



**Falls Township
Neighborhood Traffic
Advisory Committee (“NTAC”)
Report for the Period Ending June 30, 2015**

To: The Board of Supervisors

The Falls Township Neighborhood Traffic Advisory Committee (“NTAC”) is pleased to submit our second update, summarizing NTAC efforts through the second quarter of 2015.

NTAC meetings are held on the second Monday of the month, at 6:30 PM in the township building. Township residents have an open invitation to observe our work.

The committee now has a full complement of citizen members as authorized by the NTAC ordinance:

- Richard Lavinthal
- Matt Nesteruk
- Ariane Presser
- Tom Presner
- Tim Watkins

Falls Township representative-members include Supervisor Jeffry Dence; a Lieutenant Don Airey from the township’s police department, and a traffic engineering department representative. In combination we bring a broad range of experiences and training to the task of identifying areas that may need additional traffic calming.

Falls Township has a general policy for reviewing traffic calming issues, whether submitted by residents, generated by NTAC members, or submitted directly by the township administration. Citizen procedure for proposing investigation of a potential residential traffic situation are found on the township’s website at <http://fallstwp.com/tools-resources/complaint-form.aspx>.

A large volume of residential streets and intersections have been the subject of NTAC investigations over the past several months led by township police traffic

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officers and township engineers. In many cases on-site observations by police personnel resulted in summons issued for speeding and stop sign violations.

To support our investigations, township police utilize passive, un-manned technologies to monitor traffic volume, analyze traffic data, alert motorists to their vehicle’s speed and gently remind drivers that the residential streets on which they are traveling have speed limits.

Some 10 “slow-down” banners have been approved by the supervisors, and five are in use as of this date on South Olds Boulevard. The large banners, attached to existing light poles are made of vinyl and printed on both sides. A pair of banners are positioned on each side of the road so motorists going in either direction will get a reinforced message to slow down.

Among technologies that Falls Township employs to monitor, analyze and address possible speeding and stop sign violations are unobtrusive unmanned vehicle speed detectors, our large trailer with its, “Your Speed,” digital printout, patrol officers in marked cars and other tactics and techniques.

A new, pole-mounted digital speed display device, the “Shield 12B” has been put into operation, joining the speed trailer that is positioned on streets across the township. The pole-mounted, solar-powered device determines and displays an oncoming vehicle’s speed, to help deter drivers from speeding. The device was first placed on Austin Drive, past North Queen Anne Drive and will be used at various locations across the township as needed.

Among more than 100 actions that have been taken and issues addressed by the NTAC since the last report include the following, presented alphabetically:

- ALDEN AVENUE and OXFORD ROAD: A series of special police assignments were conducted at the stop-signed intersection and 11 citations were issued.
- AUSTIN DRIVE: Austin Drive continued to be a focus. Technology was employed revealing the average speeds of vehicles on Austin were for the most part within criteria. However, in one deployment eight citations were issued.
- BIRCH DRIVE and BUTTERFLY LANE: More than 1,100 vehicles were registered by monitoring technology over a two-day period.
- ELDERBERRY DRIVE and ELVES LANE: Nearly 600 vehicles were registered in a 23-hour period at this location. Again the threshold was not broken but it was decided to put the “Your Vehicle Speed” trailer in that location.
- LOUISE DRIVE: An NTAC member forwarded a resident’s complaint of speeding along Louise Drive, which has no stop signs along its length. The police will install monitoring equipment to analyze the traffic and its average speeds.

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- **MAKEFIELD ROAD:** School crossing guards along Makefield Road intersections of Hedgerow Drive and Winding Way expressed concern for students crossing Makefield. Police presence was provided.
- **NEW SCHOOL LANE:** After a full day of monitoring vehicles, the traffic division determined that the threshold was not reached for taking additional action. An unattended device recorded speeds of nearly 500 vehicles during a 24-hour period. While one vehicle was recorded as traveling 44 miles-per-hour, the balance of traffic fell within normal ranges.
- **OXFORD VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:** Responding to a resident’s complaint via the NTAC website, the traffic division determined that a marked police car presence would help to slow down vehicles. Three details were located at the school and on three separate occasions the speed trailer was placed to display motorists’ speed.
- **OXFORD VALLEY GOLF COURSE:** South Olds Boulevard near the golf course was the subject of a traffic analysis that resulted in new striping by the township public works department at two locations.
- **OXFORD VALLEY ROAD and SOUTHWAY DRIVE:** A complaint of cars parking too close to the intersection on Sundays when St. Frances Cabrini Church holds services was investigated. Vehicles may not park within 20 feet of any intersection in the township if it has a crosswalk. The traffic division had curbs painted yellow, along with placing, “No Parking Here to Corner” signs.
- **PENNWOOD CROSSING:** A complaint of speeding within Pennwood Crossing was received but since the development’s streets are private property the township could only issue citations if the property met certain qualifications and the gave police permission.
- **ROUTE 13:** Stop sign violations on Route 13 are a continuing problem. Township police, in one month, detailed several assignments which resulted in 19 drivers being cited for moving violations.
- **SOUTH OLDS BOULEVARD:** Over a 28-hour period, monitoring devices clocked nearly 2,300 vehicles. Traffic analysis showed that speeds along that section did, in fact, exceed the threshold. Additional law enforcement action was detailed. At one point, three special police assignments were detailed and the large speed trailer was used for eight consecutive days along the boulevard. On another occasion, traffic officers carried out six special assignments in the 600 block of South Olds Boulevard, writing five citations.
- **STANWOOD and YORKSHIRE ROADS:** Three citations resulted from police assignments at this intersection. In addition, the speed trailer showing the miles-per-hour to oncoming drivers was placed curbside for three days.
- **TAYLOR DRIVE:** Analysis of traffic data indicated that speeding was not a problem on Taylor Drive since most of the nearly 270 vehicles logged over a two-day period were traveling within acceptable speed criteria.

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- THORNRIDGE DRIVE: The potential for speeding on Thornridge Drive was also reported and discussed. The roadway is wide and a discussion about line painting followed.
- TIMBER and TWISTING LANES: Traffic speed analysis also showed that vehicles traveling in this residential area were well within criteria and did not need additional scrutiny.
- VERMILLION DRIVE and VITAL OAK LANE: The NTAC received reports that vehicles were cutting through but not stopping completely at the stop sign. Speeds registered did not meet criteria for further analysis or action.
- WILLOW DRIVE: A complaint alleging speeding on Willow Drive off Levittown Parkway was received. An unattended device was used to record traffic volume and speed in order to determine whether other action is needed.
- WILLOWOOD WAY: An unattended device was used to record traffic flows and speeds on Willowood Drive. The data derived will help to determine if action is needed on that street.

Respectfully submitted:
Neighborhood Traffic Advisory Committee