

Falls Township
Neighborhood Traffic Advisory Committee (“NTAC”)
Quarterly Report
Period Ending August 31, 2014

To: The Board of Supervisors

The Falls Township Neighborhood Traffic Advisory Committee (“NTAC”) is pleased to submit this report covering its inaugural period through August 2014. In addition, this quarterly summary also is to be posted on the Falls Township website’s NTAC section.

NTAC meetings, which residents are invited to observe, usually are held on the first Monday of the month, at 6:30 PM in the township supervisors’ meeting room. Since only three of five citizen members authorized by the NTAC ordinance have been seated, two more residents are needed to complete the committee’s resident component. The Falls Township members are Supervisor Jeffry Dence; a police department senior command officer, and a from the traffic engineering department.

At our June 2014 initial meeting , members received and then reviewed the current PENNDOT traffic-calming handbook in order to understand rules and regulations that cover neighborhood traffic issues. Then we developed general policy for reviewing traffic calming issues presented to us by residents as well as those generated by NTAC members or the administration. The citizen procedure is using the form on the township website at <http://fallstwp.com/tools-resources/complaint-form.aspx>, which will be sent to and reviewed by the NTAC.

Among actions that have been taken and issues addressed this quarterly period were:

- A Lakeside Drive speeding issue was brought to the committee’s attention by an NTAC board member for perceived school bus speeding. As a result, a senior Falls Township Police Department command officer met with officials at The Center for Student Learning Charter School and spoke with drivers for various companies that transport students to and from the school. This intervention appears to have cured the bus problem. As subsequent meetings the problem had not re-occurred and no new complaints have been registered.

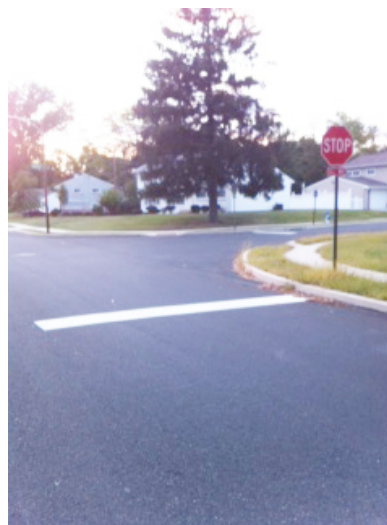
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- Lower Thornridge Drive was discussed at an NATC meeting, after which the police department vehicle / speed radar-based technology was used to monitor vehicle counts and their speed. The data generated showed that there was not enough volume of speeding to trigger a law enforcement presence at that time.



Alden Avenue and Oxford Road

- Another traffic hot spot was the intersection of Alden Avenue and Oxford Roads. Vehicles in large numbers were failing to stop at the series of stop signs posted along Alden Avenue from Allendale Drive down to Curtis Drive. This residential, 25 mph problem was deemed “serious” by our traffic enforcement officers. The police department recommended and the NTAC concurred. As a result, “stop bars” were painted on the roadway and “All-Way Stop” signs were added to stop signs and approach signs at the various intersections along Alden Avenue.



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- Alden Avenue later prompted additional NTAC complaints. As a result, the police department issued 122 citations from Memorial Day through July 4th.



Austin Drive at Queen Anne Drive

- Austin Drive at Queen Anne Drive and Lower Thornridge Drive also were discussed for painting road-surface stop-bars. Additionally, it was noted that a four-way Elderberry Drive intersection does not have stop signs on Elderberry.



Mill Creek Road and Route 13

- Mill Creek Parkway was reported to have vehicle speeding from the exit ramp off Rt. 13 past the entrance to the Falls Township Municipal Park. As a result the police department deployed traffic enforcement on Mill Creek Parkway and 22 citations were issued.
- Both Mill Creek Parkway and Lower Thornridge Drive will be targeted for further traffic division investigation to determine traffic volumes and speeds. If NTAC criteria are met, possible traffic calming recommendations made be instituted or recommended to the administration and Board of Supervisors.

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- Austin Drive was a focus of discussion at an NTAC meeting for possible traffic enforcement. Again the police department deployed its unobtrusive, radar-based device to monitor traffic flow and speeds in each direction for a set time period. As a result, the traffic division deployed officers who made 42 traffic stops along Austin to Queen Anne Drive and issued citations to nearly half of those vehicle drivers. Additionally, a recommendation to paint stop bars and approach signs on Austin Drive was recommended.
- Stevens and Valley Roads drew the NTAC attention and a recommendation was made to paint stop bars and approach signage at that intersection.
- The police department, via a PENNDOT grant, conducted traffic enforcement throughout the township over the Labor Day Weekend. As a result, 85 citations were written.
- The township police department speed device trailer, which uses radar to alert oncoming drivers to the calculated speed of their vehicles has been deployed on problem streets. As the school year approached, the police department placed the device on Makefield Road approaching school crosswalks at Hedgerow Drive and Winding Way, West in an attempted to show vehicles down.
- A recommendation has been made to purchase banners or flags with brief, able-to-be-read-in-their-entirety speed-control messages, such as, “25 MPH Enforced,” on street light, telephone pole, or other vertical surfaces.
- The NTAC, with police department input, recommended that the township purchase one approximately 15-inch-square, radar-based, bright-LED pole sign that can be securely installed yet relocated onto stop signs, telephone poles and streetlight poles in the township. They would serve as an additional and highly visible notice to drivers on targeted streets when they need to slow down.

Respectfully submitted:
Neighborhood Traffic Advisory Committee