

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Police Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: Amend the Code of The Township Of Lower Merion, Chapter Chapter 145 Vehicles & Traffic § 145-108 Schedule VIII: Stop Intersections (Ward 5)

Prepared By: Michael J McGrath, Superintendent of Police

Date: January 16, 2019

- I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:** Authorize the Township Secretary to advertise notice of intent to adopt an ordinance rescinding the “One-way Stop” regulation on Chichester Lane and establishing a “Three-way Stop” regulation at Chichester Lane and Wister Road.
- II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:** The Traffic Safety Unit conducted a traffic study at this location for consideration of a “Three-way Stop” regulation. The Ward Commissioner is recommending that the Board approve a “Three-way Stop” regulation at Chichester Lane and Wister Road. If approved, this will require a change to the Township Code.
- III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):** The Township requires a traffic study be conducted prior to installation of traffic control devices following the standards established by PennDOT and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The request is consistent with past practice.
- IV. Other Relevant Background Information:** A resident expressed safety concerns at the intersection of Chichester Lane and Wister Road. The concern is that only the Chichester Lane approach of the 3-legged intersection has a posted Stop Sign. A traffic study conducted at this location found that the intersection did not meet the minimum PennDOT warrants for the placement of a “Three-way Stop” regulation. We found no crashes at this location and the volumes are also significantly below minimum warrants as well. During our review, we found that the geometry of the intersection creates confusion as to which approach should have the preferential right of way. To address these concerns the Ward Commissioner has recommended that the new “Three Way Stop” regulation be presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval.
- V. Impact On Township Finances:** The cost for installation and purchase of the signs are minimal.
- VI. Staff Recommendation:** Due to the lack of crash history and the failure to meet minimal PennDOT warrants, by policy, Staff cannot recommend the placement of the proposed “Three-Way Stop” regulation at this location.