

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT – FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Members: Musser, Chairman; Ochs, Vice Chairman; Buohl, Member; Barr, Alternate; Burkholder, Staff

Attendees: Committee: Musser, Chairman; Ochs, Vice Chairman; Buohl, Member; Barr, Alternate
Council: Armstrong; Aronson; Richard; Zimmerman; Mayor Reinhold
Staff: Burkholder; Gerhart; Allard; Greth
Guests: None

The Highway Committee met on January 28, 2026 at 5:30 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Burkholder provided confirmation of the following:

1. The meeting agenda was posted on the Borough's website and at Borough Hall no later than 24 hours in advance of the time of the meeting.
2. The meeting agenda included a listing of each matter of Borough business that will be or may be the subject of deliberation or official action at the meeting.
3. There were no changes made to the meeting agenda after it was posted.
4. The meeting agenda was made available to individuals in attendance at the meeting.

Committee Chair Musser asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, Mr. Musser asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Mr. Buohl moved, and Mr. Ochs seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed a PennDOT Application for Traffic Signal Approval for upgrades to the existing traffic signal at North Reading Road (SR 0272), Dutchland Avenue, and Weis Markets Shopping Center Driveway. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the upgrades planned for later in 2026 and 2027 and authorize the Borough Council President to sign the application.
2. The Committee reviewed a ParkMobile Service Agreement where ParkMobile provides the Borough with services related to on demand parking transactions for an initial term of 5 years. The Borough will also receive one free ParkMobile welcome kit that includes aluminum signs and/or decal stickers necessary to complete implementation. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council enter into the agreement with ParkMobile and authorize the Borough Council President to sign the agreement.

Discussion Items:

1. The Committee further reviewed a revised draft ordinance that will amend the Code of the Borough of Ephrata, Chapter 305, Vehicles and Traffic, Article V, On-Street and Off-Street Paid Parking, Section 305-35 Paid Parking Zones, Section 305-37 Rates and Operational Times of Paid Parking, and Article XI, Schedules, Section 305-107 Schedule XXIV, Unmetered Parking Lots. The final Ordinance will be advertised and available for Committee review at their February 2026 meeting for Council action on March 9, 2026. Upon enactment by Council, the Ordinance will be effective April 1, 2026.

2. Staff discussed with Committee the importance of timely, widespread public notifications and education regarding the reimplementation of paid parking in the Borough beginning April 1, 2026 and provided details on how that will be accomplished.
3. The Committee reviewed the traffic speed/volume report for South Oak Street between West Fulton Street and Ridgeway Avenue which was recently completed following citizen concern that no speed limit signs existed in this area. PennDOT recommends that speed limits be established based on 85th percentile speed. Upon further review of the summary data the Committee determined that a 25-mph speed limit in both directions through this area was appropriate and directed staff to provide an ordinance restricting speeds in this area for their review at a future meeting.
4. The Committee discussed the 4th Quarter 2025 Budget review for those items under their purview. Ms. Gerhart explained unfavorable accounts within the general fund expenditures. No further action required.
5. Committee Member Buohl inquired about available salt during the recent snow event. Ms. Gerhart advised that Public Works very recently received 2 deliveries of salt with additional deliveries expected.