

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 12, 2011 Meeting
Broadmeadow Elementary School Media Center,
Needham, MA
DRAFT

IN ATTENDANCE,

TMAC Members: Thomas Stokes, Lt. John Kraemer, Jeffrey MacMann,
Robert Wilson, Glen Schneider, Donna Mullin, Richard Merson, Mark Rosen,

Guests: Mary Elizabeth Coleman, Adam Wiesel, Earl Adreani, Susan Adreani, Gary Levine

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:05 PM by Mr. Stokes

I. SIGNAGE, STOP SIGN AT EDGEWATER DRIVE

Ms. Coleman had originally made a presentation to the TMAC in September regarding her perception of hazardous conditions at the T intersection on Edgewater Drive. The presentation resulted in a traffic volume study. While the exact counts were not readily available, Mr. Wilson confirmed that a stop sign was not warranted. As an alternative the Committee recommended the installation of a yellow "Intersection Ahead" sign approximately 300 feet before the intersection. This next step would be undertaken once Ms. Coleman returns to the TMAC with approval signatures from the two residents in front of whose homes the sign would be installed. Ms. Coleman was also reminded that "chronic offenders" could be reported.

II. INTERSECTION, SIGNAGE AT ABBOT/BORDER/WARE/WINFIELD

This case was presented at the September meeting at a meeting that lacked a quorum. Mr. Wiesel returned to formally restate the case. As summarized in the September, 2011 minutes, the inherent dangers of a somewhat misaligned intersections is compounded by a high volume of cut-through traffic as well as an active school bus stop with few options to cross safely. The problem is further compounded by the construction of the intersection that promotes a "lazy" diagonal crossing rather than a distinct left then right turn (or reverse). Line striping was discussed as a short term option to more distinctly mark the desired traffic flow. A longer term solution would require rebuilding the intersection with handicapped ramps and full curbing shaped to guide the traffic deliberately. **The Committee passed a motion** to request the Highway Department paint a yellow center line stripe on both Ware and Winfield this fall. This will be followed by an effort to get the intersection on the spring, 2012 construction list for handicapped access. This would result in the installation of full curbing along with a ramp on the east side of Border and west side of Abbot.

III. SIGNAGE ON GAYLAND ROAD

Mr. and Mrs. Adreani described the narrow u-shaped road off of Warren St. which is consistently traveled by commercial, delivery and trash trucks at an excessive rate of speed. Their original inquiry was about reducing the speed limit. However, they were told that TMAC has no jurisdiction over such matters and that a study by the State may actually result in a higher speed limit. As an alternative, the Committee discussed the option of installing a “Children Play” sign and/or an advisory sign with a curved left arrow between 27-31 Gayland Road. The former would require a full set of signatures from Gayland Road residents while the latter would require signed approval from the two residents where the sign would be installed. The Adreanis will return to the TMAC once the signatures are collected.

IV. BICYCLE MARKINGS ON WEBSTER STREET

Mr. Levine was returning to the TMAC after an initial presentation in June to discuss the bicycle road markings (“Sharrows”) on Webster Street from Great Plain to Highland Ave. As requested at the last meeting, Mr. Levine brought renditions and dimensions of the markings and confirmation that the Needham DPW has agreed to paint the decals when approved. Ensuing discussion focused on the distance of decal from curb (6-12 inches) and the distance between markings (500-1000 feet) along Webster. Discussion was seeking to identify a balance between interests of bicycle riders and neighbors who are concern about an overly urbanized look to Webster Street. To provide further context for the decision, **The Committee passed a motion** to have Lieutenant Kramer consult with the DPW Director in Dedham regarding community response to their recently installed bicycle markings that are quite similar.

VI. OLD/OTHER BUSINESS

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM

Minutes compiled and summarized by Glen Schneider