

Town of Needham  
**Traffic Management Advisory Committee**

**Minutes:** July 12, 2023

**Location:** Forbes/McLeod Community Room, Public Safety Building  
88 Chestnut Street

**Livestreamed on Zoom:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dIjb7Y9rbc>

**ADOPTED AUGUST 9, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair, Justin McCullen; Guus Driessen, Rhain Hoyland, Donna Mullin, Tom Ryder, Rebecca Tarantino  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lt. John McGrath, Barry McNeilly  
**STAFF PRESENT:** Tyler Gabrielski, Management Analyst; Robert Wilson, Engineer  
**PUBLIC REMOTELY:** Carolyn Kenline

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**1. INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:00 p.m., Chair McCullen called the meeting to order, took roll call, and disclosed the video recording.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2023**

|                        |                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MOTION:</b>         | <b>G. Driessen moved to approve the Minutes of June 21, 2023.</b>                                                             |
| <b>SECONDED:</b>       | T. Ryder                                                                                                                      |
| <b>ABSTAINED:</b>      | R. Tarantino for the reason she was not present on June 21, 2023.                                                             |
| <b>ROLL-CALL VOTE:</b> | G. Driessen, aye, R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; D. Mullin, aye; T. Ryder, aye. Unanimously approved with one abstention. |
| <b>MOTION CARRIES:</b> | 5-0                                                                                                                           |

**3. OTHER BUSINESS/TMAC STATUS UPDATE REPORT**

June 2023 - 3 DPW Highway asked to install a “Playground” warning sign with 25 mph speed tab on Hillside Ave. near Cricket Field. DPW to continue to investigate West St./Hillside Ave. intersection for a 4-way stop.

- Speed tab signs for the Playground on Hillside Ave. have been ordered.
- DPW Highway installed a “No Outlet” sign and awaits a Citizens' Petition for the “Children Playing” sign.

June 2023 - 6 Reinstitute the “No Turn on Red” for Highland Ave. at Great Plain Ave.

DPW Highway Division to add a “New” tab on top of the recently installed “No Turn on Red” sign on Webster St. northbound at Highland Ave.

- Order placed for new tab, "No Turn On Red" sign above Webster & Highland Streets at Fire Station.

Drivers still turn at the new "No Turn on Red" sign. Members discussed solutions:

- For pedestrian safety, evaluate traffic control to lengthen yellow signal time
- Have the light flash while a pedestrian is in the crosswalk.
- Post a police person to indicate import of respecting the new sign.
- Post new tab, "No Turn on Red" sign across intersection at St. Joseph's Church

Signal on Webster St. facing the Fire Station flashes yellow except for fire trucks.  
➤ MassDOT changed signal to flash red when pedestrians are in the intersection.

The Town will take over the intersection since MassDOT has corrected the issue.

July 2023 - 3 Country Way, Warren St., Cynthia Rd., Hazel St.

Residents will be invited to a meeting to review concept plans.

➤ The massive turning radius is unsafe. Drivers do not notice pedestrians. The NPDES program requires the Town to add green space to impervious areas.

Members discussed **Tower Ave.** impervious area concepts:

➤ Narrow the impervious area, increase green space, flip the sidewalk to the other side for shorter crossing for pedestrians and better visibility for drivers.

**Country Way** residents want the other arm area reviewed for traffic calming. There is a request for a crosswalk and raising the table as well as an LED stop sign at the fork. Members discussed redesign of the stop sign.

**Warren St.** - Members discussed traffic calming measures, a speed table, an intersection concept to create two narrow lanes with center and side lines, and whether the road qualifies as a local roadway given traffic volume.

➤ DPW will temporarily mark the lanes for committee review and a pilot.

**Cynthia Rd.** - Vehicles speeding on Cynthia and Glover Roads opposite Sunita Williams School.

➤ Data from a speed study will be available at the next meeting.

