TOWNSHIP OF VERONA NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC & SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES March 11, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

Open public meeting statement was read.

ROLL CALL

Andrea Anderson, George Manousos, Abigail Chirico, Paul Mickiewicz, Elizabeth Hynes, Robin Wallace, Chief Christopher Kiernan, Councilwoman McGrath, and Robert Robotham were present. Absent: Steve Cruz and Laura Palmerezzi.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Previous Meeting minutes from January 12, 2025 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

• The Linden Avenue Technical Assistance Program final report was discussed. Several members of the VNTSC were present for the initial presentation of the report to the Township team back in January. Tonight, the report was shared and summarized, including the survey results, graphics and recommendations from the TA team. The recommendations which were presented to the Township were largely accepted by the committee with two exceptions, to be explained further along in the minutes.

Demo Project 1- Of the 3 different demonstration projects, all agreed that alternating "Chicanes" arranged the full length of Linden between Fairview and Grove were not received well. Seemingly failed from the start due to improper parked cars, there was much confusion. As a result, the Township team asked for a "neckdown" or narrowing point to force vehicles to slow down while passing through a contrived bottleneck curb extension. The TA team found there was not sufficient space on both sides of the Linden to construct a symmetrical "neck down" and proposed an alternative curved neckdown or "Single Short Chicane" located halfway between Fairview and Grove. This will provide the

same effect as the curb extensions/neckdown, creating a horizontal narrowing for vehicles to pass through, requiring a slower speed. This narrowing treatment is an alternative to the more well known "speed bump" which has been requested by some residents to slow speeding. There is general concern about the complaints associated with the installation of speed bumps from the sound caused by vehicles bouncing over them or complaints by emergency responders delaying their travel time and causing more wear and tear on their vehicles. It was agreed that it would be important to get feedback from Linden Avenue residents on the idea of installing the curved neckdown or speed bumps.

The committee agreed to ask the Township to if creating a short, temporary demonstration of this one, single, short curved neckdown is possible to see how well it works. The other changes along this one stretch of Linden were accepted.

- The one other concern about the recommendations were over the proposed curb extensions at the Linden/Grove Street intersection. There is concern about the difficulty of long vehicles, trucks or trailers needing to make wide turns into oncoming traffic. Anything but painted curb extensions would not be acceptable at this intersection.
- Demo Project 2&3 recommendations were summarily accepted.
- In addition, the installation of "speed table intersections" added to the two All-Way Stops along Linden Ave. at Otsego and Elmwood were accepted by the committee and came with the endorsement of Peter Ten Kate of Boswell Engineering who joined through Public Comment. Speed tables are not a problem for emergency vehicles, are easier to plow and don't recreate the noise problem that short speed bumps do.
- In summary there is great concern about speeding on Linden Avenue and the VNTSC feels it is very important that some speed reduction features are included on the portion of Linden Ave between Fairview and Grove. If the curved neckdown is not accepted, we would like to consider the use of speed bumps. We hope to resolve this final feature before a finalized plan needs to be put out to bid for paving. In the meantime, Peter Ten Kate suggested Boswell Engineering proceed with the recommendations as presented knowing there might still be a change between Fairfield and Grove. The Grove intersection curb extension will be planned as paint only.

NEXT MEETING

• May 13, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT

• Peter Ten Kate of Boswell Engineering called in with some comment and very good suggestions.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Mickiewicz Secretary & Co-Chair