

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022

Roosevelt Community Center
464 South Old Middletown Road

Present: Mark Kirchgasser, Kathleen O'Connell-Bell, Bok Read, John McMullan, Andy Parker, Trooper Michele Naab.

ROADS, HIGHWAYS, AND PUBLIC SAFETY

- A. Follow up meeting with residents of South Old Middletown Road to discuss implementing traffic suggestions to decrease vehicle speed received at the meeting held on August 22, 2022.

Ms. O'Connell-Bell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Ms. O'Connell-Bell announced this is a follow-up to the meeting in August and stated the committee has been working behind the scenes looking for options to address this issue. She introduced Mr. Andy Parker, Traffic Engineer, McCormack Taylor, and Trooper Michele Naab. Mr. Kirchgasser stated they have been looking into ways to legally and effectively calm traffic on S. Old Middletown Road. Mr. Parker stated the concerns put forth by the residents are regarding speeding, truck traffic, pedestrian safety, and blind driveways. He stated he recommends lowering the speed limit to 25 mph, orange diamond panels above the speed limit signs, and stop signs at Fox Road. He stated he does not recommend a stop sign at Park Avenue because it would not be effective, and Park Avenue does not meet the requirements as it is a lower volume road. Mr. Kirchgasser stated site lines are important, if the site line is shorter, it supports a lower speed limit, if high site lines, it supports a higher speed limit.

Mr. Parker stated Fox Road is a connector road between two and a stop sign will help slow down speeds. He also suggested increased police enforcement and portable radar speed signs on a limited basis. He also suggested additional signs for no truck traffic except local deliveries. Ms. Carol Weber, 254 S. Old Middletown Road, asked about installing speed bumps. Mr. Kirchgasser stated there are no speed bumps in Middletown Township and added this would open a pandoras box of problems. Ms. O'Connell-Bell stated the Township has had success in adding stop signs on Painter Road and have received positive feedback from residents.

Mr. Kirchgasser stated the Township's idea is to make S. Old Middletown Road a pedestrian friendly road by potentially acquiring easements to get the trail from the Promenade at Granite Run to the Roosevelt Community Center. He added the trail connections will be done in phases. Mr. Parker added there are different ways to achieve this such as lateral redirection, curbing, striping, reflectors, and landscaping. Mr. Kirchgasser stated the goal is to make traveling on S. Old Middletown Road a "pain in the ass". Mr. Parker stated Phase 1 will be to lower the speed limit and add stop signs at Fox Road. Ms. Joy Kolicius, 212 S. Old Middletown Road, stated the worst intersection is at Rt. 352 and S. Old Middletown Road.

She stated police enforcement should be located in this area. Ms. Kolicius asked if radar signs could be placed to deter speeding.

Mr. Jack Campbell, 504 S. Old Middletown Road, asked if a State Trooper car be placed at the Roosevelt Community Center. He stated this will deter speeders. He said even if there is no one in the vehicle, it will slow people down. Ms. Cathy King, 514 S. Old Middletown Road, stated the community is much younger now and suggested a Trooper is needed past Park Avenue. Ms. Cathy Michaliszyn, 404 S. Old Middletown Road, asked about traffic narrowing, and Mr. Parker stated there is a wide range of options and will look into what makes the most sense. Ms. Michaliszyn stated when there is an accident on Rt. 352 often times traffic is detoured on S. Old Middletown Road. Mr. McMullan stated he recommends as part of Phase 1 to install a temporary mobile radar signs. Mr. Parker added the overall effective time for this sign is one to two weeks after which the sign is ignored. Mr. Bob Szolack, 519 S. Old Middletown Road, asked about a three-way stop sign on Church Road, and Mr. Parker stated that would not be an ideal situation.

Mr. Kirchgasser suggested the residents meet in large or small groups to discuss this and report their ideas back to Mr. McMullan. He stated this process could be used as a template to address other areas of concern in the Township. Ms. O'Connell-Bell asked where we go from here, and Mr. McMullan stated next steps from Council is to introduce an Ordinance at the first meeting in January, legally advertise the Ordinance, then vote for adoption at the second meeting in January 2023. Mr. Phillips, 302 S. Old Middletown Road, asked for more enforcement and tickets. Trooper Naab acknowledged the frustration from the residents. She stated there will be an additional five troopers on the road. She stated she will ask for more patrol checks and will come to S. Old Middletown Road herself. She stated if there are concerns or questions to please e-mail her. Mr. Szolack asked where "no trucks" signs are to be located, and Mr. Parker stated on Fox and Knowlton Road. Mr. McMullan stated he spoke to Mr. Tony Gorski, PADOT, about having their trucks exit and enter on Rt. 352. Ms. Michaliszyn asked about the possibility of having a red light on Rt. 352 at the fire house. Mr. Kirchgasser stated this could cause more problems.

Mr. Kirchgasser recapped the meeting by stating a ordinances will be introduced at the January 9, 2023, meeting and up for adoption at the January 23, 2023 meeting. He suggested the residents come up with a couple of people to act as representatives for input into Phase II and Phase III of the project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sharon Browne