

STREETS AND ROADS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, May 4, 2021 7:00 PM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

THIS MEETING WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE AT <https://www.facebook.com/TownofMountAiry/>

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE**

3/2/2021 Meeting called to order at 7:25pm. In attendance: Chairperson Lynne Galletti, Mary Beth Obremski, Jonathan Samayoa, Luci Riegel, and Councilwoman Patty Washabaugh.

**II. APPROVAL OF PRIOR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES –**

Meeting Minutes- No changes to the minutes- Motion to approve made by Luci Riegel and seconded by Chairperson Lynne Galletti. Minutes approved unanimously.

**III. Staff Updates-** Town Engineer Barney Quinn introduced AMT Engineering members in attendance that will give a presentation of the South Main Street Roundabout Feasibility Study. Heidi is the Project Manager; Cathy is the traffic engineer Ken Vaughn is the design engineer. Heidi presented the benefits of having a roundabout. They will help to slow down traffic, keep traffic flowing, and having fewer conflict points and better pedestrian crossing options. Ken Vaughn presented three options.

Option 1-Double Roundabout, 2 lanes, 4-legged roundabout, separate bypass lane, left turn-prohibited from Ridgeside Drive, and exiting traffic movements maintained during construction. (Advantages-Free flowing)

Option 2- Double Roundabout, 2 lanes, 4-legged roundabout, no bypass lane, left turn-prohibited from Ridgeside Drive, and exiting traffic movements maintained during construction.

Option 3-Phasing consideration- 2 lane roundabout (2022) Transition to 2 lane roundabout when traffic threshold met, Full 2 lane “footprint” constructed, left turn prohibited from Ridgeside Drive, Existing traffic maintained during construction. (Coordination still has to happen with CSX because of the underground tunnel) (Addresses short term needs)

Member Luci Riegel asked what one of the lanes was in the drawing and Mr. Vaughn reported that it was a bike lane and that a bike lane was something that the town wanted to have explored.

Cathy talked about the Traffic impact. The data was from 2019. The levels range from A-F. DEF are usually considered to be unacceptable conditions. The major concern was the traffic coming out of Ridgeside drive. The 2022 conditions with Chick-Fila opened it will impact that intersection. Then in 2040 conditions will make this intersection a failing intersection. One of the options to try and mitigate this is to prohibit the left turn out of Ridgeside drive. Drivers have three options. They can make a right turn out of Chick Fila and then another right and continue to Route 27. They can also make a right turn onto South Main Street and follow this around to the light at 144 and make a right to return to Route 27. The third option is when they turn right and the try to make a U-turn where the circle will be. Drivers tend to find the shortest route back to the highway. Cathy reported the Roundabout Option 3 will help alleviate

this. This will improve the level of service at this intersection. Only for the short term. The traffic conditions in 2040 the one lane roundabout will not be able to alleviate the issues. When you look at the two-lane roundabout (Option2) this will help these intersections be at an acceptable level.

Councilwoman Washabaugh asked if Option 3 is good for now and not for the long term? And if the other two are good for 2022 and 2040. Does Option 2 have both lanes entering the roundabout? It was explained that you must decide if you want to stay on the bypass lane or move over one lane and go into the roundabout. On the right-hand side that is grey, is the old road and will become landscape. If we do the 2 lanes into the roundabout is that a safer option, then the other option. Yes, it is simpler and safer for pedestrians as well. One last question. When you enter the roundabout, how will they know where they are going? Will it be clearly marked so you will not have a lot of people weaving between lanes? Yes, the marking and striping will be clearly marked. Tony Burke asked to clarify that regardless of any option no one will be able to make a left turn. If you lived in Mt. Airy which option, would you pick? They answered that if they lived there, they would be more comfortable with Option 2. They all agreed with that. Option 3 will only work in the short term. Town Engineer Quinn added that as being a town resident, with the traffic being what it is and the added traffic with the new development it is best to have Option 2. Chairperson Galletti asked what the line is in the grass, and they responded that it is a pedestrian/bike trail. Chairperson Galletti asked if eventually we could connect this bike lane to 144. Town Engineer responded that there is a wider lane and at that point bikes enter and share the road. Member Luci Riegel asked if Main Street was 2 lanes going down the hill right now and yes, it is.

#### **IV. Council Liaison Report-**

Councilwoman Washabaugh said that this is her last meeting. During last night's Town Council meeting the taxes will not be increased and they passed the budget. They had a concern about publication budget and that will be looked at again but for now it's a balanced budget and it was passed. The EDC shifted some money because of Covid. Thanks to them. There were projects that were shifted into the next fiscal year. The elections were yesterday. The results were Larry Hushour got 802 votes and Pat Rockinberg got 804 votes. For the council seats Steve Domotor got 969 votes and Lynne Galletti got 956 votes and Heather Hobbs got 787 votes. This was a well-run race and congratulations to all the winners. Lynne and Steve will be the new council members. The mayor will decide the next Liaison for this group. She did remind Mayor Rockinberg to have people appointed to this commission for the 2 open seats. Her hope is the members would be vetted a little bit more. The last thought is that every vote counts. This was a very close election. Chairperson Galletti added that all votes count and kudos to the younger voters for coming out and voting.

**V. COMMUNITY CONCERNS/CITIZENS COMMENTS TO NON-AGENDA ITEMS- We are not on Facebook live so there were no public comments. Please send a message to us if you have any questions.**

#### **VI. 2023 Master Plan Items-**

Member Luci Riegel has questions prepared. Chairman Galletti shared the spreadsheet that shows the areas that are a concern to us.

