

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting March 11, 2009
Broadmeadow School Media Center, Needham, MA 02492
MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE

Meredith Page, Kate Fitzpatrick, Tony Del Gaizo, Bob Wilson, Lt. John Kraemer, Rick Merson, Paul Gordon, David Callaghan, Margaret Murphy, Thomas Stokes, Rebecca Turner

Guests: Kathleen Kent, Andrew Nagle, Amy Gworek

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:02 pm.

I. INTERSECTION OF WEST STREET AND CENTRAL AVENUE

Kathleen Kent and Andrew Nagle requested that a traffic light be placed at the intersection of West St. and Central Ave. Traffic on Central Ave. is heavy and steady and causes traffic to back up on West St. and/or enter Central Ave. unsafely. Ms. Kent also mentioned that vehicles tend to speed down West St. Lt. Kraemer indicated that this intersection is not one of the top accident sites in town but that when the weather gets warmer the police department will put up the speed board on West St. and/or Central Ave. Mr. Del Gaizo also mentioned that a traffic light is scheduled to be placed at the intersection of Forest St. and Central Ave. and this will make it easier to enter Central from West by creating some spaces in the traffic traveling along Central Ave.

II. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL FEDERAL GRANT APPLICATION

Ms. Turner spoke about the Eliot Elementary School's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant application. SRTS is a federally funded program and in Massachusetts is led by the Executive Office of Transportation/MassRIDES. Most of the schools in Needham (except Broadmeadow and the High School) are SRTS Partner Schools. Schools collaborating with MassRIDES on education and encouragement activities become eligible for federally funded infrastructure projects specifically targeted to enhancing safe access to schools. The Eliot School has just become eligible to request an infrastructure assessment. TMAC members will be kept up to date on the status of the assessment.

III. INTERSECTION OF COOLIDGE AVE. AND HARRIS AVE.

Ms. Gworek requested that a crosswalk and crossing guard be placed at the intersection of Coolidge Ave. and Harris Ave. for elementary students walking home to the Coolidge Ave. area from Broadmeadow in the afternoons. There is no sidewalk on the north side of Harris Avenue near Great Plain Ave., so students stay on the south side of Harris to avoid walking in the road. There are crosswalks at Pinewood Rd. and Stevens Rd. but that would require the elementary students to walk beyond their street and double back and often there are groups of middle school students in front of Pollard which can be intimidating for elementary students. The sight distance of the Coolidge/Harris intersection will be explored to see if it is suitable for a crosswalk.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

One overnight parking request was presented located at 18 McCulloch Street and is a 1999 brown Honda Accord with a Massachusetts license plate of 379BC3.

Action: It was moved and seconded that the overnight parking request be granted. The motion was called to a vote and was passed unanimously.

Minutes from the February 11, 2009 TMAC meeting

Action: It was moved and seconded that the minutes from the February, 2009 be accepted with one correction. The motion was called a vote and was passed unanimously.

A letter from Ms. Emily Salaun which expressed concerns about the visibility of the “No Left Turn” sign at the Chapel Street/Great Plain Avenue intersection was discussed and alternative locations for the “No Left Turn” signs were considered.

Ms. Page requested that a “Do Not Enter” sign be placed at the entrance of the Town Hall parking lot facing the northbound traffic on Highland Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 15th at 7:00 pm.

These minutes are intended to convey the general content of the discussions at the TMAC meeting.

Minutes compiled by: Rebecca Turner