

Minutes
Traffic Management Advisory Committee
Wednesday, March 8, 2023
7:00 P.M.
Forbes/McLeod Community Room
Public Safety Building
88 Chestnut Street
Needham, MA 02492
Livestreamed on Zoom Meeting ID #86312712408
ADOPTED APRIL 12, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Justin McCullen, Chair; Donna Mullin; Guss Driessen; Lt. John McGrath; Tom Ryder, Town Engineer.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Ciccolo; Rhain Hoyland, Superintendent of Highways; Rebecca Tarantino; Barry McNeille.

STAFF PRESENT: Tyler Gabrielski, Management Analyst; Daphne Collins, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT: (See attached Sign-In Form)

1. INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

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

2. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Item tabled to next month.

3. OTHER BUSINESS/STATUS REPORT

- **Marked Tree Road** – McCullen reported that the speed radar sign was installed.

4. FAIR OAKS PARK AND GREAT PLAIN AVENUE– POOR VISIBILITY

PETITIONER: Kristi Daly, 132 Fair Oaks Park

Ms. Daly reported that she has witnessed three of the four accidents that have occurred at her corner since 2019 when she moved to Needham. She was concerned about the accidents and the safety for pedestrian on the sidewalk. She was unsure of the remediation needed but she suggested that a warning sign that a stop sign is ahead.

Lt. McGrath provided data from 2019-2023 for accidents in the area. He described the accidents counts were low and similar across for the area – Greendale Avenue had five accidents; Chestnut Street had five, Maple Street had four, and Fair Oaks Park had four. For the accidents to be reported on the database the damage has to be of \$1,000 or greater.

Mr. Driessen had conducted a site visit and thought the sight distance to be good.

Lt. McGrath suggested that perhaps the timing may be off on Great Plain Avenue causing a long wait at Fair Oaks Park. Mr. Ryder offered to look at the signal timing to be sure it is correct for efficient traffic flow.

Ms. Daly asked if a crosswalk could be installed as a deterrent for traffic to slow down. This option could not be considered.

All concurred that the divided median added to the challenge of navigating the intersection.

Lt. McGrath suggested that the item be continued to the next meeting to allow staff to provide any historic traffic data at the intersection.

5. DEDHAM AVENUE – SPEED ZONE - DISCUSSION

Mr. McCullen reported that MassDOT allows the rescinding of speed zones and that they can be changed to a lower speed. Currently there is a procedural pathway to decrease speeds in a speed zone. He was looking for Committee support to recommend to the Select Board to decrease the speed on Dedham Avenue.

Mr. Ryder consulted MassDOT on the new process for changing speeds for Dedham Avenue which is a state road. This may require a speed study. Dedham Avenue is scheduled for reconstruction in Fall of 2023. The project offers opportunities to look at and implement calming measures. Engineering has hired a firm to look at possible calming measures. These measures may not be full engineering ones but softer ones such as paint, curbing and signage.

Lt. McGrath thought an educational campaign should be included to coincide with a change in the speed.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30p.m.



March 16, 2023 –Public Safety Building, Forbes/McCloud Community Room

88 Chestnut Street, Needham, Massachusetts

PLEASE SIGN IN

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