



# City of Harrisonburg

City Hall  
409 South Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

## Meeting Minutes - Final Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission

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Wednesday, December 10, 2025

8:30 AM

Public Works Building

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### 1. Welcome and Introductions

In attendance at the meeting were commission members John Scherpereel, Rob Jezior, Marian Lebherz, Jakob zumFelde (Public Works), and JMU representative Valerie Kramer. Also in attendance were City representatives Sgt. Wayne Westfall, Paul Helmuth, Matthew Tobia, Timothy Mason, James Polhamus, and Public Works Outreach and Communications Coordinator Maya Waid. New Public Works Transportation Planner Max Irwin was also present and introduced to the commission. The meeting was held in the Public Works building located at 320 East Mosby Road.

**Attachments:** [2025-12 TSAC Presentation](#)

### 2. Public Comment Opportunity

There were no public comments at this time.

### 3. Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program Update

James Polhamus presented an update on efforts related to the city's recently updated Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program, which was approved by City Council in July 2025 and received the first batch of new traffic calming requests for scoring consideration over the winter. James Polhamus clarified that for the first round of scoring, both recently requested eligible streets (prior to October 1, 2025, but after the updated NTCP was approved) as well as eligible streets requested prior to the updated NTCP dating back to 2022, would be scored. James Polhamus added that three streets requested for traffic calming but determined to be initially ineligible was due to either the roadway being an arterial and not a neighborhood street, or because of other planned improvements. James Polhamus reiterated that no scoring has taken place yet, and that once the eligible requested streets are scored, the street scores, as well as the neighborhood recommendation scenario, will be posted on the city's traffic calming webpage with requested TSAC endorsement likely in February. John Scherpereel asked for clarification whether individual streets or neighborhoods are scored in addition to wondering if Public Works staff has a feel yet for how much traffic calming will be able to be funded by the city. James Polhamus responded that, while individual streets are scored to determine need, decisions about traffic calming are anticipated to be made at a "neighborhood" level to minimize the possibility of traffic calming implemented on one street leading to drivers to speed on nearby

parallel streets. Tom Hartman cautioned that while the city does have some funding available for traffic calming as a budget line item, the results of the neighborhood recommendation scenario will likely not be the exact top 1 through 4 highest scoring streets but rather a group of relatively high scoring streets that are all in relative proximity. Marian Lebherz asked how new traffic calming requests are added to the list for scoring. Tom Hartman responded that while traffic calming requests are accepted anytime of the year, any request submitted after October 1 will be scored in the 2027 round.

#### **4. East Market Street & Betts Drive Intersection**

Timothy Mason presented an overview of safety concerns raised about the intersection of East Market Street & Betts Drive and showed the commission the small number of AM and PM left turn movements from either side of Betts Drive onto East Market Street. Rob Jezior asked if left turns from East Market Street onto Betts Drive had also been counted. Timothy Mason responded they had been collected but were not part of the operational evaluations as those movements will still be allowed. Timothy Mason added that installing a temporary restricted crossing U-turn (RCUT) treatment that would restrict left turns out of Betts Drive and direct those movements to make U-turns at either the Evelyn Byrd Drive or Chestnut Ridge Drive traffic signal is the Public Works staff preferred option. Rob Jezior asked if bollards would be used to make the temporary RCUT. Tom Hartman responded that flex posts would be used so in the case of an emergency, first response vehicles will be able to go through them if necessary. Tom Hartman added that Rockingham County just recently installed a similar treatment on US-33 near Cross Keys Road. Timothy Mason clarified that multiple people raised safety concerns about this intersection and have asked for something to be done, with no specific solution in mind. Timothy Mason then asked if TSAC would consider endorsement of proposed temporary RCUT treatment. John Scherpereel made a motion to endorse the temporary RCUT treatment. Marian Lebherz seconded the motion. The commission then voted, and the motion passed.

#### **5. Other Business/Announcements**

Timothy Mason announced that the city recently held a kickoff open house for the Liberty Street Project and that an accompanying survey is currently open. Timothy Mason also announced that a survey for the Virginia Avenue Project Pipeline Study is open as well with back-to-back open houses being held on Thursday December 11, one at the Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community (1pm to 3pm) and one at the City Council chambers (4pm to 6pm). Timothy Mason added that the city now has a signed agreement with the federal government for the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant and expects to be moving forward with the planning effort soon. Timothy Mason articulated that once the SS4A effort begins, the number of scheduled TSAC meetings will likely increase. Timothy Mason then stated that a summary of the

Roadway Safety Assessment for Stone Spring Road, conducted in the fall, will be presented at the next meeting. Timothy Mason announced that for future TSAC meetings, calendar invites will be sent out ahead of time to members of the commission. Lastly, Timothy Mason announced that Public Works has acquired a new speed radar trailer with plans to use it as part of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program as well as on larger roads in the city with vehicle speed concerns.

Sgt. Westfall announced that the two dynamic speed signs ordered by the Police Department have arrived and will be installed on Vine Street near the Harrisonburg Baptist Church and the Harrison Gardens Apartment Complex. Maya Waid announced that the North Mason Street Demonstration Project Summary is now available to view on the project webpage. Rob Jezior asked if there has been any follow up since the temporary two stage left treatment was implemented at the intersection of Pointe Drive and South Main Street. Tom Hartman responded he had not heard anything from the community about it and that it appears to be working well. Rob Jezior then asked about the general sentiment from the Liberty Street Project Open House. Jakob zumFelde responded that over 100 people attended the meeting, and that public input has been mostly encouraging. Maya Waid added that a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document is now on the project webpage as well. Marian Lebherz inquired about the status of the North Main Street Sidewalk and Bike Lanes project. Tom Hartman responded that the project is currently in the right of way phase with expected construction starting in 2027. Marian Lebherz then expressed concern about the ongoing VDOT STARS study's lack of proposed improvements along Vine Street between East Washington Street and North Main Street. Jakob zumFelde replied that while Public Works understands the concern, staff believes that the minor changes proposed at the North Main Street intersection, continuous sidewalk, potential striping changes to match the Vine Street typical section south of Old Furnace Road, a proposed roundabout at East Washington Street, and the soon to be installed speed radar signs by the Police Department will help to improve safety along the entire corridor.

## **6. Appointment of Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Members**

The Commission held a closed session to discuss the potential appointment of up to two members to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee. After some discussion, the Commission reappointed David Ehrenpreis, as well as appointed two new members, Neil Detweiler and Adam Dohrenwend, to the subcommittee.

## **Adjournment**