

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT – NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Members: Richard, Chair; Martin, Vice Chair; Zimmerman, Member; Dudley, Alternate; Burkholder, Staff

Attendees: Richard, Chair; Martin, Vice Chair; Zimmerman, Member; Dudley, Alternate; Reinhold, Council Vice President; Ressler, Council Member; Barr, Council Member; Thompson, Borough Manager; Burkholder, Staff; Visitors: Matt McKinney, David Wittle, Todd Frey, Teresa Caruthers, and Rebecca Beres.

The Highway Committee met on October 25, 2021 and discussed the following:

Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed the results of Bid #21-6 Traffic Signal Upgrades at SR 0272 & SR 1018 & Parkview Heights Road, SR 0272 & South State Street, and North State Street and Locust Street intersections. Upgrades include provision and installation of emergency vehicle pre-emption and vented traffic signal back plates with reflective borders. C.M. High, Inc. is the Borough's traffic signal maintenance contractor. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council award the bid to apparent low bidder: C.M. High, Inc. from Myerstown, PA in their total bid amount of \$39,000 at their November 8, 2021 meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed Comcast's plans to install approximately 9,073 linear feet of underground cable in conduit in and along Lauren Lane, Michael Court, Gregg Circle, Julie Ann Court, Sherry Court, Tom Avenue, Jeff Avenue, Bethany Road, Wyneberry Drive, and Tricia Lane. Staff has reviewed and approved the latest revised plans. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council conditionally approve Comcast's plans known as Drawing No. 0931920019-E last revised October 12, 2021 subject to a fully executed Street Opening and Cable System Construction Agreement, Borough receipt of a satisfactory performance guarantee in the amount of \$203,425.00 and provision of a certificate of insurance naming the Borough of Ephrata as additional insured at their November 8, 2021 meeting.
3. The Committee reviewed Comcast's plans to install approximately 14,971 linear feet of underground cable in conduit in and along Farm Lane, Clover Court, North State Street (600 Block), Irene Avenue, Marion Terrace, Lincoln Avenue (700 Block), Linda Terrace, Timothy Lane, Stoneridge Circle, Heather Lane, Hemlock Road (100 Block), and Stephen Circle. Staff has reviewed and approved the latest revised plans. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council conditionally approve Comcast's plans known as Drawing No. 0931920019-F last revised October 12, 2021 subject to a fully executed Street Opening and Cable System Construction Agreement, Borough receipt of a satisfactory performance guarantee in the amount of \$334,886.00 and provision of a certificate of insurance naming the Borough of Ephrata as additional insured at their November 8, 2021 meeting.
4. The Committee further discussed a citizen request to install sidewalk alongside of 150 Heatherwood Drive adjacent to Parkview Heights Road. The Committee was advised that no sidewalk deferral agreements existed and that the Ephrata Area School District Transportation Coordinator opined that an additional bus stop along Parkview Heights Road adjacent to Heatherwood Drive is too close to the established school bus stop at Ashley Lane and Parkview Heights Road. The Committee heard from and read a letter by Matt McKinney, property owner at 150 Heatherwood Drive, regarding his concerns about constructing sidewalk adjacent to his

property. Staff made the Committee aware that if the sidewalk were constructed alongside 150 Heatherwood Drive adjacent to Parkview Heights Road pedestrians would have to cross private property to access the sidewalk to and from the cul-de-sac at Heatherwood Drive. There is an existing 55 feet wide easement reserved for utilities, drainage, and emergency access between the Heatherwood Drive and Parkview Heights Road rights-of-way. There is no existing pedestrian access easement through this area. There is existing safe pedestrian passage through the development via Heatherwood Drive and Ashley Drive to Parkview Heights Road. The Committee unanimously denied the request to install sidewalk along Parkview Heights Road adjacent to 150 Heatherwood Drive. Borough Manager Thompson suggested to Committee that they consider waiving the requirement that sidewalks be installed where such installation would serve no necessary or convenient public purpose. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve a waiver of Section 281-45.A of the Code of the Borough of Ephrata, sidewalk installation along Parkview Heights Road, for the property located at 150 Heatherwood Drive (Lancaster County Tax Account #260-59519-00000).

