

**PARSIPPANY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Report to the Council**  
**June 2008**

The Parsippany Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) was created in 2006 by the Township Council of the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills (Ordinance 06:04), for the purpose of “providing information, advice and recommendations relating to traffic management issues which affect, or are perceived to have an affect on the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills”. While not specifically mentioned in the ordinance, it is our intention to provide written reports to the Council on a periodic basis. These reports will provide up to date progress reports as well as recommendations concerning issues the TAC has studied and discussed.

On January 17, 2008, the TAC reorganized and elected the following members to leadership positions:

Dennis Letts-Chairman  
Jennifer DeMaio-Vice Chairman  
Steven Frankel-Recording Secretary  
Diana Cantrella-Treasurer

The remaining members are:

Jim Gandhi  
Marcy Phelps  
William Vasquez  
Tom Laidlaw  
Karen Blunt

The TAC meets every month (third Thursday) at the main branch of the Public Library. Meetings begin at 730pm and are open to the public.

During the reorganization meeting on 1/17/08, the TAC established a strategic plan for 2008. The plan is described as follows:

- Identification of issues. We cannot effectively fulfill our mandate to the Council without a clear understanding of the traffic management and safety issues within the Township.
- Getting the word out. We have established an e-mail address ([parsippanytraffic@hotmail.com](mailto:parsippanytraffic@hotmail.com)) and will use this address as a vehicle to receive complaints or concerns from township residents. We have reached out to the media and will act to publicize the work of the TAC through articles appearing in local publications (Parsippany This Week, Daily Record, Parsippany Life and the Star Ledger). We have also received a commitment from the Mayor to publicize the TAC through the “Mayor’s Newsletter” and township website. The Mayor has also instructed representatives of the Mayor’s Action Center to forward complaints about traffic issues to the TAC.
- Liaison. We have reached out to representatives of Mayor’s office, the NJ DOT, the Morris County DOT, the Parsippany Police Department, the Parsippany

corporate community and various PTSA's within the township. We will continue to establish effective channels of communication with various individuals and groups, public and private, in order to fulfill our mandate.

- **Prioritization of issues.** As information comes in to the TAC, we will endeavor to gather as much information as possible concerning each issue and will establish priorities after due consideration. It is the position of the committee that issues involving the safety of our residents will take precedence over matters of traffic expediency.
- **Enforcement.** It is the position of the TAC that in order to provide for the safe and expeditious movement of traffic throughout the streets and roadways of Parsippany-Troy Hills, the Parsippany Police Department must strengthen its Traffic Division and aggressively enforce traffic laws within the township. Not only would this generate revenue for the township but it will effectively demonstrate to residents and commuters alike that we will not tolerate violations of our traffic laws. Given the significant influx of commuters to (and through) our township during the work week, many of our roadways have become overloaded. These conditions often lead to traffic violations and acts of aggressive driving, putting innocent people at risk.

### PRIORITIES

1. **Rt.202 @ Rita Drive and Beachwood Road.** Within this area on Route 202, both southbound and northbound approaching the intersections of Rita and Beachwood begin as one lane, suddenly (and briefly) turn into two lanes and then back to one. During the switch to two lanes, motorists perform "slingshot" passes by utilizing the right lane to pass vehicles on the left. As the two lanes reduce back down to one, motorists in both lanes often vie for position, frequently resulting in acts of aggressive driving. Within this "battle zone" are two crosswalks used by schoolchildren walking to nearby Brooklawn Middle School and Parsippany Hills High School. We believe that the safety of these schoolchildren is at risk and that decisive action is necessary. **It is the recommendation of the TAC that the Township Council petition the Morris County DOT to eliminate these unnecessary lanes and create "right turn only" lanes instead.**
2. **Sylvan Way.** According to the NJ DOT, Sylvan Way has been designated as one of the three "hot spots" in Morris County, based on the number of reported motor vehicle accidents. A review of the Mack-Cali campus revealed a number of potentially dangerous conditions, particularly at the intersection of Sylvan Way and Century Drive. Motorists attempting to make a left turn from Century Drive on to Sylvan Way cannot safely acquire a line of sight to their left due to the angle of the roadways. During rush hour when the right (westbound) lane on Sylvan is often backed up and the left (westbound) lane is moving at 35 mph, motorists attempting this left turn to eastbound Sylvan Way have been involved in serious accidents. Based on the design of Sylvan Way and Campus Drive, motorists attempting left turns anywhere within the Mack-Cali campus are at a higher level

of risk. Another area of high risk is Dryden Way at the intersections of Sylvan and Campus. These uncontrolled intersections create unduly dangerous conditions for motorists attempting left turns. It appears that as a result of negotiations between the township and representatives of Mack Cali, that traffic signals are to be installed at these intersections. **It is the recommendation of the TAC that the speed limit of all roadways within the Mack Cali campus be reduced to 25 mph and that the Parsippany Police Department increase enforcement activities on Sylvan Way, Campus Drive and Dryden Way. In addition, it is recommended that the Council contact representatives of Mack Cali to discuss methods to enhance the safe movement of traffic, to include the installation of traffic signals at locations deemed inherently dangerous (Sylvan Way at Century Drive).**

### UNDER CONSIDERATION

1. Lake Shore Drive (Lake Parsippany). Of particular concern is the safety of pedestrians using the street to walk or run. While there are ample sidewalks in some areas of surrounding the lake, other areas have no sidewalks available for pedestrians, forcing them to walk on the roadway.
2. Pawnee Avenue (Lake Hiawatha). Several residents have complained that this roadway has been used as a “cut through”, creating safety and traffic congestion concerns.
3. Entin Way in the area of Rt. 287. Motorists utilizing Entin Way from Lake Parsippany who desire to continue on Entin Way are forced to enter the southbound lanes of Rt. 287. Likewise, motorists on northbound Entin Way can not continue toward Lake Parsippany but are forced to enter Rt. 287 southbound.
4. Rt. 202 at the intersection of Rt. 10. It has been noted that southbound motorists approaching Rt.10 are turning into the Wendy’s parking lot, thus creating unnecessary backups and potentially dangerous conditions.

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Dennis Letts-Chairman

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Jennifer DeMaio-Vice Chairman