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MOTION:</b>         | <b>J. McCullen moved to add to Warren Street double yellow lines to the center to create lanes and white edge lines down to a width of 9 feet from School St. to Norfolk St.</b> |
| <b>SECONDED:</b>       | R. Tarantino                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>ROLL-CALL VOTE:</b> | G. Driessen, aye, R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; D. Mullin, aye; T. Ryder, aye; R. Tarantino, aye. Unanimously approved.                                                     |
| <b>MOTION CARRIES:</b> | 6-0                                                                                                                                                                              |

**4. SHIVA KRUPA – PEDESTRIANS CROSSING OVER GREAT PLAIN AVE NEAR MARY CHILTON RD**

At 7:35 pm, the petitioner was not present. This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

**5. CAROLYN KENLINE – INTERSECTION SAFETY AT FALCON ST/BOND ST AND BANCROFT ST/WASHINGTON AVE**

C. Kenline shared maps of the intersections and described walking conditions for student pedestrians.

- Mitchell School allows children in Grade 3 to walk home alone.
- Kindergartners can be released to walk home with a student in Grade 3.
- Mitchell School is known as the "walking school" as no children are bused.
- These students are the Town's shortest pedestrians.
- 125 students live on 4 streets connecting the two intersections yet there are zero crosswalks
- Due to the road curve poor sight lines exist for walkers to see vehicles and vehicles to see walkers.
- There are stop signs on Bond St. but not on Falcon St.
- There are no crossing guards at these intersections.
- Vehicles on Falcon St. have a 25 mph limit but travel quickly around the curve.
- No limits on parking or stopping near intersections further limit visibility of pedestrians.
- At Washington & Bancroft St., it is difficult to hear electric vehicles advancing toward pedestrians.

- Fences and electrical poles at intersections make it difficult to see vehicles or pedestrians.
- Falcon St. is a snowplow route.

Members discussed the vehicle volume on Bond and Falcon Streets, stops signs that determine the right of way, and a traffic engineering study to determine whether there is a reduced view due to asymmetry and the collector street that empties onto Falcon St.

Members discussed conducting an engineering study in September at 8:00 am on a weekday while parents drop-off students as well as collecting a pedestrian count to see whether the intersection meets criteria for a 4 way stop.

R. Tarantino suggested a communication from the principal to parents reinforcing driver and pedestrian safety during school drop-off and pick-up as a good safety measure.

G. Driessen described the "walking school bus" concept. Students and parents walk along a route and join themselves to the walking group which grows larger until the group reaches the school.

**Action Items:**

- R. Tarantino to email Principal, Greg Bayse to have a solution ready before school in September.
- C. Kenline to ask the school to post a crossing guard in the short-term.
- C. Kenline to propose to G. Bayse a "walking school bus" as a PTC initiative supported by the school for parents to spearhead.
- Chair McCullen asked DPW to look at placing a higher visibility curve sign on Brookline St.

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|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MOTION:</b>         | <b>J. McCullen moved to do a comprehensive engineering study after Labor Day 2023 for pedestrian count, vehicle count, and speed observation at the intersection of Falcon St. and Bond St. as well as at the intersection of Washington St. and Bancroft St.</b> |
| <b>SECONDED:</b>       | D. Mullin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>ROLL-CALL VOTE:</b> | G. Driessen, aye, R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; D. Mullin, aye; T. Ryder, aye; R. Tarantino, aye. Unanimously approved.                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>MOTION CARRIES:</b> | 6-0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

**6. SHELLY DEITERT/RUTH MCKINNON – VISIBILITY ISSUES AND STOP SIGN AT MANNING ST AT LEXINGTON AVE**

At 8:10 pm, the petitioner was not present. This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

**7. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION – SLIP LANE BETWEEN GREENDALE AVE AND KENDRICK ST**

Members viewed roadway topography and discussed the slip lane and how the road should be classified (one-way, two-way, stop signs).

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|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MOTION:</b>         | <b>G. Driessen moved to study the shortcut from Greendale Ave. to Kendrick St. as it effects the westbound traffic on Greendale Ave. and the eastbound traffic on Kendrick St.</b> |
| <b>SECONDED:</b>       | J. McCullen                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>ROLL-CALL VOTE:</b> | G. Driessen, aye, R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; D. Mullin, aye; T. Ryder, aye; R. Tarantino, aye. Unanimously approved.                                                       |
| <b>MOTION CARRIES:</b> | 6-0                                                                                                                                                                                |

**8. MATTERS NOT ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE MEETING - NONE**

**9. ADJOURNMENT - ROLL CALL VOTE**

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|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MOTION:</b>         | <b>R. Hoyland motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.</b>                                                                 |
| <b>SECONDED:</b>       | G. Driessen                                                                                                                    |
| <b>ROLL-CALL VOTE:</b> | G. Driessen, aye, R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; D. Mullin, aye;<br>T. Ryder, aye; R. Tarantino, aye. Unanimously approved |
| <b>MOTION CARRIES:</b> | 6-0                                                                                                                            |

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Michaud  
Recording Secretary