Discussion Items:

1. The Committee reviewed citizen traffic concerns regarding vehicles speeding in Showers Alley between East Walnut Street and New Street. Speed data collected for Showers Alley revealed an average speed of 9.5 mph between September 28 and October 5, 2021 with 1 vehicle traveling between 36-40 mph and 4 vehicles traveling between 26-30 mph. A total of 1,279 vehicles traveled through this area during the aforementioned timeframe. Committee directed staff to contact the complainant and suggest they write down the color, make, model and license plate of what they believe is a motor vehicle speeding through Showers Alley and communicate that information to the Ephrata Police. The Committee agreed no further action is required.
2. The Committee reviewed citizen traffic concerns regarding vehicles speeding in the 400 block of North State Street. Todd Frey of 446 North State Street and David Wittle from 448 North State Street were present to discuss their concerns with the Committee. Staff advised that the Ephrata Police were asked to place their traffic speed/volume detection device in the 400 block of North State Street and provide the collected data from both travel lanes for review by Committee at their November 22, 2021 meeting. Both complainants park their vehicles on Spruce Street and find it a challenge to cross North State Street due to speeding vehicles. Complainants asked if an additional 25 mph speed limit sign could be installed near the Spruce Street intersection with North State Street. It was suggested that a flashing light be temporarily installed above the new sign to draw attention to the sign. Due to a recent fatal accident involving a pedestrian it was asked if existing crosswalk line paint could be refreshed to provide better crosswalk visibility. Committee asked staff to include the traffic concerns on their next meeting agenda for further discussion.
3. The Committee further discussed Apple Street truck traffic. Staff advised Committee that they discussed this issue with Lt. McKim of the Ephrata Police who reported that no new developments have occurred regarding truck traffic on Apple Street and that enforcement of any citizen reports of over-sized trucks on Apple Street is difficult due to response time to the area following dispatch. It was noted that the Garden Spot Auto Auction is relocating their entrance further west along Apple Street which may additionally alleviate truck traffic on Apple Street. Committee asked staff to include Apple Street truck traffic on their next meeting agenda for further discussion.

4. The Committee reviewed the 3rd Quarter 2021 budget report for those activities under their purview with one concern by Committee Vice Chair Martin regarding the expenditure of only 50% of the streets signs and markings budget through the 3rd quarter. Staff will inquire and report back to Committee.

Old Business Items:

1. The Committee was advised that the South Oak Street Bridge will be inspected in November 2021 with a subsequent inspection report anticipated in January 2022. Following review of the report with Committee, staff will discuss any Committee concerns with PennDOT's bridge engineer and PennDOT's consultant who performed the bridge inspection. Staff will also provide emails from consultants and the Borough's liability insurer regarding PennDOT's maintenance requirement to replace the existing pedestrian railing / vehicle barrier along the bridge. Those emails were generated in 2014 and 2015 and will be available for the November 22, 2021 Committee meeting.

Miscellaneous Items:

1. The Committee was advised that Marion Terrace and Park Avenue will not be milled and paved this year. Comcast is planning to install underground cable in conduit in and along Marion Terrace later this year or early in 2022. Comcast's plans include 13 crossings of Marion Terrace. Some of those crossings may damage the roadway during directional drilling or existing subgrade conditions may dictate that open trenching be performed due to rock. Park Avenue milling and paving work will not be completed before the paving season deadline of October 31, 2021 established by PennDOT. The Borough did request a one week time extension which was denied by PennDOT. In order to complete the Park Avenue paving work in 2021 the Borough would have to expend general fund monies instead of liquid fuels tax dollars to complete the paving work outside of PennDOT's paving season which is typically April 1 through October 31.