

# **TOWN OF AMHERST**

## **TRAFFIC-SAFETY BOARD**

**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT – 1100 NORTH FOREST ROAD, WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK 14221**  
**TRAFFIC SAFETY COORDINATOR - TELEPHONE 631-7154 - FAX 631-7222**

### **AMHERST TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD**

#### **January 15, 2025**

The January meeting of the Amherst Traffic Safety Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 15, 2025, Chairman Eric Fraas presiding. Chairman Fraas began the meeting by reviewing the minutes from the December 4, 2024 meeting, asking if there are any changes or corrections. None being heard, motion by Chairman Fraas, second by Kevin Cantwell, to approve the minutes from December 4, 2024 as written. Approved 6-0. Members in attendance are Chairman Eric Fraas, Dan Rider, Kevin Cantwell, Cynthia Selden, Nicholas Alterio, and Helaine Sanders. Departmental liaisons included William Prenevau of the Building Department; Scott Marshall of the Planning Department; Captain Charles Persons of the Police Department; Al Spoth of the Highway Department; Chris Schregel, Traffic Safety Coordinator/Engineering Liaison; and Councilman Michael Szukala, Town Board Liaison to the Amherst Traffic Safety Board. Guest list is on record at the Town's Engineering Department.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Ridge Lea at Lowe's Driveway – Request for a Traffic Signal. Chris Schregel opens this item by giving a brief presentation on screen, featuring an area highlighted in red where a driveway exits the Lowe's Plaza onto Ridge Lea, the subject of a resident's request for a signal. In 2012, a signal warrant analysis conducted by petitioner Benderson Development found that this intersection did not meet the warrants for signal installation. In 2016, and then again in 2018, the Amherst Traffic Safety Board requested that the Highway Department conduct a 'trial run' of a proposed striping plan, but the Highway Department declined, reluctant to set up what would amount to a work zone without any work. The current road configuration is shown, Chris Schregel explaining that driver confusion in negotiating the turning lanes off Ridge Lea into the plaza has probably contributed to the 15 accidents reported here between 2013 and 2015 -- clarifying signage posted since then has likely led to a reduced accident rate between 2021 and 2023. The resident's original request was for a signal at this intersection to improve the safety, but the request has been modified for an all-way stop or right-in/right-out reconfiguration. With the signal request withdrawn and no fresh signal warrant analysis, the Board has these options to consider for this intersection:

- Option 1 - All-Way Stop
- Option 2 - Right in, Right out
- Option 3 – Striping changes

Chairman Fraas opens the Board discussion by suggesting that Benderson Development be required to conduct another full traffic signal analysis of the intersection during the next site plan review, remarking that the plaza has changed greatly since the last study with more changes on the horizon. Kevin Cantwell expresses a preference for the analysis to be done after the Costco that is under construction further down the road opens and is fully operational to account for the additional expected traffic burden in the area. Item received and filed pending site plans from the developer before taking further action.

2. Dan Troy Drive – Request for sign changes to alleviate stop sign non-compliance. Chris Schregel opens this item by saying that a resident on Dan Troy requested some type of assistance with the speeding and stop sign non-compliance at the Meadowview Lane and Dan Troy intersection, remarking that many children live in this neighborhood. The Board reviewed Dan Troy in 2021 for an all-way stop and found the intersection did not meet the criteria. The Engineering Department conducted a study on two occasions to determine the degree of stop sign non-compliance, revealing that a large percentage of vehicles passing through the intersection roll through, but also noted that the vehicle volume was very low with only 11 vehicles passing through during a one-hour span, even less during AM peak. Chris Schregel informs the members that a number of options are available to enhance this intersection if desired by the Board.

Chairman Fraas opens the item for Board discussion, which Kevin Cantwell begins by pointing out that if the stop sign already at this location is being so blatantly ignored, adding additional signage will do little to address the problem. Chairman Fraas adds that based on the traffic counts, cut-through traffic is not an issue. Motion by Chairman Fraas, second by Nick Alterio, to receive and file this item. Approved 6-0.

3. Election of Amherst Traffic Safety Board officers. Due to a vacancy in the position, the process begins with the election of a Vice Chairperson, which Chairman Fraas initiates by asking if there are any nominations for Vice Chairperson. Kevin Cantwell nominates Dan Rider for Vice Chairperson. Dan Rider is asked if he will accept the nomination, which he declines. Chairman Fraas asks thrice if there are any other nominations for Vice Chairperson. Chairman Fraas then nominates Cynthia Selden as Vice Chairperson, second by Dan Rider. Chairman Fraas thrice asks if there are any other nominations. None being heard, Chairman Fraas asks Cynthia Selden if she accepts the nomination, which she does. Motion approved 6-0. Chairman Fraas makes a motion, second by Dan Rider, to turn the meeting over to Vice Chairperson Selden for the election of the Amherst Traffic Safety Board Chairman. Motion approved 6-0. Vice Chairperson Selden asks if there are any nominations for Amherst Traffic Safety Board Chairperson. Kevin Cantwell nominates Eric Fraas, second by Nick Alterio. Vice Chairperson Selden asks thrice if there are any other nominations for Chairperson. None being heard, Eric Fraas is asked if he accepts. Eric Fraas accepts the nomination for Chairman of the Amherst Traffic Safety Board. Approved 6-0.

