

Town of Needham
Transportation Safety Committee

Minutes: July 9, 2025

Location: Training/Community Room, Public Safety Bldg., 88 Chestnut St.

Livestreamed on Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/ 815 5709 6612](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81557096612)

ADOPTED OCTOBER 8, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Guus Driessen, Tyler Gabrielski, Barry McNeilly, Justin McCullen, Tom Ryder, Rebecca Tarantino, Robert Wilson (Technical Advisor, non-voting)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lt. John McGrath

MEMBERS REMOTE: None

GUESTS: Katelyn DeMaio, Alyson Loria, Siobhan Roche, Rebecca Rausch

1. INTRODUCTION, ROLL CALL, CALL TO ORDER

At 7:02 p.m., J. McCullen called the meeting to order, took roll call, and disclosed the video recording.

2. Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2025

J. McCullen moved and T. Gabrielski seconded to approve the Minutes of 6/11/25. **Voice Vote:** G. Driessen aye, T. Ryder aye; B. McNeilly aye; T. Gabrielski aye; **Unanimous. Motion carries: 4-0**

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

SPEED STUDIES, HUNNEWELL ST. MARKINGS, INTERSECTIONS, SPEED CUSHIONS

- Chestnut St. at Emerson Rd. crosswalk- R. Wilson announced that there will likely be an RRFB at this location
- **Speed Study** on Webster St, South of Dedham Ave- speeds northbound are 33 mph at 85% speed and southbound are 44 mph at 85%. The volume is 1560 vehicles per day. Sidewalk and street resurfacing, and granite sidewalk installations on Webster St. are in progress to potentially reduce traffic speeds.
- **Speed Study** on Great Plain Ave., east of Prospect St.- the eastbound and westbound speed at 85% speed was 40 mph and the volume was approximately 4900 vehicles per day.
- Traffic Study on Carey Rd. Action after petitioner was concerned about speed increases: Results for next meeting
- Hunnewell St. edge markings- T. Gabrielski: discussion during Expense Plans, modifying edge lines for traffic calming
- Harris Avenue- speed cushions also pertain to Expense Plans
- Some intersection sketches at previous meeting for longer term solutions for traffic conflicts for committee discussion at next meeting as it is not time sensitive.

4. PETITIONER KATELYN DEMAIO AND PETITIONER ALYSON LORIA- CROSSWALKS AT CEDAR ST. AT CENTRAL AVE

- Petitioner brought up concerns about crosswalk across Central Ave and Cedar St. that goes to Eliot school.

- Petitioner presented that the Cedar St. crosswalk does not have flashing lights or warning signs, as Central Ave does. There is also no button to signal a pedestrian crossing. Drivers on Cedar are unaware of when children are crossing and there are numerous potential accidents monthly putting students at risk. Cars coming quickly on Central poses a potential danger.
- One potential solution was discussed, which would add another crosswalk, with activated flashing lights.
- Since it is not legally required to stop at a crosswalk when lights are flashing, other alternatives for signage were discussed.

J. McCullen Moved and R. Tarantino Seconded for the DPW Engineering to look into the feasibility of an pedestrian refuge island on Cedar St. at Central Ave., the feasibility of an RRFB on the southwest corner across Cedar, a school zone reassessment around Eliot School to see if signage needs to be altered, and the feasibility of a flashing sign at Cedar St. and a stop sign and add a flashing yield on turn sign. **VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIES: 5-0**

Action: Preliminary assessment on the motion to be presented at next meeting.

5. PETITIONER REBECCA RAUSCH - CROSSWALKS AT CEDAR ST. AT CENTRAL AVE

- Petitioner discussed concerns about the Central Ave. and Hunnewell Intersection on a hill.
- Many kids use Ardmore to arrive at Eliot School, as well as the buses that go to Pollard and High Rock. Petitioner is concerned with the long stretch of road where a lot of children and parents crossing the street and trying to get to bus stops street without an adequate number of crosswalks.
- Committee discussed that the crosswalks need to be ADA compliant and correctly positioned between properties as to not disturb residents.

6. PETITIONER SIOBHAN ROCHE- STOP SIGN ON NEHOLDEN ST. AT MEADOWBROOK RD./ PARISH RD. (ADDED TO AGENDA AS PETITIONER WAS ABSENT AT 6/11/25 MEETING)

- Petitioner presented issue about intersection at Neholden St, Meadowbrook, Parish, and Rosemary. The original concern raised was about pedestrian crossing and bus stops, and many near misses.
- According to the Petitioner, there is always a cluster of cars and pedestrians at the intersection as some cars let pedestrians cross and others do not. Petitioner wants to make this intersection safer for pedestrians and vehicles.
- Another solution proposed was adding an all-way stop at the intersection, adding stop signs to each intersection entrance.

J. McCullen Moved and R. Tarantino Seconded to hold a four-way intersection evaluation for adding two stop signs on Neholden at the intersection sat Parish and Meadowbrook. **VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIES: 5-0**

7. **TSC EXPENSE ACCOUNT AND FUNDING REQUESTS**

- Remaining TSC funding after proposed expenses subtracted is \$6,980.69. Funding approval for items on hold to be considered at next meeting, including intersection analysis of Wellesley Ave.

J. McCullen Moved and R. Tarantino Seconded to approve \$9,000 for push-button RRFB (regular signpost version) for West St. at Glen Gary Rd. and \$1,490 for a flashing crosswalk warning sign ahead of Great Plain Ave. at Mt. Vernon Crossing (westbound). **Voice Vote: Unanimous. Motion Carries: 5-0**

8. **Matters Not Anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting**

NONE

9. **Adjournment**

R. Tarantino Moved and G. Driessen Seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 PM **Voice Vote: Unanimous. Motion Carries: 5-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Joyce
Recording Secretary

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



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY
COMMITTEE

July 9, 2025 – Public Safety Building, Training Room

88 Chestnut St, Needham, Massachusetts

PLEASE SIGN IN

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