

HEATWOLE RD CLOSURE TO VEHICLES BETWEEN SHARON ST AND PERRY ST

April 27, 2021

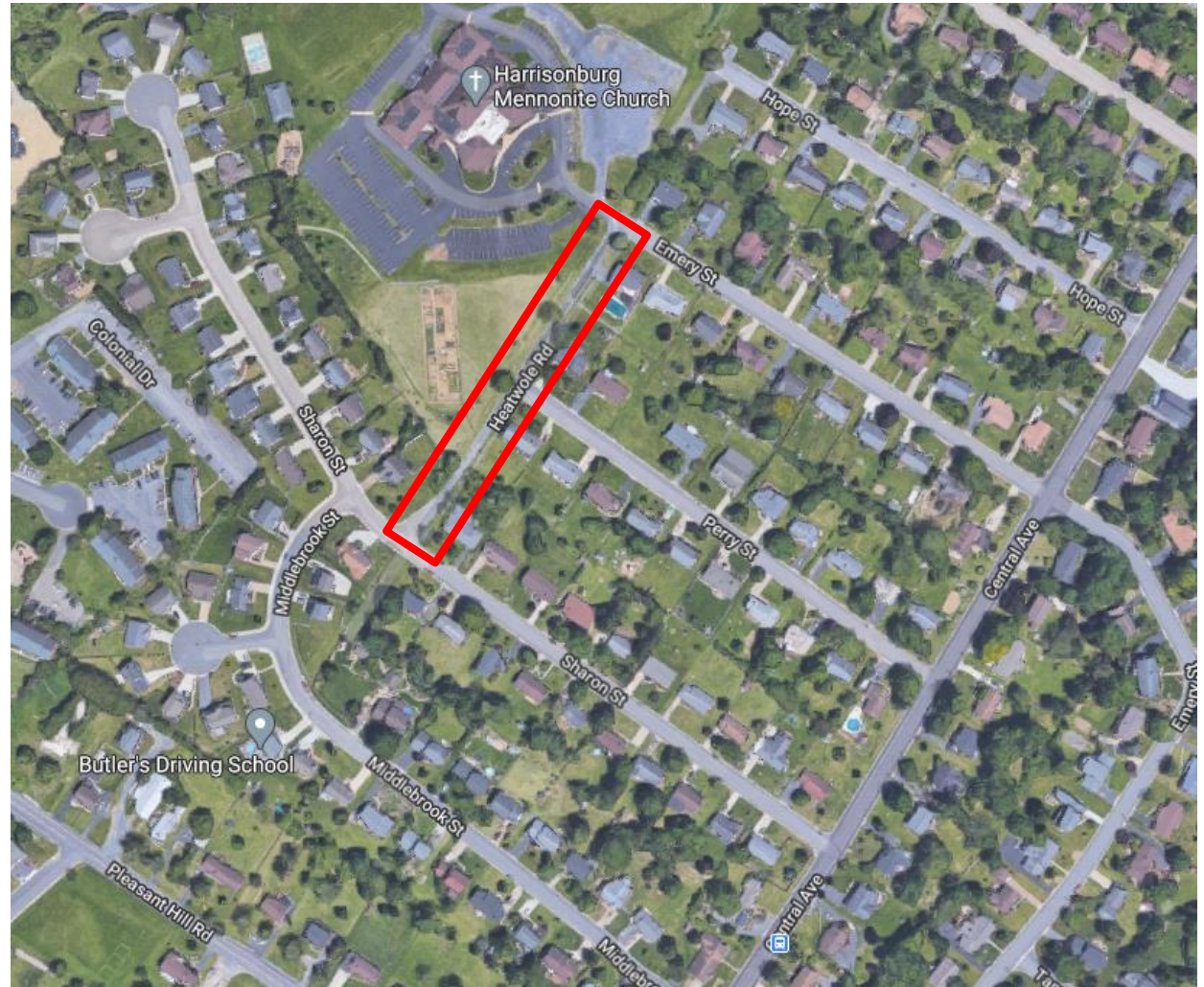
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Heatwole Rd

Residents raised concerns about vehicles going at unsafe speeds





Context

- Heatwole Rd characteristics
 - very narrow two-way street
 - leads to entrance to Harrisonburg Mennonite Church
- Google Maps had shown this as the fastest route for some neighborhood residents
- Public Works uses Heatwole Rd for trash collection vehicles and snowplow routing
- Residents of the neighborhood use Heatwole Rd as a desirable route for walking



Data Collected

- Heatwole Rd traffic counts from July 2020
 - approximately 135 daily vehicles between Perry and Emery
 - approximately 110 daily vehicles between Sharon and Perry
- Majority of traffic (around 80%) on Heatwole Rd at Emery St is going to or from the church entrance



Staff Analysis and Process

- Road is not designed to safely handle the amount of traffic that is currently present
- Harrisonburg Mennonite Church not interested in restricting access to the church
- Appropriate to close Heatwole Rd between Sharon St and Perry St to vehicle traffic



Proposed Changes





Proposed Changes

- Propose use of collapsible bollards, or a similar measure, to close the segment of Heatwole Rd between Sharon St and Perry St to vehicles
- Signs will be installed to identify the road as being for bicycle and pedestrian traffic only
- Drivers currently using Heatwole Rd will instead use Central Ave to Pleasant Hill Rd, South Ave or Maryland Ave



Alternative Routes





Public Outreach

- Staff mailed letters to more than 80 residents of Sharon St and Middlebrook St, as well as the residents who live adjacent to Heatwole Rd, informing them of the proposal
- Staff received 5 responses to the mailing
 - two respondents expressed approval
 - two respondents were opposed
 - other comments unrelated to the proposed change



Conclusion

- Vehicle restriction addresses the safety concern, increasing safety for people who live along Heatwole Rd and those who walk or bike on Heatwole Rd
- Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission recommends that Council approve the change