Cynthia Selden makes a motion to turn the meeting back over to Chairman Fraas, second by Helaine Sanders. Approved 6-0.

A resident in attendance asks to speak on an item that is not on the current agenda. Chairman Fraas asks if any member would like to make a motion to add Item #4 to the current agenda, discussion of Chateau Terrace. Dan Rider makes a motion, second by Nick Alterio, to add Chateau Terrace to the agenda. Approved 6-0.

4. Chateau Terrace, Resident broaching speed and traffic concerns. Chairman Fraas opens the public comment period for this item:
  - a) Bob Drdul, 92 Chateau Terrace. He has lived on Chateau for 30 years, and has contacted numerous Town Departments and Boards related to the concerns he has on his street. He explains that a traffic study was done in September at the beginning of the school year, but he would like a new traffic study done in a different location that would better demonstrate the speeding that he has often witnessed. He comments on the rear driveway at Park School as one reason for the increase in traffic and speeding. He would like a new traffic study done to help him justify this plea to the Police Department to address his traffic concerns.

Chairman Fraas opens the Board discussion by reminding everyone that the Amherst Traffic Safety Board has looked at this issue extensively because of the ongoing construction project, the school that is on Chateau (Bornhava), and various resident complaints. The Traffic Safety

Board already has on record a request to close the curb cut at Park School, but Town Departments did not agree with that recommendation. Chris Schregel explains that the resident is requesting a new traffic study be conducted in the spring. Al Spoth confirms that this study can be done when weather allows, with the results forwarded to the resident. Chairman Fraas refers to Engineering and Highway to work with the resident.

Chairman Fraas asks if there is any other new business -- none being heard, he closes New Business and opens Old Business.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Steinway Court – No Standing proposal – Response from residents. Chris Schregel opens this item by displaying a diagram of Steinway Court on the screen, stating this street is in central Amherst just east of North Forest, and intersects with Maple Road. He reminds the Board that a resident approached the Town asking for a “no standing zone”, a request voted on and approved by the Amherst Traffic Safety Board, with a resolution for the Town Board to take appropriate action pending resident notification and approval. With one resident responding in the affirmative, Chairman Fraas makes the motion, second by Cynthia Selden, to proceed with the resolution for the Town Board to set a public hearing for “No Standing Anytime” on both sides of Steinway Court for a distance of 58 feet from the south curb line of Maple Road. Approved 6-0.

B. Arcade Avenue cut-through – traffic and speed data results and request for “No Thru Traffic” signage. Located in Eggertsville running between Eggert Road and Millersport Highway, Chris Schregel reminds the Board that this item was discussed last month, brought up by a resident concerned about high speeds. The item was held pending collection of traffic and speed data, which now on hand confirms that speeding is occurring. Specifically, eastbound the 85th percentile was 38 mph against a posted speed limit of 30 mph, with Chris Schregel displaying on screen a graph indicating those vehicles exceeding speed limit by 10 mph or more. In light of these numbers, Chris informs the Board that a memo was sent to the Chief of Police requesting speed enforcement on Arcade Avenue, to which Capt. Persons responds by saying that they have placed enforcement since notification.

Chris Schregel next points out that the MUTCD has revised its signage, now allowing a “NO THRU TRAFFIC” sign. After doing some research, he concluded this sign to be appropriate for the situation on Arcade, and could be recommended by the Amherst Traffic Safety Board if desired. Nick Alterio suggests posting the sign and conducting a new traffic count soon after to see if the sign has impacted the traffic. After some discussion on sign placement and who is responsible for the installation, Chairman Fraas asks that a letter be sent to NYSDOT and Erie County – the letter would explain the issue with the speeding traffic coming from Millersport Hwy and Eggert Road and passing through Arcade Avenue, and would ask if they favor posting this new MUTCD approved “NO THRU TRAFFIC” sign in the appropriate places on Arcade. Referred to NYSDOT and Erie County.

C. Chestnut Ridge Road - Request for a mid-block crosswalk – Held for Spring counts

Chairman Fraas asks if there is any other old business. Chairman Fraas would like to know if there is an update on the intersection of Youngs and Klein, and if there has been a determination by Highway or the Town regarding the placement of recommended Left Turn Arrows.

Chris Schregel responds with a display of the current Town of Amherst budget on the screen, pointing out that Klein Road signal modifications have been added as a project as well as a new study of the Dash’s Plaza traffic – the scope of these projects includes the work the Chairman has asked about.

Hearing no other old business, Chairman Fraas closes Old and New Business.

**SITE PLANS / REZONING**

SUBJECT: Proposed Amherst Development Park – Building Connections and Parking Expansion  
ADDRESS: 6000-6020 North Bailey Avenue  
PETITIONER: Benderson Development

**X MAJOR SITE PLAN REVIEW IS**

**X APPROVED AS SUBMITTED**

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Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher P. Schregel  
Traffic Safety Coordinator