

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

April 14, 2025

Members in Attendance:

Ian James
Robert Leary
Ariane Presser

Members Absent:

Also in Attendance:

Josh Seeherman, Remington Vernick (traffic engineer)
Sgt. Ray Fanelli, Falls Township Police Department
Mr. Kevin Golden, Bristol Pike Resident

Sgt. Fanelli opened the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

The minutes from the March 10, 2025 meeting were approved with no changes.

Sgt. Fanelli asks if Mr. Golden has any topics he would like to discuss.

Mr. Golden asks if Sgt. Fanelli has any information on an incident occurring across from where he lives. A kid on a bike (unsure if it was a motorcycle or mini bike) was hit by a motor vehicle last week in F Section. There was an ambulance at the scene. He wanted further information to see if he was seriously hurt.

Sgt. Fanelli said he was unaware of the incident. There are pass-on logs from shift to shift, but he does not remember this incident.

Mr. Golden also has concerns about the intersection of Cedar Lane at Tyburn Road. He says his wife almost hit a car because of the way they are parking hanging over the sidewalk.

Sgt. Fanelli says there is a wooden pallet business next store which is also attracting customers. He says he will take a look and reach out to Code Enforcement if necessary. Discussion occurs among the members and Sgt. Fanelli about the exact location. He also says he has noticed an uptick on the businesses along Tyburn Rd. with the volume of trucks and cars being repaired as they park along the side of the road. He will work with Code Enforcement if it persists.

Item #3 – Speed Trailer – Sgt. Fanelli says it is still inoperable and is now parked outside the building. We thought it was a bad battery or a bad wire. It is now up close to the building for the wifi

connection for the computer to hook up to the device to allow someone to remote in from Europe to determine the problem. It needs a new motherboard; we are awaiting quotes on that expense.

Sgt. Fanelli says he was meeting with Waste Management today and was talking about a company that has a program which can tell you speeds on the road automatically. So instead of putting out speed spies, markers are dropped in the street (similar to Google Maps), and you can log-in into a computer to obtain the data. The only problem is it is very expensive. Sgt. Fanelli expresses his desire to still use the signs on the light poles; however, he is in full agreement with anything that displays the speeds.

Mr. Seeherman says the Township should apply for mobile share account grants in September which would cover this equipment.

Sgt. Fanelli asks the Board members if they have drafted a letter to the Board regarding grants.

Ms. Presser says no, not yet.

Sgt. Fanelli recommends the summer months would be a good time to get the letter complete.

Item #4 – Tractor trailer parking on the 900 block of Lincoln Highway. Sgt. Fanelli shows a picture of a truck parked along the highway. He says the truck drivers live in the nearby apartments and are parking along the highway. A few months ago, several trucks were parked across from Audio Lab. The business owners in this area are delighted that enforcement action is being taken against these trucks parking along the side of the roads which sometimes dump product (like used oil).

What is also happening is they are removing the no parking signs there. The car dealership at the end of the turnabout is also parking vehicles along the highway. Sgt. Fanelli shows a picture of a dealer license plate with his hand behind it – you can see his hand – which should not happen with a true license plate. They are making these things and placing them on other vehicles because a dealer license plate does not come back to a specific owner or vehicle, just the dealership.

Sgt. Fanelli says if these shenanigans continue, he recommends the Board request our own no parking signs. However, some of this road is state highway, and some is not, which contributes to the problem. They have made suggestions of big rocks, but PennDOT does not want that method. We have taken care of the trucks, but they keep popping up, so it continually needs to be enforced.

Item #5 – Commercial Motor Vehicle Parking in Residential Districts – Sgt. Fanelli says in the Township Parking Regulations (Chapter 203) they have set a weight limit on trucks in residential areas. The ordinance states for commercial vehicles the registered gross weight limit is prohibited if it is equal to or greater than 14,000 pounds. We do enforce this if there is a neighbor complaint. I wanted to make the Board aware of this ordinance.

