

Town of University Park

Council Committee on Police, Traffic and Public Safety

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

University Park Elementary School
Media Center

Committee Members Present:

Roy Alvarez, Council Member, Ward 7, Chair

Joe Schultz, Council Member, Ward 2

Linda Verrill, Council Member, Ward 4

Joe Thompson, Council Member, Ward 1

Martha Wells, Council Member, Ward 6

Discussion:

1. Discussion of Walkability and Bikeability in University Park

a. Definition of the Problem

- Lack of sidewalks in some areas
- Sidewalk along Rt. 1 and cars speeding
- Dark streets, lack of lights in some areas
- Cars driving too fast
- Some pedestrians choose to walk in road rather than the sidewalk
- A lot of sidewalks are uneven (maintenance issue) and not safe especially for the elderly
- Increase in traffic

b. Possible Solutions

- Physical barriers between pedestrians and cars
- Sidewalk maintenance and how to report an issue
- Narrow roads to control speed
- Projects can be done in phases over a period of time
- Increase the budget for sidewalk repairs
- Residents who report a sidewalk issue be updated on the progress of their request
- The sidewalk repair request could be done with a “trouble ticket”
- Moveable planters on wide roads for pedestrian safety (physical barrier)
- Need a survey of all of the sidewalks
- Get volunteers to survey the sidewalks
- Have a map of sidewalks that are in good shape, bad shape and no sidewalks and overlay this map with traffic flow
- Twenty five miles per hour in some parts of Town is too fast
- Use the speed cameras to slow traffic down
- Public Works has a map of every sidewalk in Town

- A ten year old study is available in Town Hall which includes lighting in Town
- Contact Pepco if a street light is out

Conclusion

Look at the available data to see where there are sidewalks and no sidewalks, find out which areas are in most need. Need a survey of the uneven sidewalks. Come up with a way to let residents know the best way to report a sidewalk issue and to come up with a way to follow up with the reported issue with a “status update”. Clagett Pineway and Sheridan and Tuckerman will be addressed at the next two Committee meetings.

2. Discussion of Traffic Control in University Park

a. Definition of the Problem

- There is an increase of cars cutting through Town
- A lot of cars speed through Town
- Traffic apps directing vehicles through Town
- Cars do not stop at the stop sign at Beechwood and Pineway
- Speeding problem where Amherst and Pineway intersect at Rt. 1
- It is illegal to restrict traffic coming into Town with No Thru Traffic signs
- Streets in Town were not designed for heavy traffic
- Cars coming out of Van Buren, illegally go around the barrier and into the Whole Food parking lot

b. Possible Solutions

- Have police at the trouble spots since this slows traffic down
- Signage at the entrance streets with No Thru Traffic with hour restrictions
- Create a maze to make it difficult for cut through
- Get the Town off of the traffic apps
- Find ways to slow cars down, not block streets off
- Possible roundabouts to slow traffic
- Speed bumps through town, not speed humps
- Barriers to narrow a wide street (planters, allowing parking on both sides of the street, painted sidewalks) since this tends to slow down cars
- Rumble strips would slow down traffic but very noisy
- Consider hiring a traffic expert to give suggestions
- Put a neon green reflecting bumper sticker that says “FULL” on every stop sign
- Stop bars
- A public campaign (signs in yards that say “I stop at stop signs”)

Conclusion

Ask Mayor Carey to contact the Maryland Municipal League for suggestions on what other municipalities have done about increased traffic due to traffic apps

Meeting adjourned: 9:00 p.m.