

Town of Needham
Transportation Safety Committee

Minutes: September 13, 2023

Location: Forbes/McLeod Community Room, Public Safety Building
88 Chestnut Street

Livestreamed on Zoom: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vg8LwvHHnAA>

ADOPTED OCTOBER 11, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Justin McCullen; Lt. John McGrath, Guus Driessen, Rhain Hoyland, Tom Ryder
MEMBERS ABSENT: Barry McNeilly, Donna Mullin, Rebecca Tarantino
STAFF PRESENT: Tyler Gabrielski, Management Analyst
PUBLIC PRESENT: None

1. INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:15 p.m., Chair McCullen called the meeting to order, took roll call, and disclosed the video recording.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 9, 2023

MOTION:	G. Driessen moved to approve the Minutes of August 9, 2023.
SECONDED:	J. McGrath
ABSTAINED:	None
ROLL-CALL VOTE:	G. Driessen, aye, R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; J. McGrath, aye; T. Ryder, aye. Unanimous.
MOTION CARRIES:	5-0

3. OTHER BUSINESS/TSC STATUS UPDATE REPORT

AUGUST 2023-5, GOULD ST./KEARNEY RD. INTERSECTION, FOLLOW UP ON REDUCED LANE WIDTHS

The petitioner spoke with the daycare regarding foliage and trees the Town would like to cut. The daycare is aware and approves of geometric improvements to improve safety.

Members discussed the concept plan sketch prepared by R. Wilson for a proposed stop sign, line markings at corners with hash marks as visual indicators to be careful. He will visit the site to view curbing in place as well as radius and turn movements. Members discussed accomplishing the work before the winter.

FOLLOW-UP: Ask DPW Director Carys Lustig to notify abutters of the proposed work.

This item will be reviewed on the October agenda.

AUGUST 2023-3, WARREN ST. LINE STRIPING

Members discussed a proposed idea to test the speed before yellow lines are painted; apply the lines, then test the speed after yellow lines are applied for paved streets that have yellow lines or are planned to have yellow lines.

Members discussed resident objections to double, yellow line striping as a concern to the value of their real estate computations. The concern is off the table with reducing lane width rather than adding double, yellow lines. This would be an informed choice rather than an ask for permission.

Members discussed that reducing lane width as a traffic calming tool does not require abutter notice. When striping the road, it is best to notify abutters of the goals/objectives.

MARKED TREE ROAD

R. Wilson, engineer, has marked out 10 foot lanes between the stop signs from the railroad bridge to Central St. The road varies from 30 feet wide to 28 feet toward Central Street. Members discussed bike lanes before and at the shoulder as well as reducing the marked 10 foot lanes to 9 foot lanes.

Members discussed putting in a center line and waiting until the spring for further work. Place a speed study on this road.

Members discussed having double, yellow lines, 9 ft. travel lanes, and a speed study added to High Rock Rd. in March.

MOTION:	J. McGrath moved to add fog lines at nine foot width travel lanes for Oak Street from Chestnut St. to Marked Tree Lane followed by a speed study.
SECONDED:	G. Driessen
ROLL-CALL VOTE:	G. Driessen, aye, R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; J. McGrath, aye; T. Ryder, aye. Unanimous.
MOTION CARRIES:	5-0

MOTION:	R. Hoyland moved to utilize speed study data before adding double, yellow lines to create nine foot width travel lanes and fog lines followed by a speed study on High Rock Road from the MBTA bridge down to Central Street.
SECONDED:	G. Driessen
ROLL-CALL VOTE:	G. Driessen, aye, R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; J. McGrath, aye; T. Ryder, aye. Unanimous.
MOTION CARRIES:	5-0

LINCOLN ST. TO WEBSTER ST. OR TO THE RAILROAD BRIDGE

Members reviewed plans while discussing data received for a parking study near Lincoln St. to create a crosswalk where there are no ramps or granite curbing presently. The objective is to gain accessibility to the parking lot across the street. There was talk about MassDOT fixing curbing down to the length of the railroad bridge. Members discussed capital funding to repair sidewalks. Design changes are due by December 24, 2023.

4. HEATHER FINNEGAN - SPEEDING ON MELLEN ST.

At 7:55 pm, the petitioner was not present.

5. SARAH KLEIN/LEILA AMERLING/LISA RHOADES - CROSSWALK SAFETY ACROSS GREAT PLAIN AVE. AT LINDEN ST.

At 7:56 pm, the petitioner was not present.

6. ANDREA DANNENBERG - SPEED AND VISIBILITY ISSUES ON CHARLES RIVER ST.

At 7:57 pm, the petitioner was not present.

7. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION - TSC PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

The committee does not have a Public Comment Policy. Chair McCullen will circulate a repurposed School Committee Public Comment Policy to members for discussion at the next month's meeting.

8. MATTERS NOT ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE MEETING

Members discussed the timeframe for a larger policymaking group.

Members discussed sidewalks, accessibility and the role of the Mobility Planning Coordination Committee.

9. ADJOURNMENT - ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION:	G. Driessen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.
SECONDED:	R. Hoyland
ROLL-CALL VOTE:	G. Driessen, aye, R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; J. McGrath, aye; T. Ryder, aye. Unanimous.
MOTION CARRIES:	5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Michaud
Recording Secretary