Item #6 – M-Y Lane Tunnel (Agenda says Woolston which is not correct) height restrictions – Sgt. Fanelli explains M-Y lane has two sides split by Route 1 – a west side and an east side. On the west side there is a tunnel. The tunnel which goes under the railroad has no height markings. Sgt. Fanelli

asks Mr. Seeherman if this is something the Township needs to mark. At present, if the trucks go directly through the exact center, they are fine. But if they go six inches either way, they get stuck.

Mr. Seeherman says compelling the railroad to do anything is a stretch. The only thing the Township might do is put a caution sign up before the tunnel on any Township property. The cardinal rule with railroads is they do not do anything unless they absolutely have to. He says he will check with his superiors on this matter.

Discussion occurs around railroad bridges in other areas. Mr. Seeherman shows a few pictures from his phone. Sgt. Fanelli tells of an incident at the M-Y Lane tunnel where a truck took off a significant piece of the bridge. Mr. Seeherman states that if there is Township property close to the tunnel, Public Works could make a sign and put it there. Sgt. Fanelli was hoping to do something which had some enforcement behind it. It would be better to prevent it from happening, than trying to repair the damage after an incident. If it creates a dangerous situation, Falls Township might have to close the tunnel which would cause disruption to the businesses and residents.

Item #7 – Chicane Roadway Markings – Sgt. Fanelli shows a short video and then mentions the article from J.D. Mullane (copies where there) about the squiggly lines on a road in Montgomery County. Mr. Seeherman says that barriers would also be placed within the squiggly lines. Sgt. Fanelli asks the Board’s opinion about the squiggly lines.

Ms. Presser says this was on the news recently. Some people liked it, some people did not.

Sgt. Fanelli says the residents have been requesting something be done about speeding. Short of having every police officer with a ticket book in their hands, he is always looking for ways to address the speeding. He says this is something he would like to attempt on a trial basis.

Mr. Seeherman says the squiggly lines do not work unless you have the diverters or “baseball bats” (mechanisms that are on the side of the road which are either glued or drilled onto the street but bend upon impact). He also said pavement markings on streets that do not have markings could also help with speeding.

Sgt. Fanelli makes comments about Thornridge Drive and how it might benefit from street markings. He thinks that Thornridge Drive might be a good place to have a trial on how street markings affect speeding and suggests to the Board this might be a good project to take to the Supervisors. We can try and find some way to make a change to help with speeding.

Sgt. Fanelli suggests the trial paint markings could begin with two blocks of Thornridge Drive and mark the white lines on the side, and then yellow lines down the middle (no squiggly lines yet). He thinks this would be something the Board could push. If it works, it can then be expanded further in the Township or even on the drive. If not, the paint lines could be removed. Sgt. Fanelli thinks Joe Arnao (Public Works) would have some great ideas on how to do this and suggests he comes to the next meeting. The current way is to put a few police on the corners to write tickets.

Mr. Seeherman says street markings are very inexpensive as well as diverters if using squiggly lines.

Mr. James agrees the markings of the street on a trial basis is a good idea and thinks we should move forward in this regard.

Sgt. Fanelli says Thornridge and Turnabout near the crosswalk would be the location of the trial because of the different traffic patterns (going from 45 miles to 20 one way and inside the neighborhood where the road goes straight).

Sgt. Fanelli suggests again that Joe Arnao should be contacted to about ideas about the shoulder markings and cost for this trial. He confirms with Mr. Seeherman there will be no problems with PennDOT.

Board members agree the straight-line markings should be attempted first.

Sgt. Fanelli says he will work with the Township to invite Joe Arnao to the next meeting on May 12, 2025, to discuss shoulder markings, center dividers and the crosswalk on Thornridge Drive.

Mr. Leary suggested possibly having a site visit; Sgt. Fanelli says he will talk to Joe Arnao.

