

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION



Ad Hoc Traffic Safety Committee Meeting November 13, 2017

Traffic Safety Awareness Committee

Agenda

Introduction - Define the Issue

- Increased traffic
- Driver failure to abide by speed limits
- Distracted driving
- Pedestrian Safety - Other

Traffic Safety Awareness Committee

Agenda – cont.

Actual Traffic Volumes

Legal Ability - Township Authority – PennDOT Authority

- Traffic Signals
- Stop Signs
- Speed Limits
- Crosswalks
- Traffic Enforcement

Traffic Safety Awareness Committee

Agenda – cont.

Potential Tools

- Traffic Enforcement
- Speed Alert Displays / Signage
- Traffic Calming Policy – physical improvements
- Traffic Safety Education Campaign

Comments – Suggestions - Next Steps

Traffic Safety Awareness Committee

Purpose - Address Three Areas of Focus

- Aggressive Driving/Speeding
- Pedestrian Safety
- Distracted Driving

DVRPC Traffic Counts

ROAD	INTERSECTION	DATE*	ADT*	DATE*	ADT*
Lancaster Ave	Near Church Rd	7/08	23,930	8/17	19,537
Montgomery Ave	Near N. Wynnewood Rd	7/08	24,092	6/16	22,298
Church Rd	Near Llanfair Rd	7/10	5,338	10/15	5,148
Hollow Rd	Near Hagys Ford Rd	7/10	5,174	7/17	5,330
Conshohocken State Rd	Near Spring Mill Rd	6/12	11,072	7/17	9,881
Argyle Rd	Near Linwood Ave	5/09	3,753	7/14	4,850
Haverford Rd	Near Overbrook Rd	8/07	13,503	8/17	11,454
Winding Way	Near Montgomery Ave	11/11	6,156	8/16	6,306
Rockhill Rd	Btw Conshohocken State Rd & Belmont Ave	10/08	9,980	7/14	8,159
Montgomery Ave	Near Woodside Rd	5/09	18,564	8/16	16,924
Ardmore Ave	Near School Ln	7/07	7,743	6/17	7,553
Lancaster Ave	East of Bryn Mawr Ave	7/09	20,947	11/16	24,640
Montgomery Ave	Near Kent Rd	5/09	20,863	6/17	19,416
Bala Ave	East of Union Ave	7/07	3,182	6/17	2,494
Roberts Rd	Near Ashbridge Rd	7/10	1,590	6/16	1,624

*Date-Month/Year of Count *ADT-Average Daily Traffic

**Township vs. other
Avg. Costs for Improvements**

- Township Roads - 204 linear miles/460 lane miles
- State Roads - 35 linear miles/89 lane miles
- Private Roads – Approx. 40 miles
- Avg. Cost for stop sign - \$1,000
- Avg. Cost for new crosswalk w/ADA ramps - approximately \$7,500 for each approach/ramp
- Avg. Cost for new traffic signal/ADA ramps - \$140,000 -160,000

**Traffic Safety Unit
Duties and Responsibilities**

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Investigate traffic hazards | • Educational Programs |
| • Conduct Traffic Studies | • Abandoned Vehicles |
| • Crash Reconstruction | • Towing |
| • Compile data TA/SE | • LMSD-Safety Review, School Bus Violations, School Bus Driver certifications |
| • Assist in deployment of Highway Enforcement Team (HET) | • Commercial Vehicle Inspections |
| • ROBIC lines and Timing devices | • Assist Public Works and Land Development |
| • Block parties | |

Traffic Safety Unit

Complaints

- Via Commissioner
- Resident
- Civic Association
- Business or School
- All complaints, regardless of origin, conducted with the same thorough attention to detail

Traffic Safety Unit

Complaints

- Complaints are investigated and conducted using a three-step process referred to as the “three **E**’s” (**E**ngineering, **E**ducation, and **E**nforcement)

Traffic Safety Unit

Engineering

- Investigate location to see if conditions are:
 - Compliant with existing Federal and State Guidelines
 - Make corrections if necessary, or
 - Refer to a Traffic Engineer for further evaluation

Traffic Safety Unit

Engineering

- These investigations may include the deployment of Traffic Counters, which collect vehicular data including speeds and volume.

