

POCONO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Traffic Task Force Work Session Minutes

DATE: July 11, 2019
TIME: 1:00 pm
PLACE: Township Building
PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: Jerry Lastowski
ROLL CALL:

Harold Werkheiser - Absent
Richard Wielebinski – Present
Chad Kilby – Present
Jerrod Belvin – Absent

Also present were Senator Mario Scavello, Taylor Munoz – Senator Scavello Chief of Staff; Michael Rebot and Dennis Toomey – PennDot District 5-0 and Donna Asure-Township Manager.

The traffic task force was called to order at 1:00pm by President Lastowski followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment – none

The purpose of the works session was to discuss with PennDot the traffic congestion along the Route 611 and 715 corridors, possible short-term solutions and updates on future PennDot projects.

The following items were discussed throughout the work session –

Pocono Township Concerns

- As soon as ramps at 715 back up, Interstate 80 slows down. As the back logs grow, traffic begins to travel route 611 as a by-pass.
- If we address the Exit ramps. Traffic flow will improve.
- Crossings Traffic Flow
- Two traffic lights in close proximity

Discussion on Solutions

715 /Interstate 80

- Paint out North and South Turning lanes on Tannersville Ramps, as most traffic already create 2 lanes.
- Install temporary traffic lights on 715 that can be activated during high traffic periods (Traffic lights will assist with cars wanting to make turns across traffic)
- Conduct all road work on interstate 80 and 611 at night.
- Install digital trailer signs from Stroudsburg on-ramp to Tannersville stating fastest route – Stay on 80

611/ 715

- During High traffic periods/ Close 715 North 611 turn lane and allow 611 North traffic to back up in the center turn lane to make left onto 715 South
- Create Detour for 715 north. 715N to use Shine Hill, Cherry Lane
- Turn 715 North traffic light to yellow blinker
- Create Coned turning lane at 611 South and 715 South.

Crossings

- During high traffic times, Turning crossings traffic into one-way flow through their property. Enter Sullivan trail and Northern 611 Entrance. All traffic comes out 611 exits by Billy's
 - Potentially Install Temp light at Crossings Exit

Sullivan trail back logs

- Install alternate route signs at Sullivan trail and Camelback to send traffic up Sullivan trail. 80 East traffic can be sent down babbling brook, 80 West Sent up to 380.

Other Idea's

- Funds for additional officer as sole responsibility to monitor traffic on known issue weekends and activate temp lights.
- Install temporary barricades periodically to prevent cars going up the middle lane of 611
- Close "To Fish Hill Rd" to reduce the number of traffic points entering 611 during high traffic periods.

The pros and cons of each situation were discussed. It is thought the "smart technology" now available in traffic signals, and to be installed during the Green Light Go 2017 process will help with the traffic congestion.

The dual lights at 611/715 being in such close proximity to each other is another major contributing factor. If one light can be eliminated this should provide some relief. PennDot and Senator Scavello will look into whether the part of the 611/715 realignment project that affects Route 715 crossing 611 can be moved forward and started prior to the rest of the project being finalized.

PennDot Update on Projects affecting Pocono Township

PennDot reported that the 715/611 realignment project will take about the next two to two- and one-half years to get the rights-of-way needed for the project. It should then be expected it will take about two years to construct.

Public Comment

Bruce Kilby – Planning Commission member spoke about smart technology for traffic lights and the need for future utility upgrades to be coordinated and completed at the same time.

NO OFFICIAL ACTIONS OR ROLL CALL VOTES WERE TAKEN DURING WORK SESSION.

The work session ended at 2:26pm.

Submitted by:
Donna M. Asure
Township Manager