

Town of Mansfield Traffic Authority
Minutes of the Meeting – August 23, 2011

Present: Hultgren, Painter, Meitzler, Jackman, Baruzzi (Mansfield Schools), van Zelm (Mansfield Downtown Partnership), Baker (Thornbush Road), Dorgan (Ravine Road – arrived at 10:30 AM).

The meeting began at approximately 9:35 AM and the minutes of the July 26, 2011 meeting were reviewed and no corrections made.

72 Mansfield City Road – Meitzler discussed the proposed guardrail installation with the owner of the adjacent corner lot and reported that she had no objections to the guardrail. This project can now proceed when a contractor can be secured.

Thornbush Road school bus access – Baker explained that the school bus used to access the area west of the RR tracks on Thornbush Road and the crossing had recently been upgraded so he thought the bus should be able to access this area. Baruzzi said that the larger busses would have difficulty turning around, but that a smaller bus might be able to turn around using a private driveway if a waiver was obtained from the applicable resident. Hultgren said that a smaller bus would be observed crossing the RR tracks later this week to see how much road work would be needed to increase the ramping enough to make it possible for the bus to negotiate the tracks without the threat of damage. He said that if the amount of work was minor it may be possible, but if it was major, it would be difficult to do due to budgetary constraints.

Hillyndale Road – no progress, waiting for traffic classification data after September 1st.

Baxter Road & Hanks Hill Road – ditto, waiting for traffic data after UConn resumes its fall semester.

Pleasant Valley Road – The traffic classification data was reviewed (ADT = 600, avg speed = 34mph, 85% speed = 40.3 mph). Although the speeds are above the action level for considering speed humps, this road is a collector road and as such does not qualify. This data will be referred to the Resident State Trooper's office for speed enforcement.

Ravine Road – Hultgren summarized the opinions of the residents on Ravine Road regarding the possibility of closing the dirt portion of this road, noting that at least 3 residents were opposed to closing the road. As such, the Town will work with the University and the DOT to design and install signage on Route 32 suggesting better routes to UConn than Ravine Road. As a second point of discussion regarding Ravine Road, Baruzzi and Meitzler explained that the bus company is unwilling to have a bus travel along the narrow and curvy dirt section of this road. Baruzzi said that the Ravine Road stop would therefore be either at the Bone Mill or Route 32 ends. Dorgan suggested that the stop on Route 32 has limited sight distances and higher speed traffic and as such he was concerned about the safety of this stopping point. Hultgren said he would check with Baruzzi (who had left the meeting before Dorgan arrived) to see where the stop would be, and if it was to be on the Route 32 end, get permits to install "school bus stop ahead" warning signs on Route 32.

Senior Center Sign – Hultgren said he had talked to Grunwald and the sign was being discussed and located through the Human Services Department, and he didn't think further Traffic Authority involvement was necessary.

552 Bassetts Bridge Road – Painter explained that she had received concerns about traffic in the area of the proposed increased use of this parcel. A suggested stop sign at South Bedlam Road, more speed enforcement and additional centerline striping were discussed. Placing a stop sign for speed control on a collector road was not favored as per the Authority’s position that stop signs do not control speed very well. Hultgren said that additional striping (more than once a year) was a budget matter that he would have to discuss with the Town Manager and Finance Director. The speed of traffic in the area would be forwarded to the Resident State Trooper’s office for enforcement.

Dog Lane construction area site utilization plans – van Zelm and Hultgren presented the construction site utilization plans surrounding the proposed parking garage. After discussion it was decided to request that the location of the temporary Dog Lane roadway be shown on the drawings.

Route 275 RxR construction detour – for information only.

Community Center bus stop (Route 275) – a request to improve the bus stop waiting area on Route 275 in front of the Community Center was received. Additional stop improvements will be scheduled by the DPW, most likely in 2012.

Request to relocate a Neighborhood Watch sign in Mansfield Center – Hultgren will contact the requestor (Parker) to determine if the sign relocation had been reviewed by the Resident State Trooper or his designee.

Dream Ride (2011) – The Town Manager’s approval of this ride was confirmed by the members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Lon Hultgren
Director of Public Works