

**Minutes
Township of Falls
Neighborhood Traffic Advisory Committee**

January 13, 2025

Members in Attendance:

Ian James
Robert Leary
Ariane Presser

Members Absent:

Also in Attendance:

Josh Seeherman, Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. (RVE)
Sgt. Ray Fanelli, Falls Township Police Department

Sgt. Fanelli opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

The minutes from the December 9, 2024 meeting were approved with no changes.

Sgt. Fanelli said many of the old complaints are still ongoing. It takes a while for these problems to get resolved. An example would be Oxford Valley Elementary School. He is busy a lot of times with trucks, so he leverages the Adopt A Cop officer for help. The officer made some good suggestions. Mr. Arnao, the Public Works foreman, is sending a letter out to PennDOT about adjusting the timing of the flashing lights. When he hears back from them, he can then change the timing.

Regarding Mr. Golden's complaint about trucks speeding on Bristol Pike, Sgt. Fanelli put the speed spy out and ran it for 48 hours from December 10 – 12. The 85% speed was 48 mph in a 45 mph zone. The top speed was 70 mph. So there just isn't enough consistency out there. They can't even begin to do enforcement until the speed is 10 mph over the speed limit. He did call Mr. Golden and spoke to him for a while. He will try to do more high visibility patrols out there near the Millcreek Inn.

There is a bridge near there on Mill Creek Road over Martin's Creek and there is a sign but it's not properly posted. The weight sign must be posted at the intersection before and then within 25' of the bridge. The weight limit is 30,000 lbs. and the trucks going over the bridge are 70,000+ lbs. But the bridge is not ours, so we have to contact the County. Sgt. Fanelli called the County General Services office, but they have not properly responded. This bridge was just reconstructed.

Regarding the Cabot Boulevard complaint, Sgt. Fanelli spoke to the GM warehouse to tell them to speak to their employees. He did some enforcement but just gave warnings. He put the speed

trailer there. He had the public works paint a stop bar and put reflective strips on some of the poles. There won't be any more warnings.

Queen Anne and Austin had the speed trailer out there and showed an erroneous high speed reading of 75 mph. When that happens, they will put a different device out there to capture more data. The second round of data showed 15 mph over the speed limit. The third round showed 20 mph over so it will continue to get enforcement there.

At Moon and Penn Lane, he saw one stop sign violation. He had stopped the same driver a month ago. He told her this was her last warning. It's too dangerous a situation for her and her children.

Walton Drive is being dealt with by normal patrol.

There is a reoccurring complaint about the 600 block of South Olds Blvd. that the township won't put speed bumps out there. That is a state highway which makes doing that pretty difficult. Mr. Seeherman said they would never put speed bumps there with that speed and volume.

Mr. Leary inquired about speeding and passing in the no-passing zones at Manor Elementary and Penn Valley Road. Sgt. Fanelli said it's even crazier at pick up than drop off. Traffic just drives right down the center of the road to pass the stopped vehicles. He will ask the Lt. what can be done. Speeding isn't an issue because there is nowhere to go. Careless and reckless driving, yes, but not speeding. He will remind the officer assigned to that school through Adopt A Cop to show up there some mornings and help out.

Mr. James inquired as to how the Adopt A Cop works. Sgt. Fanelli said each school gets to pick two officers. The officers present a little bio and then the school takes a vote. Then the officers are assigned to the school that picks them. This is dependent on the officer's schedule. There are no school resource officers and there are no DARE officers either. This program gets students used to seeing officers. It helps the officers to learn the layout of the school in case of emergency. The program has been nothing but positive. The officers should be going into the school for a visit once per shift, but that's not always possible. They should be doing spot checks and making sure their key fobs work. The high school also has 2 officers for Pennsbury East and 2 for Pennsbury West. Sgts. And Lts. can also go into the schools.

Mr. James asked if the Township has ever considered a volunteer for traffic issues. Sgt. Fanelli did say that our Animal Control officer does have the ability to issue parking citations. Sgt. Fanelli said the Committee could recommend this to the BOS. There may be some issues with the police union though.

Sgt. Fanelli reported that commercial vehicles take up a large portion of his day. He works with Officer Killeen on this issue. Officer Killeen says we should focus on what he calls the ABCs – driver's license, insurance, and registration. It's very basic but important. A driver driving an 80,000 lb truck at highway speeds should have a driver's license. Some don't follow the basic safety regulations. A big issue now is truckers that hide their license or tape the numbers with

black tape to avoid tolls. They cut the plates, put grease on the plates, and move the plates over to one side. Mr. Seeherman asked if that's grounds for a non-truck expert to pull them over. Sgt. Fanelli said yes, that is an 'obstructed' plate, and any officer can pull them over. They also hide their EZ PASS transponders, so that is 'toll evasion', and that is a \$1,000 fine. There are plenty of fake registrations out there too.

One truck inspection can take hours. His OUT OF SERVICE rate is 50%. He put one truck out of two out of service today for a federal violation. This violation ticket alone is \$5,000. There is a little triangle of land at Rt 13 & Tyburn Road that they use to pull trucks over. It has never been improved. Not one light was ever put there. The ideal situation would be a pit where he could go under the truck and do some measurements. Waste Management has been a great resource with help for these trucks. They have 1,404 overweight trucks per month! Sgt. Fanelli thought it would have been around 50 trucks per month. Trucks are continuing to be a problem for Falls Township and it's going to get worse.

Ms. Presser will write up a recommendation for a volunteer traffic warden and the Committee can review it and make any adjustments. Then Ms. Levson can submit it to the Manager for the BOS to review and decide. Mr. Seeherman said other cities such as New York and San Francisco have paid civil traffic officers. We could research to see what these officers do and see if that would fit in with Falls Township. In Falls Township maybe they would be best served directing traffic at the schools. Fire Police are different. They only serve at emergencies and are strictly volunteers.

Mr. Leary inquired about the blue lights and headlights being added to cars. Title 67 in PA regulates what equipment can be put on a vehicle. The state hasn't said these are prohibited. There may be a PennDOT bulletin out there the Sgt. can check for.

There was no other business, so the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.