

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

June 7, 2016

Following Town Council's approval to form a Traffic Committee (ad hoc) at their regular meeting on April 8, 2016 two committee meetings occurred. Both had quorums.

The initial meeting on April 22, 2016 included a general discussion of the purpose which is to evaluate road safety between Kent Ave. and Delaware Route 1. Each member explained their involvement and interest in serving. Major agenda items included the development of a scope of work (study design). The scope will follow the format of defining a purpose, coordination, problem identification, data collection/research, development of alternatives measures to solve issues, documentation, and a timeline/chart to guide committee recommendations to Council. Since much work has been accomplished prior to this committee's formation a status report was provided regarding previously identified measures. Because of time limitations not all the measures were reported on but sufficient time will be allocated to this agenda item at future meetings. Among the items established was agreement on the study area which is defined as the roadway network and adjoining areas following the route of Black Gum Drive at Kent Avenue continuing on Cattail Road, Tamarack Road, Canal Road, Russell Road, Evergreen Road ending at Delaware Route 1.

One **Action Item** was voted on and unanimously approved for Town Council's consideration: Month of May traffic counts to be taken on Black Gum Road and Russell Road.

Public comments were given and are documented in the minutes. Mayor Pat announced the results of the Black Gum Road Drive property owners survey and that it supports the new speed hump location.

A Traffic Committee meeting was held on May 12, 2016 and again focused on developing a scope of work. Using a general outline circulated at the April 22nd meeting, each of the elements were discussed in detail. New goals were added such as to maintain the aesthetic quality of the viewshed along the study route, evaluation of the effectiveness of the current traffic control devices, determine traffic use of parallel roads that may be avoiding intersection capacity limitations, and complete evaluation of traffic volumes. Data collection and research accomplishments were enhanced by setting up a Shared Drive for committee members to readily access. This data now includes but is not limited to DelDOT Traffic Counts on Black Gum and Tamarack Roads, Cat Hill Traffic Group's Power Point Presentation, DelDOT's review of existing speed humps, Traffic Impact Study (TIS) completed for a proposed development on Muddy Run Road west of Kent Ave. and the Canal, Turning movement counts taken at Kent Ave. and West Way to measure cut-through traffic, Highway functional classification maps and volumes on adjacent DelDOT roadways, Sussex County Comprehensive Development Plan. A timeline of various DelDOT counts/surveys and Town Council Workshop and Meetings was established to help coordinate action items.

Current timeline for programs include the following:

1. Week of May 20th: DelDOT will record traffic volumes for 7 days. (completed)
2. May 28th: DelDOT will conduct an origin/destination study to determine cut through (traffic that does not have an origin or destination within the South Bethany community west of Route 1). (completed)
3. June 21st-July 5th: DelDOT will record traffic volume for 7 days.
4. July 8th and 9th: DelDOT will count turning movements at the intersection of Canal Road and Tamarack Road.

DelDOT prepared an inventory map of existing traffic control devices located along the Study Route and a conceptual design of a calming measure/project at the intersection of Canal Drive and Tamarack Road within existing ROW.

Current status pertaining to measures previously identified by the Cat Hill Group include:

1. Electronic Speed Signs - The town has installed 4 electronic speed signs, 3 on the study route. They are located at approximately 417- 419 Black Gum Drive (facing Kent Avenue), on 421 Tamarack Road (facing Canal Street), and on Evergreen Road near Cleveland (facing SR 1). Volume and speed data was recorded by these signs on May 31, 2016
2. Increasing Height of Existing Speed Humps - DelDOT measured the existing speed humps and some were found to be below standards. Motion to bring speed humps to standards passed.
3. Installing an Additional Speed Hump on Black Gum Drive - The town sent out a survey to property owners on Black Gum Drive and they overwhelmingly supported installing one adjacent to the vacant lot at 422 Black Gum Drive. Motion to add an additional speed hump passed.
4. Restrictions at Black Gum Drive and Kent Avenue - The town is exploring changing the summer traffic restrictions at this intersection to best mirror when the volume is at its peak (going to and coming from the beach). DelDOT has completed two counts, most recently at Black Gum Road and Russell Road the last week of May. Another count is scheduled for late June These counts, the Radar counts, and the O/D Study should provide enough data to accurately determine what times to restrict turning movements at the above intersection.
5. 3-Way Stop Intersection at Canal Drive and Tamarack Road - DelDOT will conduct a turning movement count in July to determine a warrant. Meanwhile DelDOT prepared a design concept for a 3-way stop sign controlled intersection with curvilinear approaches on Canal Street and a bump out from the canal side of the "T" within the existing ROW.
6. Painted Street Lines – To be discussed at the July 6 Traffic Committee meeting. A review of the Study Route indicates that some intersections are striped some are not. Two intersections along Tamarack Road are not. Bollards have been installed on the SW corner of this intersection with Canal Road.

Two **Action Items** were voted on and unanimously approved for Town Council's consideration:
Installing a new speed hump on Black Gum Road. Augmenting existing speed humps between Kent Avenue and Delaware Route 1 to a height of 4" and length of 12'.

The next Traffic Committee meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2016.

Submitted by John Janowski, Chair
Traffic Committee