

Town of Needham
Transportation Safety Committee
Minutes: July 10, 2024

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

Livestreamed on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88341769950>

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Guus Driessen, Tyler Gabrielski, Justin McCullen, Barry McNeilly, Tom Ryder, Rebecca Tarantino
MEMBERS ABSENT: Donna Mullin
MEMBERS REMOTE: Lt. John McGrath
STAFF: Robert Wilson

1. INTRODUCTION, ROLL CALL, CALL TO ORDER

At 7:04 p.m., J. McCullen called the meeting to order, took roll call, and disclosed the video recording.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 2024

R. TARANTINO MOVED AND B. MCNEILLY SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 2024.

ROLL-CALL VOTE: T. GABRIELSKI, AYE; J. MCCULLEN, AYE; B. MCNEILLY, AYE; T. RYDER, AYE;

R. TARANTINO, AYE. **ABSTAINED:** G. DRIESSEN WAS NOT PRESENT ON 6/12/24. **MOTION CARRIES: 5-0**

3. OLD BUSINESS/ STATUS UPDATE REPORT - R. WILSON

Work on Dedham Ave. sidewalk, curbing, and crosswalk improvements with signage is proceeding, including the expanded sidewalk and lane narrowing under the MBTA bridge.

BROOKSIDE RD. - SIGNAGE; COMMUNICATION WITH WELLESLEY

- A signage investigation was conducted.
- Some signs have been moved due to tree branch overgrowth.
- Members reviewed the map and discussed whether to keep the old sign styles.
 - Signs must refer to a specific hazard per MUTCD Traffic Control guidelines.
 - "SLOW" is not specific.
 - Place the "Road Narrows" sign in advance of the curve in both directions.
- Members discussed relocating congested signs to give advance warning of a curve.
 - Replace the "Watch Children Go Slow" sign on the utility pole with "Blind Driveways".
 - Replace "Blind Driveways" with the road profile "Curve" sign and a 20 mph Advisory tab.
 - On the southbound side, replace the "SLOW" sign with a "Road Narrows" sign.
 - Leave the profile directional "Curve" sign and add a 20 mph Advisory tab.
 - Add speed tabs where the Team determines tabs would be more effective; keep consistent.

J. MCCULLEN MOVED AND G. DRIESSEN SECONDED TO RECONFIGURE THE SIGNS TO MAKE THE ROAD MORE SAFE AS DISCUSSED BY THE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE AND APPROVED BY THE TOWN'S ENGINEERING AND HIGHWAY TEAM. **ROLL-CALL VOTE:** G. DRIESSEN, AYE; T. GABRIELSKI, AYE; J. MCCULLEN, AYE; B. MCNEILLY, AYE; T. RYDER, AYE; R. TARANTINO, AYE. **MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

STOP SIGN REGULATIONS FOR HILLSIDE AVE. AT WEST ST., GEORGE AGGOTT RD. AT DEDHAM AVE., AND GOULD ST. AT KEARNEY RD.

- R. Wilson has prepared formal regulations for Stop sign installations at these locations, with the Hillside at West being converted to a 4-way stop. They are now pending Select Board approval. Following that public notice will be given prior to installation.

- R. Tarantino inquired if these signs would be flashing. DPW staff confirmed that they plan to install flashing stop signs at the Hillside location. There is no tree cover that would interfere with the solar panels.
- T. Ryder mentioned that the intersection of Hillside and West is included within the scope of the Highland Ave TIP project. J. McCullen said that the Quiet Zone improvements might affect that intersection as well.

HUNNEWELL ST. AT AQUEDUCT TRAIL CROSSING - COMMUNICATION WITH WELLESLEY

- T. Ryder, T. Gabrielski and J. Savignano (Asst. Town Engineer) will meet with Wellesley personnel.
- Wellesley's George Saraceno has been asked to investigate utilizing specific grant funds.
- T. Gabrielski suggested possibly applying for a Bottleneck Grant or another cross-jurisdiction program.
- Mr. Saraceno suggested putting this item on Wellesley's traffic safety committee agenda and inviting Needham's TSC. T. Ryder indicated that he would first like to meet with Mr. Saraceno to discuss.

THICKLY SETTLED 25 MPH STATUTORY SPEED LIMITS

- T. Gabrielski shared results for the efficacy of adding statutory speed limits in Boston. Studies conducted showed a statistically significant reduction in median speeds.
- Other communities state that a public information campaign was necessary to implement the change in a statutory speed limit throughout town. Members agreed that communication is key!
- Members discussed commissioning a third party to review the data. Select a representation of streets that will be most affected by the change and demonstrate speed study statistics.
- Look at incidents and severity of injury from the Crash database. Are we seeing a pre- and post-severity of injury with the change to a statutory speed limit?
- Members discussed enforcement with a bylaw.

ACTION: J. McGrath, R. Wilson, and T. Gabrielski will provide data for discussion in September.

4. PETITIONER, ALI HEARD - ROSEMARY ST. PARKING AND TRAFFIC CONTROL

- The Petitioner was not present.

5. ISSUES BROUGHT BY CHAIR MCCULLEN

STOP SIGN AT HIGH ROCK ST. AND SOUTH ST.

- The stop sign is 15 feet before the intersection. Move the Stop Sign to the intersection.
- Members discussed adding a sign 75-100 feet in advance of a "Stop Sign Ahead" sign.
- Members discussed adding road a profile sign at the fork in the road coming from Dedham Ave.
- Members discussed improvements to the intersection.
 - Add a Stop Sign across the street.
 - Narrow the road with painted lines at the intersection.
 - Add an island to force a right or left turn.

ACTION: R. Wilson will produce an improvement illustration for the next meeting.

STOP SIGNS ON NEHOIDEN ST. AND CENTRAL AVE.

- There is no "Stop Ahead" sign. The Stop sign is obscured because it is so far to the right.
- Adding a second "Stop" sign on the left side may suggest the road is one-way.

ACTION: R. Wilson, T. Ryder will produce a concept illustration for signage.

6. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION - ELECTIONS FOR CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR POSITIONS

**R. TARANTINO MOVED AND J. McCULLEN SECONDED TO ELECT R. TARANTINO AS VICE-CHAIR.
ROLL-CALL VOTE: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

**R. TARANTINO MOVED AND T. RYDER SECONDED TO ELECT J. McCULLEN AS CHAIR.
ROLL-CALL VOTE: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

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

8. ADJOURNMENT - VOTE

**R. TARANTINO MOVED AND T. RYDER SECONDED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:17 PM.
ROLL-CALL VOTE: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Michaud
Recording Secretary

INFORMATIONAL: The Meeting Packet is available at <https://www.needhamma.gov/Archive.aspx>