

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

March 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

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

The minutes from the February 10, 2025 meeting were approved with one change. A location discussed was in Lower Makefield, not Falls Township.

Item #3 was then discussed - the speed survey for Bristol Pike. The speed sign flashes your speed. The batteries are solar powered and sometimes they die down, which may be why there are no numbers on certain days on the graph which was handed out. They will run this until it dies. The report period was 2/26/25 – 2/28/25 and the total vehicle count was 2,128. It was located at 1344 Bristol Pike. The 85% speed was 42 mph. This speed could be driven down by cars behind a stopped school bus for instance. That is why they leave it out for as long as they can.

We also have the speed spy results from 2/24/25 – 2/26/25 at 1320 Bristol Pike. This is just a gray box. Nothing is displayed. There were 3,411 vehicles that passed by it with 604 of them going above the speed limit. The 85% speed was 46 mph in a 45-mph speed zone. The other speed spy results were close to this, maybe a little higher. Mr. Golden said he notices in the warmer weather that the speeds pick up. Mr. Golden said the stop sign going onto Route 13 on the left had side has been mowed down and asked if the township was going to fix it. Sgt. Fanelli said he will ask the Public Works foreman about it.

Mr. Golden asked how hard it is to put up an electronic speed limit sign up and how much they are. Mr. Seeherman replied that anything that flashes is a PennDOT device. That refers to school zone flashers, flashing stop signs, etc. He is not sure speed signs count. PennDOT doesn't

even have them in their inventory. You need to ask PennDOT before putting one up. He would not recommend putting one on his property, as they are not legal on private property. What you can put on your property is a sign that tells someone their current speed. Sgt. Fanelli said there are several in Morrisville. One on South Pennsylvania Avenue, North Pennsylvania Avenue, and Philadelphia Avenue. Mr. James asked what these signs looked like. Mr. Golden said it looks like a speed limit sign, but it is digital.

Mr. Seeherman said at the last meeting we discussed a four-way stop sign at Penn Valley Road and Bristol Pike. For this he would have to enlist his neighbors to join him in asking for it. Then this Board would make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors and Remington Vernick Engineers would probably make a recommendation also. The 5 warrants for all-way stop are:

Crashes, sight distance, transitioning to a signal, volumes, or engineering judgement (other factors). The volume factor says the combined number of vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians is 300 for 8 hours on the major street and the minor street requirement is 200 combined for the same 8 hours. However, if the 85% approach speed of the major street traffic is high, which has been proved with our speed spy study, the minimum vehicular volume warrant may reduce to 70% of the values. If vehicles are coming fast, you don't need as many cars. It could be any 8 hours of the 24 in a day, they don't have to be consecutive hours. So, Mr. Brown needs to talk to the Supervisors because they need to allocate money for this analysis. Sgt. Fanelli has asked the Police Records department to pull the crash data for the last 3 years near here.

Item #4 was discussed – complaints received. Ms. Presser just reiterated that with the nicer weather, she noticed people not stopping at stop signs and there are more walkers out now. Sgt. Fanelli replied that there are locations they want to do targeted enforcement at, but they are very short on manpower right now. The officers run from call to call to call and try to do traffic enforcement in between. He does safety blurbs on social media to make the public aware of their proactive movements for the targeted areas. There is now an email address where they can contact Sgt. Fanelli directly with traffic concerns. The email address is:

TrafficSafety@fallstwpd.com

Item #5 was discussed – ongoing issues and new areas. In the 900 block of Lincoln Highway, where the Country House Motel is, there was an issue with tractor trailers parking along the side of the road like an unofficial truck stop. Code Enforcement tried to deal with it. It is partially a PennDOT property and partially the billboard owner's property. PennDOT did not want to put up signs or boulders. Sgt. Fanelli went out there and tagged the trucks. He went by there today and they are all gone.

The Chief also puts out social media posts and he did one on rolling through stop signs. In the comments of that post, the North Park section was discussed as having some issues with speeding. So, Sgt. Fanelli is trying to collect data there as soon as possible. This will probably be a new target area soon.

Austin Drive was also mentioned in the comments of the Chief's post. Austin has speeding and stop sign problems. It is a big street. It is one of our highest enforcement areas right now.

Last week a car hauler going under Rte 13 on Tyburn Road and in one of the lanes there is a bridge inspector up on a dolly inspecting the bridge. As he's up there, this hauler comes by and clips the bridge, bends the car back in half and pulls over to the side of the road. That bridge max height is 13'6". The overpass is marked for 13'8". That is a 2" difference. Upon investigation, the bridge inspector told Sgt. Fanelli that the bridge was struck 4 times in the last 10 minutes. He said stay under here and you will see the sparks as they are going under. We need a height device, which has been ordered. We are trying to protect our infrastructure.

As the weather changes, we are starting to see more dirt bikes coming out. Already there was a fatality. They are also driving into our parks and harassing our park guards. So township officials are discussing solutions for this situation now. Motor vehicles are not allowed on the walking paths. They are also going across the ball fields.

Item #6 was discussed – other business. Ms. Presser asked about the 5 signs we discussed at the last meeting, where would they be placed. One would be permanently in the 600 block of S. Olds Blvd. Two would go on Lincoln Highway, one going north and one going south. The rest would be floaters, not permanently placed until we get more. Sgt. Fanelli could easily find 20 great spots.

Ms. Presser also mentioned the speed trailer that was in her neighborhood recently. She was doing under 30 mph and slowed down further to turn onto her street and the machine showed 30 mph and hers was the only vehicle around. She was questioning its accuracy. Sgt. Fanelli said most people think it's like a laser, like it has your car until you pass it. But in reality, it switches off of you and goes onto the next vehicle. Also angles and curves change the speed. Tire pressure also affects how accurate your speed is.

Sgt. Fanelli invited anyone interested to do a police ride along. You just need to fill out some paperwork first.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.