Sgt. Fanelli says we also need to enforce how far away vehicles are parked from the crosswalk. It should be 30 ft. away, but some of the crossing guards are parked 5 ft. away from the crosswalk which can create sight issues. He thinks it might be a good idea to mark off the area around the crosswalks for vehicle parking.

Discussion occurs regarding mechanisms used in developing the truck turning for streets, buses, and how narrow the picture of the squiggly lines are (they can be drawn not so sharply).

Sgt. Fanelli clarifies the objective for the next meeting is to have Mr. Arnao present to discuss the new pavement markings around the intersection of Thornridge and Turnabout.

Ms. Presser mentions a while back residents had come to a meeting for Twin Leaf and Top Hill. Mr. Leary says there was a speed device put out, but it did not provide much evidence of speeding.

Item #8 – Complaints – Sgt. Fanelli says there have been numerous parking complaints and abandoned vehicle complaints recently. There was a two-week period when the calls were coming in and the callers were correct about the vehicles not having the proper inspection. There is an ordinance which states that in order to be in the street your car must be inspected. On such a call, we would first talk to the person, then sticker the car, and then tow the car if it remains in the street without the proper documentation.

Item #9 – Ongoing Police Traffic Calming, Enforcement and New Target Areas – Sgt. Fanelli shows pictures of what he enforces on the road (horse running towards Rte. 13), a trash truck spilling some of its product due to a broken part, and a truck with an inadequate red flag at the back because the load on the truck was projecting out more than 4 ft. Sgt. Fanelli also spoke about some of the “shenanigans” the truckers pull in trying to evade the proper procedures and provided a few examples. Last week 100 percent of the trucks Sgt. Fanelli inspected were put out of service. The violations are not minor, but more major (like not having a driver’s license). He further states the police are working hard to

monitor and find trucks in violation. Next week Falls Township Police and the State Police will be doing some more enforcement in this regard.

Item #10—Other Business – Ms. Presser asks if Austin Drive and/or South Olds Blvd. might be considered for a trial of the pavement markings. Sgt. Fanelli says Austin Drive is a Township road, so we can consider it. However, S. Olds Blvd. is a state highway. Sgt. Fanelli says the only reason he thought Thornridge would be a better trial road for markings was because of the crosswalk.

Discussion occurs on the pros and cons of Austin Drive versus Thornridge Drive. The consensus among the Board members was to accept Sgt. Fanelli's recommendation to start the trial pavement markings on Thornridge Drive. If we have success here, then we can move onto other streets like Austin Drive.

Sgt. Fanelli and the Board discuss how to get the plan moving and decide on putting together a proposal and emailing the proposal to the Township Manager with a request to discuss further with him and/or the Board of Supervisors. However, no email will be sent until the Board speaks with Joe Arano at the next meeting on May 12, 2025. Sgt. Fanelli says if the Board has any questions for Joe Arano, email them to him and he will forward to Joe for discussion in preparation for the next meeting.

Ms. Presser asks what was discussed prior about digital signs. Mr. Seeherman says we were discussing grant writing for the digital signs which is different than what we were discussing here. Sgt. Fanelli encourages this Board to move forward with requesting grant writing for the Township for digital signs and says there might be about 5 signs initially. They are mounted to poles so they are different than the speed trailer, so they would need to stay at a location for months at a time.

Sgt. Fanelli says the Chief put out a survey and the number one resident concern was speeding and aggressive driving.

Ms. Presser says she will write a draft for the push for the digital speed signs and possible locations and have it available by the next meeting. The target date to get things moving is for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Seeherman says the grant submission is due around Thanksgiving.

Mr. James asks about the safety improvements at the two intersections at New Falls Road and Vermillion Drive mentioned in the paper. Mr. Seeherman says the grant was more than likely written a few years ago, and probably the funds would have expired this year if they were not used. He was not involved in this proposal.

Sgt. Fanelli says we need two more Board members and suggests Mr. Golden might make a good Board member.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.