

Minutes
Traffic Management Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 9, 2022
7:00 P.M.
Zoom Meeting ID #884-5257-4576

MEMBERS PRESENT: Justin McCullen, Chair; Rhain Hoyland, Superintendent of Highways, Lt. John McGrath, Suzanne Stein, Donna Mullin, Barry McNeilly, Rebecca Tarantino.

STAFF PRESENT: Thomas Ryder, Acting Town Engineer; Robert Wilson, Engineer; Tyler Gabrielski, Financial Analyst; Daphne Collins, Recording Secretary.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Praveen Purushotham

1. INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

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

2. MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2022

Vote: Ms. Tarantino moved to accept the Minutes of January 12, 2022. Lt. McGrath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. STATUS REPORT UPDATE

Mr. Wilson reported the following project updates:

- **Great Plain Avenue at Warren Street** – Crosswalk to be installed.
- **Highland Avenue and Hunnewell Street** – Crosswalk, RRFB, ballards are being considered for short term safety improvements. Mr. Ryder reported that funding was being sought for the improvements. Item to be discussed further at next meeting.
- **Highland Terrace, Riverside Street Area** – staff is in discussion with neighbors about removing the speed bump and finding street widening options.
- **Transportation Planning Review Committee (TPRC)** – Mr. McCullen reported that he sat on the TPRC as a representative of the TMAC. The TPRC meets to discuss and be informed of transportation planning issues and projects in Needham. Mr. McCullen will report back to the TMAC after attending the meetings. The Committee met last in January.

4. HUNTING ROAD BETWEEN CHENEY STREET AND KENDRICK STREET - SPEED & SIDEWALK & VISIBILITY ISSUES

PETITIONER: Praveen Purushotham, 296 Hunting Road

Mr. Purushotham reported that there are no sidewalks on Hunting Road on the side with residential frontage. The high speed makes it dangerous for pedestrians to cross and access the sidewalks safely. He also noted that there are no street lighting making visibility difficult.

He requested that sidewalks be installed on the side of the street which fronts homes; that street lighting be installed; and that there a speed radar be installed to deter speeding.

Mr. Hoyland responded that there are no plans to add sidewalks to Hunting Road. The Select Board through the Ward/Finance Committee/Town Meeting process makes decisions on sidewalks. Mr. Hoyland noted that two of the five houses on Hunting Road have grade issues. Currently Hunting Road does not meet the Select Board's criteria for new sidewalks. A study was conducted on the Town's sidewalks which inventoried the sidewalks and noted repair condition. Approximately \$700,000 per year is allocated for sidewalk repairs. The sidewalks are queued in need of repair 55-60 years out. Other sections of Town are requesting sidewalks and each request must be vetted.

Mr. McNeille reported that he had conducted a site visit and observed street lighting at the intersections of Cheney Street and Kendrick Street and in the middle of Hunting Road. Mr. Purushotham argued that the light did not provide illumination to his home or those further away from the light.

Lt. McGrath noted that Hunting Road and Greendale Avenue have volume and speed issues. The speed limit is 40mph and cars are going 50mph. He agreed that Police presence would help but would only be a temporary deterrent when the police is there.

Mr. McCullen asked what the speed was. Lt. McGrath said it was 35mph at Hunting Road and Cheney Street. He noted there was a 30mph advisory sign on a telephone pole at Cheney Street.

Sherry Immedito, 304 Hunting Road, said traffic is worst now. In the past, she said, traffic would stop when she was out walking her dog. Now drivers rarely stop when she's at the intersection trying to cross. She reported that it was especially hazardous for children trying to cross the street and dodging traffic.

Priyamvada Purushotham, 296 Hunting Road, noted that she did not let her daughter walk to school because it was so dangerous to navigate crossing the street.

Vote: Lt. McGrath moved to place on a pole a 35 *Speed Limit* sign with white LED Lights at the end of the 40 mph zone on the wood side of Greendale Avenue before Cheney Street. Ms. Taratino seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. CEDAR STREET - SPEED

PETITIONER: Jeff Groper, 286 Cedar Street

Petitioner did not show. Item tabled to next meeting.

6. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION – PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND HIGH HAZARD INTERSECTION

Ms. Taratino wanted to know the status of the items identified for implementation under the Pedestrian Safety and High Hazard Intersection study. She was concerned about the road rage and inconsiderate driver behavior and seeing the same problem intersections coming before the TMAC.

Mr. Hoyland reported that the top 13 hazard locations have had RRFB installed.

Perry Park – design has been completed. The design includes handicapped parking, indented parking, paving markings. The project is scheduled for Spring 2022.

Harris Avenue and Dedham Avenue - The Town received a \$400,000 grant. The funds must be spent by December 2022. The project is scheduled for the end of summer.

Highland Avenue at High School – the consultant is developing the design. Design elements include the shortening the cross walk by 16'. The intersection will have bump outs, so visibility is improved for pedestrians and traffic. Parking spots will be eliminated to create the bump outs.

Harris Avenue and Warren Street – the 140' crossing is recommended for a protective pedestrian crossing.

Great Plain Avenue/Olin Crossing – has been resigned and relined. Location still has limited sight distance.

Great Plain Avenue at Camela's - Ms. Tarantino noted that Great Plain Avenue at Camela's is a difficult location for pedestrians. Mr. Ryder noted that BETA has redesigned that location and bump outs are scheduled under complete streets. He noted that the plans are old and need to be modified. Staff is meeting this month to discuss next steps. Lt. McGrath also identified the crosswalk as a problem and it has been scheduled for an enforcement sting. He suggested that the area may be a location for pedestrian signs to be careful. He noted that the temporary street pedestrian extension sign had been driven over. Ms. Tarantino questioned whether parking spots could be eliminated so give pedestrians more visibility.

Mr. McCullen had the following concerns:

- Town caution signs are yellow and green. They are not uniform.
- There are Stop lines without a Stop sign. Stop lines cannot exist without a Stop sign. He suggested that an inventory be done and that Stop sign/lines be standardize.
- Radar Signs – Mr. McCullen found radar signs to be speed deterrents. He'd like the Town to investigate obtaining radar signs to rotate to problem areas.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.