Traffic Safety Unit

Education

- Explain Federal & State Guidelines, recommendations for improvements, or next steps
- If the location does not require changes or improvements - Speed Awareness Display may be deployed to educate the drivers and residents
- Deploy 5 Pole Mounted and 3 Trailer Mounted Speed Awareness Displays on a rotational basis

POLE MOUNTED SPEED DISPLAY RADAR-SPEED TRAILER



Traffic Safety Unit

Enforcement

- If the location has been deemed properly “engineered” and the public has been “educated”, Police Department will conduct Enforcement in an effort to gain compliance!

Traffic Safety Unit

Enforcement

2016 Citations, Warnings, & Notices issued :

- Citations - **10,687**
- Written Warnings - **5,941**
- Faulty Equipment - **8,220**

Traffic Safety Programs
Police Department Campaign Participation

- Aggressive Driving
- Operation Safe stop
- Buckle up PA
- Child Passenger Safety
- Montco DA Distracted Driving Reporting
- DUI Grant Funded Programs
- Cops in Shops

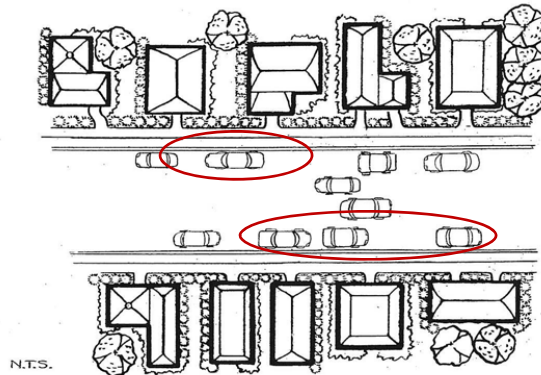
Traffic Safety Awareness Program

Proposed Program

Traffic Safety Awareness Program - A program to reduce:

- Speeding
- Distracted Driving
- Improve Pedestrian Safety

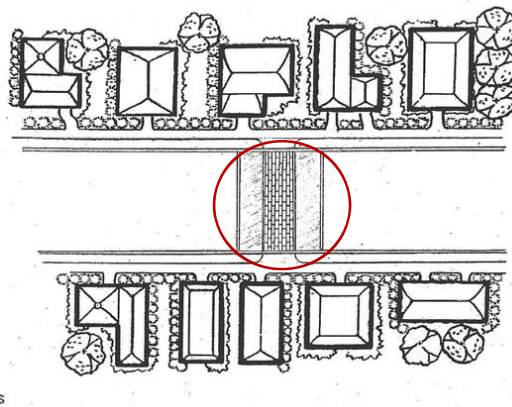
ON-STREET PARKING



RAISED CROSSWALKS

Cost of a raised crosswalk is approximately \$2,000 to \$10,000 each.

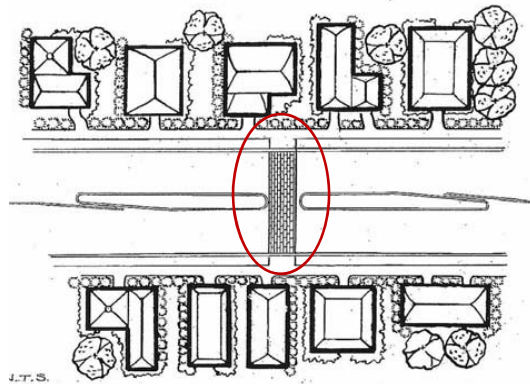
If drainage is an issue, costs could increase considerably.



RAISED MEDIAN ISLANDS/PEDESTRIAN REFUGES

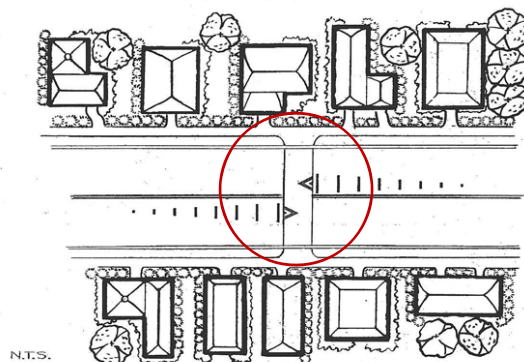
Approximate cost is
\$5,000 to \$15,000 per
island

Depends on size,
curbing, and landscape
features.



