

Minutes
Traffic Management Advisory Committee
Wednesday July 15, 2020
7:00 P.M.
Zoom Meeting ID # 823-4252-8108
Approved September 9, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Justin McCullen; Seth Bauer; Donna Mullin; Rhain Hoyland, Town Traffic Engineer; Anthony DelGaizo, Town Engineer; Suzanne Stein.

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Wilson, Traffic Liaison Engineer; Daphne M. Collins, Recording Secretary.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Andrew Thoresen; Mark Cohen; Michael Collins; Mara De Jeger.

Mr. McCullen, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Mr. McCullen moved to nominate Mr. Bauer as Chair. Ms. Stein seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. MINUTES FOR JUNE 10, 2020

Vote: Mr. Bauer moved to accept the minutes for June 10, 2020. Ms. Stein seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

3. STATUS REPORT UPDATE

Mr. Wilson reported updates for:

Sign Installation:

- Gibson Street and Manning Street – Parking regulation sign – installed.
- Fisher Street at Red Wing Bay – parking location sign – installed.
- Warren Street at Great Plain Avenue – no parking signs – installed.
- Forest Street – warning sign and speed tab – installed.
- Central Avenue near Marked Tree Road – no jake brakes sign – installed.
- Washburn Avenue - 2 Hour Parking from 9am to 3pm sign -installed.

Speed Counts:

- Border Road – 85% of counts at 27 mph.
- Stevens Road – 85% of south bound counts at 24mph.
- Oak Street – 85% of east bound counts at 26mph; 85% of west bound at counts 24mph. A speed study will be redone in September.
- West Street – 85% downhill counts at 34mph; 85% uphill count at 30mph. A speed study will be redone in September.

Mr. Wilson informed that for speed counts results under 30mph no action is taken.

4. HIGHLAND AVENUE AT ROSEMARY STREET –Speed Crosswalk

PETITIONER: Andrew Thoresen, 41 Carey Road

Mr Thoresen was concerned about the dangers at the intersection for pedestrians on Highland Avenue at Rosemary Street in front of the Library. He identified the intersection as a high volume vehicular and pedestrian traffic area generated from the activities of the library, High School, Sudbury Farms and Memorial Park. He felt the speeds were too fast to allow pedestrians to safely cross the street. He noted that although the street is a single lane, cars are using the parking lane in front of the library as a second lane.

He suggested the following solutions:

- the south bound on Highland Avenue be narrowed to one lane to provide additional safety for pedestrians;
- add jersey barriers;
- relocate the pedestrian crosswalk activation buttons further in on the sidewalk to provide additional buffer between the traffic and pedestrians. Presently the buttons are 6” from the curb;
- add lane lines to clarify the traffic.

Mr. Hoyland noted that the intersection does not have any edge lines. He thought that edge lines or bike lanes would channelize the traffic to one lane and define and separate the different types of traffic at the intersection.

Vote: Mr. Hoyland moved that the Town investigate the intersection under *complete streets* to channel the cars into one lane using a bike lane or edge lane on the south bound side of Highland Avenue. Mr. Bauer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. DEDHAM AVENUE AT WARREN STREET – SPEED

PETITIONER: Dylan Attia, 166 Warren Street

Item tabled to next meeting.

6. HERSHEY STREET MBTA STATION GREAT PLAIN AVENUE AND HILLCREST ROAD - Crosswalk safety

PETITIONER: Mark Cohen, 21 Hawthorn Avenue

Mr. Cohen identified that he is a daily commuter and walks to the Hershey Street MBTA Station. He noted there are two crosswalks to the train - one to reach the upper parking lot and one for the lower lot. There have been several improvements over the years. However, he felt that both crosswalks remain hazardous.

The crosswalk of concern was the one by Hazel Bakery that leads to the upper parking lot. He noted that cars speed and ignore the cross walk, and in the summer the overgrown trees obscure the lights at the intersection. He has witnessed many near misses. He requested that a High Intensity Activated Cross Walk (HAWK) signal be installed and that the trees be pruned.

Mr. DelGaizo said that HAWK signals requires a Warrant speed count of 50mph. He wasn't sure that the speeds there were sufficient for a HAWK signal. He was supportive of conducting a speed study to make the determination.

Mr. Hoyland stated that Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) have just been installed and they should be having an impact on traffic speed and behavior. He was supportive of Mr. DelGaizo's suggestion for a speed count study not only to evaluate the effect the RRFB but also to determine whether the speeds indicate HAWK signals for the intersection. Ms. Stein was supportive of the study.

Mr. Bauer reported that as a frequent pedestrian of the crosswalk he has witness improvements after the RRFB installation. He'd like to see an evaluation in six months to determine the change traffic and behavior.

Mr. Bauer inquired if vehicles that stop because of RRFB will they be counted in the study. Mr. DelGaizo responded that the speed will be included in the study.

Vote: Mr. DelGaizo moved to conduct a speed study count to establish the 85% speed at Great Plain Avenue and Hillcrest Road. The time of the study will be at the discretion of the Engineering and Highway Departments. Mr. Bauer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Cohen inquired whether the trees could be pruned. Mr. Hoyland will forward the request to the Department of Parks and Forestry.

7. HOLLAND STREET BETWEEN WEBSTER AND MANNING STREETS – Signage

PETITIONER: Michael Collins, 35 Holland Street

Mr. Collins reported that there has been an increase of traffic on Holland Street, and was concerned about the safety of the 25 children living in the neighborhood. Mr. Collins presented a petition signed by 31 residents of the street requesting that two "Slow Down – Children Present" be installed at the southeast corner and southwest corner of Holland Street. The property owners at 18 and 19 Holland Street, where the signs were proposed, were fine with the location of the signs.

Vote: Mr. DelGaizo moved to install "Slow Down – Children Present" be as requested by the petitioners in the plans and documents submitted. Ms. Stein seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

8. JARVIS CIRCLE – Speed and Signage

PETITIONER: Mara De Jager, 72 Circle

Ms. De Jager was looking for a temporary solution to allow the 30 children under the age of 10 to play safely on the street during the pandemic. They are playing from 9:00 am to 6:00 p.m. She'd like to see a section of Jarvis Street closed.

Mr. DelGaizo reported that Jarvis Street is a public way and cannot be closed with access limited to residents only. If the Town took definitive action to close street, access would be prohibited to the residents of Jarvis Circle as well.

Mr. McCullen suggested that residents strategically staggered parking on both sides of the streets to slow down traffic.

Ms. Stein offered a possible solution that neighbors pool together to hire a college or high school student as a counselor to monitor the traffic and children.

Ms. De Jager inquired if cones could be placed on the streets to prevent through traffic.

Mr. DelGaizo offered to conduct a speed study to detect the speed on the street. Ms. De Jager declined a study because neither the speed nor traffic volume warrant a sign. The issue is the number of children playing in the street.

Ms. Mullin questioned why the children were not playing in the backyards. Ms. De Jager responded that because of the social distancing issues and children riding their bikes and scooters yards were not an option.

Mr. Hoyland did not see any safe public option that could be offered.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.