

REVISED Minutes
Township of Falls
Neighborhood Traffic Advisory Committee

February 10, 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
Mr. Kevin Golden, Bristol Pike Resident
Ms. Shaun Stillwell, Makefield Road Resident

Sgt. Fanelli opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

The minutes from the January 13, 2025 meeting were approved with no changes.

Ms. Stillwell spoke first. She lives on Makefield Road. She sees a lot of issues of people driving distracted at the corners of Winding Way and Makefield Road and Hedgerow and Makefield Road every morning. She sees this while walking her dog. She hears screeching wheels and sees many near misses. At Hedgerow and Makefield, people try to speed up on the hill and don't pay attention to going around the curve on Winding Way. She knows the school hours are changing next year, so children may be walking to school in the dark. She doesn't want to see something tragic happen. Sgt. Fanelli said when they redid Makefield Road with new water mains, they didn't replace the markings on the road. The contractor knows he has to put the markings back but is waiting for the warmer weather.

Mr. Seeherman said Makefield Road is not a state road, but a township road. When a road is wide, the speed is naturally higher. The cheapest way to slow down traffic is street markings to narrow the roadway. A single white line is standard, or parking on the side of a road works also. Painting high-vis crosswalks though is a must. After collecting data, the committee could make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. At some point we will put the center signs back but closer to the crosswalks. An ALL-WAY STOP needs PennDOT approval, but there are conditions they would look for. One would be 5 crashes in 12 months or 6 in 36 months. Another would be sight-distance problems. There are also volume requirements. The major street has to have 300 vehicles per hour for any 8 hours of the day, which Makefield probably has. The side

street has to have 200 vehicles per hour but that includes cyclists and pedestrians. The intersection of Makefield & Big Oak Road would probably meet these conditions, but that intersection is already signal controlled. The township can pursue flashing signs. The only rule is the number of LED's on it.

Sgt. Fanelli said the 85th percentile speed here was 37 mph. That was over a five day period. Mr. Seeherman said Ms. Stillwell should talk to her neighbors and local businesses to get community support, such as a petition.

The crossing guards who were going to speak are not in attendance. One is sick and one is thinking about quitting her post because it is so dangerous.

Mr. Seeherman said anyone who is interested can read **PennDOT Publication 383**. It is the traffic calming book and it's all online. It is 115 pages.

Ms. Stillwell will write something up and talk to the neighborhood residents. Ms. Stillwell thanked everyone and left the meeting.

Mr. Golden spoke next. He distributed photos of the damage to his front yard at 1344 Bristol Pike from a vehicle driving at excessive speed that crashed through his front rock wall. He also has the accident on video. Sgt. Fanelli said the speed spy was there before Christmas and the 85% was 48 mph in a 45-mph zone and the top speed was 70 mph. He can put it out there again in several weeks. We only have one of these machines. Mr. Golden's wife wants them to move off this street. His house is next to Penn Valley Printing. He would like to see the speed limit lowered but he knows that won't happen. Mr. Seeherman said if there was a sidewalk, the speed would lower a bit because vehicles want to avoid a curb. This road is so straight and that isn't good for slowing vehicles down.

Mr. Golden inquired about a four-way stop at Bristol Pike and Penn Valley Road. Mr. Seeherman said this could be an intersection eligible for a four-way stop depending on the volume of cars. The WaWa produces a large number of vehicles, but we would need about 2 days' data to prove the volume numbers. The days would need to be normal days, not inclement weather days. This could cost around \$5,000.

Mr. Golden also inquired about getting a Jake brake restriction like Morrisville has. They are too loud and sometimes are used while his family is sleeping. Sgt. Fanelli said new Jake brakes are not as noisy as the old ones, but we would get a lot of old trucks because no one wants to take a new truck to the top of the dump. He is not sure how to get the restriction, but he can find out for Mr. Golden. Mr. Golden thanked everyone and left the meeting.

Sgt. Fanelli then discussed results from the speed trailer on Austin Drive for the period of 11/20 – 12/1/24. On the chart, there are a lot of dates with no data. This means there is something wrong with the report. The 85% speed is 53 mph in a 25-mph zone. So we have to put out another machine to see if the data matches up. The data from the speed spy shows the 85% was 35 mph in a 25-mph zone. This was out of 2,033 vehicles. This report was from 12/17 –

12/21/24. This area gets stop sign enforcement. The reports are not infallible, so we just use them as a guide.

Sgt. Fanelli showed the committee a truck license plate that had been jimmied with black electrical tape. The driver changed the J into a U to evade tolls.

On the 900 block of Lincoln Highway, across from Grace Marketing, there was a complaint about the unsightliness of the tractor trailers that are parked there. The billboard company owns part of the area and PennDOT owns the other part. Neither of them wants trucks parked there. Although PennDOT doesn't want trucks parked there, they don't want to put up any signs. They want the township to just enforce it for them. Sgt. Fanelli went out there last week and put tags on the trucks telling them they will be moved. One truck has been there at least two years and is leaning so bad it is in jeopardy of toppling onto Route 1. He spent many hours trying to locate people/owners to move these trucks.

Ms. Presser asked if the Sgt. is seeing any shields that come down over the license plate to evade tolls. Sgt. Fanelli said they are called flippers. They see more of peel off numbers that you can buy on Amazon that disguise your plate. He also sees plate covers that look normal if you are looking straight at it but distorts it at an angle. An offshoot of this is a low-tech version which is a magnifying ruler that will distort the plate if a picture was being taken. The new thing is an all-black license plate that can be bought on Amazon with whatever letter/number combination you want. There are many tricks, some old and some new.

Mr. Leary asked if the township would be interested in meeting with the school district because the school start times are changing next year. Maybe the school district should pony up some money since they are having the younger students out earlier on darker mornings, especially in the winter. There are also many bike riders.

Mr. James said we should decide which ideas we should submit to the Board of Supervisors as suggestions from this committee. Ms. Presser asked which idea we should submit first. Mr. Leary said probably the LED signs on Makefield Road, one in each direction. They are signs that flash yellow just notifying that the crosswalks are there. The sign generally has no words, just a picture of an adult crossing with a child. Mr. Seeherman said the suggestion should not be more than one page long. One paragraph should be an outline of what we want to accomplish, one paragraph with backup information and the third paragraph in conclusion, and what we are recommending. We should have community support maybe in the way of CHANGE.ORG, or a petition first before suggesting anything.

The three suggestions from this committee so far that we could make to the Board of Supervisors would be:

1. Speed limit signs that display actual speeds – Sgt. Fanelli would like 5 of these. The township does not have even one of these signs. He would permanently put one in the 600 block of S. Olds Blvd.

2. Electronic message board – Sgt. Fanelli would love one of these and it would be useful for the Public Works Department also.
3. Yellow flashing signs discussed above for Makefield Road.

There was no other business, so the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.