

Minutes
Traffic Management Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 14, 2021
7:00 P.M.
Zoom Meeting ID #863-8102-0737
Adopted October 13, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Justin McCullen, Chair; Seth Bauer, Vice-Chair; Anthony DelGaizo, Town Engineer, Rebecca Tarantino, Suzanne Stein, John McGrath, Donna Mullin.

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Wilson, Engineer; Daphne M. Collins, Recording Secretary, Tyler Gabrielski, Admin Analyst.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Thomas Clancy, Morgan Sammut, Leslie Kerr, Brenna Jones

1. INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

Mr. McCullen, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and Roll Call was taken.

2. MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2021

Vote: Mr. Bauer moved to accept the Minutes of July 14, 2021. Ms. Tarantino seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. STATUS REPORT UPDATE

Mr. Wilson reported the following project updates:

- **Charles River Street Traffic Study between Winging River Road and Belle Lane:** East bound 2692 vehicles, at 42 mph; West bound 2966 vehicles, at 39 mph. 9.5% of the vehicles were trucks.
- **Oakland Avenue at Highland Avenue – Stop** sign installation to be approved by Select Board on September 14, 2021.
- **Marked Tree Road between Oak Street and Oakcrest Road – Curve Ahead** sign installed.
- **Charles River Street near Ridge Hill – Deer Crossing** signs installed.
- **Nardone Road, Falcon and Bond Street** traffic count to be redone after school starts.
- **Charles River Street Traffic Study between Central Avenue and South Street:** West bound 1776 vehicles, at 30 mph; East bound 1465 vehicles, at 30 mph. 4.1% of the vehicles were trucks. Truck count was below the 5% required for a heavy vehicle exclusion. Petitioner could not attend meeting and was interested in the results. Mr. Gabielski to contact petitioner regarding the results.

Mr. McCullen asked what could be done about the excessive speed on Charles River Street. Mr. Bauer wondered why there were no speed limit signs posted in the area. He suggested a speed sign be installed as a first step.

Mr. DelGaizo noted that if the speed study indicated a faster speed than the limit the state would establish an official higher speed limit at 40mph and drivers would be ticketed for going faster than 40mph. He suggested that a sign stating **Thickly Settled Area** with a 30mph tab be installed and to increase enforcement. He noted that 40mph speed limits existed on Charles River Street in the rural portion where homes were over 200' apart.

Lt. McGrath agreed that the area near Belle Lane on Charles River Street was less rural and would be appropriate for a 30mph limit.

Vote: Mr. DelGaizo moved to installed **Thickly Settled Area** with 30mph tab signs on Charles River Street near Belle Lane in both directions. Ms. Tarantino seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Lt. McGrath did not support a truck restriction as enforcement would be problematic for staff. Mr. DelGaizo noted that a truck restriction would be denied by the state as the study did not indicate the required 5% truck traffic volume required for such limitation.

4. DEDHAM AVENUE BETWEEN PLEASANT AND WEBSTER STREET – NO PARKING

PETITIONER: Thomas Clancy, 183 Dedham Avenue

Mr. Clancy requested a no parking zone on Dedham Avenue 50 yards from the intersection of Pleasant Street. He reported that cars park on Dedham Avenue on the berm and sidewalk which obstruct visibility of oncoming traffic travelling at 30mph making it difficult to exit safely from his driveway.

Lt. McGrath supported installing curbing and a 2-hour parking limit.

Mr. DelGaizo informed the TMAC that this is a neighborhood parking issue and that a parking restriction should include all the neighbors. The petitioner should submit the delineated area and a signed petition from the abutting neighbors supporting the restriction. He noted that curbing is expensive to install.

Ms. Tarantino asked if it was a parking violation for parking on the berm. Lr. McGrath responded that parking on the berm is a town wide issue and is not enforceable. However, parking on the sidewalk obstructing pedestrian access is a violation.

Mr. Bauer inquired if the neighbors support the parking restriction. Mr. Clancy said that it is the abutting neighbor at 191 Dedham Avenue who parks in the space that obstructs visibility.

Mr. DelGaizo recommended that a no parking restriction be handled by petition.

Ms. Tarantino disagreed. She thought it was a site issue and not a petition issue.

Lt. McGrath reported that he has told the neighbor about the parking issue and not to park on the berm or the sidewalk. He ignores police enforcement. Ms. Tarantino supported a No parking here to corner restriction.