SPEED HUMPS / TABLES

Each speed hump
installation costs about
\$1,500 to \$3,500,
depending on roadway
width.



Traffic Safety Awareness Program

Proposed Program

Slow Down Campaign

Campaign concept designed to raise awareness of speeding on residential roads

Campaign has several components:

- Before and after speed and volume data
- Increase police presence / enforcement

Traffic Safety Awareness Program

Slow Down Campaign

- Use of radar speed signs
- Yard signs
- Neighborhood Groups get a free permanent post mounted "Slow Down" signs
- Media coverage, social media coverage and web page to raise awareness of the program

Traffic Safety Awareness Program

Slow Down Campaign

- Campaign runs twice a year for about a one/two weeks
- First time - when school lets out for the summer
- Second time - when school starts in the fall
- Campaign could be partnered with local business sponsorships, Civics, etc
- Requires neighborhood partnership

Traffic Safety Awareness Program

Slow Down Campaign

- Participant's responsibility is to register with the Township Program
- Picking up yard signs at the Township building
- Moving the signs from yard to yard during the campaign and then returning the yard signs at the end of the Campaign

Traffic Safety Awareness Program

Slow Down Campaign

- Township utilizes the radar signs in a random fashion, moving the radar signs every few days to different neighborhoods
- Radar signs are a resource with limited supply
- The data is used to measure the success of the program
- Goal – determine if Speeds are reduced!

Traffic Safety Awareness Program

Two additional Components:

- Distracted Driving
- Pedestrian Safety

Types of Distracted Driving



Distracted Driving Tips

Before you roll

- Set essential controls
- Review your route
- Secure your pets
- Manage your time
- Prep at home

Distracted Driving Tips

On the road

- Drive thru, pull over
- GPS adjustments
- The buddy system
- Save it for later
- Spacing out

Pedestrian Safety

Crossing a street

When crossing a street, you should always:

- Stop at the edge of parked cars, the curb, or other vehicles
- Look LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT for moving cars
- Cross when clear, and keep looking left and right

Pedestrian Safety

Crosssing a street

When crossing a street, you should always:

- Walk, not run or dart, into the street
- Look for signs that a car is about to move (rear lights, exhaust smoke, sound of motor, wheels turning)
- Walk alertly

Pedestrian Safety

Crosswalk safety

Drivers do not always stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk. Be sure to:

- Look LEFT, RIGHT, then LEFT again before stepping off the curb - continue to LOOK and LISTEN as you go
- Only cross the street when you see it is safe

Pedestrian Safety

Crosswalk safety

- Stay within the lines of the crosswalk
- Always walk your bike across the street or crosswalk
- Wait for cars to stop before stepping off the curb and into the crosswalk

Pedestrian Safety

Crosswalk safety

- Obey the Walk and Don't Walk signals if the crosswalk has them.

****Even if the signal says walk, always look LEFT, RIGHT, then LEFT again for traffic before crossing, and LOOK and LISTEN as you cross.**

Traffic Safety Awareness Program Educational and Campaign Resources

- **NHSTA:**
<https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety>
- **PennDOT:**
<http://www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Safety/TrafficSafetyAndDriverTopics/Pages/default.aspx>
- **Montgomery County:**
<https://www.montcopa.org/2471/DISTRACTED-DRIVING-PROGRAMS>
- **CDC:**
http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/distracted_driving
- **DVRPC :**
<https://dvrpc.org/webmaps/TrafficCounts/>
- **ENDD :**
<https://www.enddd.org/>
- **National Safety Council:**
<http://www.nsc.org/learn/NSC-Initiatives/Pages/distracted-driving.aspx>
- **AAA:**
<http://www.aaaafoundation.org/distracted-driving>
- **Governor's Highway Safety Association:**
<ghsa.org/html/issues/distraction/index.html>
- **Cranberry Township:**
<http://www.cranberrytownship.org/1683/Slow-Down>
- **Nebraska non profit:**
<http://www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org/makeadifference>