## Chapter 1

Question #3- Luci Riegel asked about implementing speed cameras in school zones. She wanted to know if we are looking at renting out a company to use this as profit or is the town looking to purchase these and move them around the town. Or is this just for educating drivers to slow traffic down. Chairperson Galletti asked Town Engineer Barney Quinn his opinion since we have a problem on Prospect. Would a movable speed camera be good here? Not so much for a revenue generator but use it to make drivers slow down. Member Luci Riegel asked if they must be at a school zone to have the cameras or can it be anywhere. Chairperson Galletti said she will start to gather information from other counties to see what their initiatives are and see how they are notifying residence of the cameras. Councilwoman Washabaugh added that since we have such a speeding issue on Prospect and Rising Ridge Road and maybe adding a portable camera can help as a traffic calming measure.

Question #4-Member Luci Riegel asked if there are other places that circles are being discussed. Town Engineer Barney Quinn said the mayor has asked but no action has been taken on anything.

Question #7-Pedestrian Crossing that will be needed after the next section of Rails to Trails is complete be on Main Street at the caboose and the Train Station. Will we put that in or does that have to be done by the state? Barney Quinn stated that you would have to work with the state since that is their road.

## Chapter 6

Question 1-Chairperson Galletti asked who would do the Comprehensive Local Transportation Study. Barney Quinn said the AMT could do that since they are our new consultants.

Question #3-Member Luci Riegel had some questions about certain streets that should be considered as a problem.

South Main Street and 27, where you make a left onto northbound 27.

Twin Arch and 27.

Ridgeville and South Main Street needs a left turn signal.

Question #4-Refers to a Master Pedestrian Plan. Town Engineer Quinn stated that we already have this plan and can share that with the commission.

\*Luci Riegel asked since we put in the big metal mailboxes why are there still mailboxes there? He responded that the town did not force residence to switch to be in the cluster boxes.

Question #7-included things the town does already. All agreed it looks good.

Question #8-All agree looks good. Just need to develop a plan to make this happen for parking. Town Engineer said that we have already done a downtown parking study to see where a parking structure would work well.

Question 9#-What are the benefits to owning Main Street. Barney Quinn stated that the advantages would be that we would not have to coordinate for permits for things on Main Street, could make the changes to make things the town needs happen instead of asking the state. The disadvantages are that we would have 2 miles of road to plow and to repair. The cost to resurface the 2 miles of Main Street would be \$500,000 every 20 years. Also, would have to provide funding for storm drains. State does

absorb some costs before the road would be turned over. The state will turn over the ownership of Main Street at any time for no cost. Downtown Streetscape, this is something we would like to do and it would be around \$5 million and would be higher now. John Breeding will look into what the cost would be. That might be a good time to add a gas line in. Tony Burke added the New Market just completed this and they were a little surprised at some of the costs that they had to incur.

Question #10-Chairperson Galletti asked what type of transportation they are looking for. Town Administrator said they looked into this before and that with Mt. Airy's, demographic there was not a high demand for this type of transportation. Need to decide if this should be on the plan. Luci Riegel added that there are patients that live in Carroll County can easily get a bus to her office for their appointments on Carroll Transit. If they live on the Frederick side, they cannot get a bus to their appointments. Can there be something that can go to all 4 counties in Mt. Airy?

All these questions will be added to the spreadsheet and given to John Breeding.

## VII. OLD BUSINESS

### a) Speed and Traffic Studies:

- (1) Riding Ridge @ Village Gate- Just on the edge of the 85%
  - There is a crosswalk and there is a bus stop here. The kids have to walk across this busy intersection. Would like this updated and put in the pedestrian signs. If a stop sign is added the trucks will make noise while when they are idling.  
**Action Item- The lines repainted, and pedestrian signs installed. Chairperson Galletti and Town Engineer Quinn will talk to the resident about a potential stop sign.**
- (2) Rising Ridge at Deer Hollow- a little higher speed but still within the 85%
- (3) Rising Ridge @ Leafy Hollow-not above the guidelines of 85%
- (4) Summer Sweet and Bridleweath-Not above the state guideline of 85%
- (5) Beck Dr.-Not above the state guidelines of 85% will redo in the summer.
- (6) South Main Street and Paradise next to the auto parts place-Some high speed but not above the guidelines of 85%. Can put some enforcement in place during peak times.

\*Will request two new ones going both ways. One on Deer Hollow from Rising Ridge to Park Ridge and one on Meadow Green from Deer Hollow to Park Ridge.

- ### b) Route 27 Corridor Study- Commission members will review and discuss at the next meeting. **Action-Table for the next meeting.**

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- ### a) Flower Avenue Speeding Concerns-A resident reported that there are no sidewalks and gathered information about speed humps and gave the info and we will pass onto Town Engineer Barney Quinn for his response. There are a lot of factors in play with this.

- b) **Citizen submittal Sterling Glen**-Councilwoman Washabaugh did not have time to update the spreadsheet with this but will update it and pass it along for our next meeting. It's on Buffalo Road and there is a concern, but the town cannot ticket there. **Action Item-Will keep on agenda for July meeting.**
- c) **Speed Cameras-Cost benefit/stationary vs mobile**-Action-Chairwoman Galletti is still gathering information and will report back at the next meeting. **Action Item-Discuss at the next meeting.**

#### **IX. New Officers**

- a) **Chairperson**-Chairperson Lynne Galletti after consulting all commission members made a motion to make Mary Beth Obremski Chairperson and Luci Riegel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- b) **Secretary**-Chairperson Lynne Galletti made a motion to make Jonathan Samayoa secretary. Luci seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

**\*Councilwoman Washabaugh recommended moving the meeting to end of the month so that you have more time to prepare for the commission meeting.**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** Chairperson Galletti motioned to adjourn the meeting and Luci Riegel seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm. The next meeting date is July 6th, 2021, at 7:00pm.