Vote: Lt. McGrath moved to install a **No Parking Here to Corner** sign on Dedham Avenue for public safety, visibility, and to prevent accidents in a high vehicular area. Mr. Bauer seconded the motion.
Vote: 6-Ayes; 0-Noes; 1 Abstention (Mr. DelGaizo).

5. HUNNEWELL STREET AND HILLSIDE AVENUE INTERSECTION- SIGNAGE

PETITIONER: Morgan Shammut, 44 Booth Street

Ms. Shammut noted that the intersection at Hunnewell Street and Hillside Avenue is ambiguous. Currently it is a two-way stop on Hunnewell Street. However, drivers on Hillside assume it is a 4-way stop and stop at the intersection.

Vote: Mr. DelGaizo moved to install **2-way Stop** tabs on the stop signs on Hillside Avenue. Lt. McGrath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

6. GREAT PLAIN AVENUE AT WARREN STREET - CROSSWALK

PETITIONER: Leslie Kerr, 853 Great Plain Avenue

Ms. Kerr requested crosswalks and stop signs on Great Plain Avenue at the Warren Street. The closest cross walk is 600' away and the lights are 3 blocks away. Cars ignore pedestrians when at Warren Street who are attempting to cross Great Plain Avenue trying to reach the YMCA, go to church or to access the childcare program at the church.

Mr. DelGaizo noted that there is a Pedestrian Crosswalk Safety Policy and he doubted that a crosswalk at Great Plain Avenue at Warren Street would meet the standards of the policy. He noted that the crosswalks at Pickering Place and Great Plain Avenue are under design for upgrading as part of the Downtown Phase II project.

Mr. DelGaizo noted that the Great Plain/Warren Street intersection could be investigated to determine if it would meet the Pedestrian Safety Audit criteria. Based on the Pedestrian Safety criteria, a possible crosswalk would be evaluated based on the number of pedestrians crossing, the distance from existing crosswalks, speed of traffic and sight distances of the Town's intersections. The site evaluation would be done internally.

Mr. DelGaizo reported that the installation of crosswalks is done selectively and judiciously. Excessive pedestrian crosswalks will lead drivers to disrespect them. The placement of a crosswalk is located at a known safe location to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

Vote: Lt. McGrath moved to study the placement of a crosswalk at Great Plain Avenue and Warren Street. Ms. Tarantino seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Kerr wondered when and how will the study be done. The study will be conducted during a set period, 24/7, during the academic period.

7. CHARLES RIVER STREET AT BELLE LANE – SIGN, MIRROR

PETITIONER: Brenna Jones, 141 Belle Lane

Brenna Jones reported that it is difficult to take a left lane out of Belle Lane on to Charles River Street. The curve in the road makes the line of sight difficult. In addition, Belle Lane is a new street and traffic on Charles River Street don't expect cars from Belle Lane. In addition, low hanging branches and brush overgrowth along the curve add to the challenging visibility.

Ms. Tarantino suggested the installation of a mirror and a sign with a curve with street exit diagram.

Lt. McGrath agreed that intersection was a challenging area. He also noted and questioned the ownership of a box in the area. Ms. Jones said that the box was installed by the Belle Lane developer. Mr. DelGaizo noted that the box is a cover for gas valves. Mr. DelGaizo noted that the Planning Board Decision included conditions that the trees be cuts back and pruned and that it is one of the items left to finish up with the Planning Board. The Jones will forward the TMAC concerns to the Belle Lane Owner's Association.

Vote: Lt. McGrath moved to install a Curve with a street exit diagram sign on the side from Dover at a location determined by the Engineering Department. Mr. DelGaizo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. DelGaizo clarified that the sign would be placed 200-300' from the intersection.

Lt. McGrath and Mr. DelGaizo noted that mirrors are not allowed in Town. The ones that exist in Town are done by private citizens.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

TMAC Subcommittee - Mr. Bauer reported that the subcommittee has not yet met, and the meeting has not yet been scheduled. Ms. Collins reminded that any meeting date selected required a 48 hour posting prior to the meeting.

Citizen Police Academy – Lt. McGrath announced that the Citizen Police Academy begins October 13, 2021, from 6-8pm, once weekly for 6 weeks. Topics include traffic enforcement. Interested TMAC members and members of the public are invited to attend.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.