meeting.

Discussion Items:

1. Staff followed up on a citizen concern last month regarding ADA accessibility along West King Street and discussed with the Committee an email provided by the Borough's liability insurer. This item will remain as a Discussion Item for further dialog at a future Committee meeting.

2. The Committee reviewed an informational PennDOT Vulnerable Road Users Safety Assessment Participation email. Staff advised the Committee that PennDOT identified a high-risk area for pedestrians and cyclists in the Borough along East and West Main Street (SR 0322) between Michael Court and Church Street. Staff and Borough Council can provide feedback by accessing and completing PennDOT's online survey. No further action required.
3. The Committee reviewed a Staff request to provide a Resolution authorizing a 90-day experimental parking restriction on the south side of West Fulton Street just east of South Oak Street due to several recent citizen complaints about obstructed clear sight due to parked vehicles. Ephrata Police have previously asked the owners of vehicles parking in this area to park elsewhere resulting in short-term compliance but without enforcement capability the vehicles returned. The Committee directed Staff to provide the Resolution and 10-year crash data at this intersection for review at a future Committee meeting.

Old Business Items:

1. Staff has formulated a parking kiosk plan which will be included for review in the draft capital project budget for 2024. Mr. Ressler reminded Staff about applying for available grants for the parking kiosks. Staff advised that capital projects are reviewed for funding opportunities.

Miscellaneous Items:

1. Mr. Musser inquired about the lack of no left turn signage at the eastbound SR 0322 exit ramp from northbound SR 0272 adjacent to the Ephrata Cloister property. Staff will check with PennDOT and return comments at a future Committee meeting.
2. Mr. Buohl inquired about the ongoing street work on North State Street. Staff advised that Public Works is grade adjusting manholes and water valve boxes following street improvements in 2023. No further action required.