

Members of the Traffic Safety Committee (TSC) investigated two locations where several members, as well as other residents, had noticed difficulties seeing far enough to make safe decisions.

**The first location reviewed was the “S” curve on Horseshoe Trail between Ivy Lane and Pine Drive.**

Mr. Otteni noted that the line of sight through the curves was impeded by the trees and also noted that the removal of a few select trees would significantly increase sight distance and therefore provide added safety to road users including pedestrians and bicyclist in addition to motorists.

The posted speed limit on Horseshoe Trail is 30 MPH. Based on this speed a motorist should be able to see a minimum of 196 feet ahead (the required length also varies on roadway grade, but that shall be omitted for this discussion) in order to have adequate time to observe obstacles and stop if necessary.

The TSC observed that there was approximately 60 feet of available sight distance for motorists traveling westbound on Horseshoe trail. The TSC subsequently identified eight trees (3 dead, 5 live) that if removed in conjunction with the ground vegetation would provide the necessary sight distance. Mr. Otteni also pointed out that the trees and vegetation are in Township’s Right-of-Way which is extra wide in this location based on dedication from the adjacent development.

The TSC also reviewed the curve for the eastbound traffic in front of 2310 Horseshoe Trail. It was noted that the line of sight is obstructed by the large conifer trees. Although it was noted that the line of sight could be improved with selective removal of the trees, it was determined to implement the tree clearing for the westbound traffic first to verify and “test” the improvement for sight distance. The trees may be on private property and as such would require approval from the property owner.

**The second location that the TSC reviewed was the intersection of Horseshoe Trail at St.**

**Matthews Road.** Again, it was noted by several TSC members and several (many) residents that it is difficult to see southbound vehicles on St. Matthews Road by westbound vehicles stopped on Horseshoe trail.

The posted speed limit on St. Matthews Road is 35 MPH. Based on this speed, motorists should be able to see 249 feet up the road. (again, the required sight distance varies for roadway grade).

The TSC noted that from the stop bar on Horseshoe Trail, motorists could only see approximately 100 feet to the north on St. Matthews Road. As the motorist pulls forward, sight distance increases but does not reach the required distance until after the car is into the intersection.

The TSC noted two trees that if removed would likely provide the minimum sight distance. Both trees are in poor condition and have broken in the past. There were also several dead trees that

should be removed preemptively before they fall and also to provide added sight distance. Recognizing that few motorists on St. Matthews drive at or below 35 MPH (and that the law allows motorists to drive 40 MPH), additional clearing of trees may be warranted.

While in the field, it was noted that the "Stop" sign for westbound motorists is obscured by a utility pole. Upon further observation of the utility pole, it was noted that the pole does not provide any function. It is a guy (support pole, it does not have any utilities on it) and the span wire to the pole it supports is slacked. It is recommended that the Township reach out to the pole owner (PECO or Verizon) to have it removed since it is a useless pole and causes a safety hazard.

The TSC observed conditions for eastbound traffic on Horseshoe Trail looking south onto St. Matthews Road. The sight distance to the south is compromised by the roadway curvature in conjunction with the vegetation and a mound of dirt, likely the remnants of an old foundation. Since this movement/hazard was less critical it was determined to recommend action for westbound vehicles first to establish credibility of the TSC's recommendations.