

Town of Needham  
**Transportation Safety Committee**  
**Minutes: October 9, 2024**

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

**Livestreamed on Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88341769950>

**ADOPTED NOVEMBER 13, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Guus Driessen, Tyler Gabrielski, Justin McCullen, Lt. John McGrath, Donna Mullin, Rebecca Tarantino  
**MEMBERS REMOTE:** Tom Ryder  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Barry McNeilly  
**STAFF REMOTE:** Robert Wilson  
**GUEST:** Meredith Berger, 49 Savoy Rd.

---

**1. INTRODUCTION, ROLL CALL, CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:02 p.m., J. McCullen called the meeting to order, took roll call, and disclosed the video recording.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2024**

**R. TARANTINO MOVED AND G. DRIESSEN SECONDED** TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2024.

**ROLL-CALL VOTE:** G. DRIESSEN, AYE; T. GABRIELSKI, AYE; J. MCCULLEN, AYE; D. MULLIN, AYE;

R. TARANTINO, AYE. J. MCGRATH ABSTAINED. **MOTION CARRIES: 5-0**

**3. OLD BUSINESS/ STATUS UPDATE REPORT - R. WILSON**

**STOP SIGN INSTALLATION AT HILLSIDE AVE/WEST ST, GEORGE AGGOTT RD, ETC.**

- Engineering is still waiting on the signed regulations from the Town Clerk's Office, despite approval from the Select Board. After they receive the finalized regulations, they will advertise the changes in the newspaper and the Highway Division will install the signs.
- T. Gabrielski indicated that the Town Manager's Office believes that the Town Clerk is waiting until the minutes from the Select Board vote meeting are approved. This should occur at the next Select Board meeting on October 22.

**HUNNEWELL ST. AT TAYLOR ST. SPEED STUDY**

The Traffic Study demonstrated an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 36 mph in a 30 mph statutory speed zone.

Petitioner concerns include speeding vehicles as they enter and exit their home's driveway.

Members discussed remedies including warning signage.

At 7:13 pm, T. Ryder joined the meeting.

Members discussed further how to address the results of speed studies showing speeds in excess of the statutory 30 mph, with some disagreeing on whether and which interventions are necessary. It was suggested that a permanent speed radar sign may be more effective than warning signs, but some members were not sure if this situation warranted it. It was determined that the effectiveness of the warning signs would be reevaluated after installation.

**T. GABRIELSKI MOVED AND J. MCCULLEN SECONDED** TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF TWO ADVISORY SIGNS OF 25 MPH ON TAYLOR ST., ONE WITH AN OFFSET AND ONE WITH A CURVE, THE LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED BY DPW ENGINEERING AND THE HIGHWAY DEPT. **ROLL-CALL VOTE:** T. RYDER, AYE; J.

MCCRATH, AYE; R. TARANTINO, AYE; D. MULLIN, AYE; G. DRIESSEN, AYE; T. GABRIELSKI, AYE; J. MCCULLEN, AYE. **MOTION CARRIES: 7-0**

#### **BROOKSIDE RD. SPEED STUDY**

The Traffic Study demonstrated an average daily traffic of 1,020 vehicles, peak hour traffic of 134 vehicles, 85th percentile speed of 31 mph, and a truck percentage of 5.5%. The members agreed that while the truck traffic was higher than average, a truck exclusion was not practical nor would address the problem. It was observed that the majority of the truck traffic was landscaping trucks serving the homes on the street. T. Gabrielski mentioned that the utility pole that was posing a safety issue has been removed and plans for pavement resurfacing are finally able to advance.

#### **LINDBERGH AVE. SPEED STUDY**

The Traffic Study demonstrated an average daily traffic of 1,034 vehicles, peak hour traffic of 125 vehicles, 85th percentile speed of 30 mph. There was a small difference between the speeds when the monitors were in "stealth mode" and when they displayed speed feedback. It was determined that the speed study did not indicate a need for an intervention.

**ACTION: T. Gabrielski will notify the Petitioner that no remedy is necessary.**

#### **MITCHELL SCHOOL ZONE OFF BROOKLINE ST. AT BROAD MEADOW RD.**

J. McCullen indicated that the Town's School Zone signage is inconsistent in its distance from their respective schools. He stated that he would like to revisit the topic of standardizing School Zones in the future. This area is currently being monitored for speed data.

**ACTION: WHEN DATA IS AVAILABLE, MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS WIDENING THE SCHOOL ZONE SIMILAR TO AT SUNITA WILLIAMS, POLLARD, AND NEWMAN SCHOOLS.**

**4. PETITIONER, CERIA MOSGROVE - WRONG WAY DRIVERS ON HARRIS AVE.** - Petitioner was not present.

**5. PETITIONER, MEREDITH BERGER - VISIBILITY AND STOP SIGN ON HILLCREST RD. AT WYOMING AVE.**

The Petitioner requested a stop sign at this dangerous intersection.

- When stopped at the intersection, driver visibility to proceed is hampered by trees and foliage.
- There are no Stop signs on streets approaching this intersection other than Wyoming Ave.
- Members discussed remedies.
- T. Ryder mentioned that this complex intersection is being considered for redesign, including reshaping and a possible conversion of one of the streets to a One Way to make pedestrian travel safer. This would be a capital project that will require capital funding. The project should address some of the safety issues, so after it is completed the intersection can be reassessed.

**J. MCCULLEN MOVED AND R. TARANTINO SECONDED TO MOVE THE STOP SIGN ON WYOMING AVE. AT THE INTERSECTION OF HILLCREST RD. AS FAR FORWARD AS POSSIBLE IN LINE WITH THE STOP BAR, ADD ADVISORY SIGNAGE OF 'INTERSECTION AHEAD' ON HILLSIDE AVE. ON THE APPROACH TO HILLCREST RD. AND WYOMING AVE. HAVE DPW ENGINEERING AND THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT RE-EVALUATE AN 'ALL WAY/ ALL STOP' SIGN BY TABULATING TRAFFIC VOLUMES ACCORDING TO THE MUTCD MANUAL, 11TH EDITION. IF A STOP SIGN IS FEASIBLE, RATHER THAN AN ADVISORY SIGN, ADD 'STOP SIGN AHEAD' SIGNAGE.**

**ROLL-CALL VOTE: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIES: 7-0**

#### **6. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION (CONTINUED) - TOWNWIDE 25 MPH IN THICKLY SETTLED AREAS**

Other municipalities that move forward with a Townwide 25 mph speed limit do the following:

- Conduct a Messaging Campaign to include yard signs, explanation on the Town web site, Police social media web site, posted flyers, and a transition period. Data is limited on whether a Townwide 25 mph limit is effective in suburban municipalities.

**ACTION: T. GABRIELSKI WILL SHARE RESEARCH AND ARTICLES WITH MEMBERS ON THE PROCESS THAT THE CITY OF BOSTON USED TO IMPLEMENT A TOWNWIDE 25 MPH SPEED LIMIT.**

**ACTION: J. McCULLEN WILL REVIEW STATE DATABASE CRASH DATA.**

## **7. TSC EXPENSE ACCOUNT AND FUNDING REQUESTS**

Members reviewed funding requests from the Meeting Packet.

Appropriations will be considered by the Finance Committee in January 2025 before being included in the funding requests brought before the Spring Town Meeting. Funds can be accessed beginning July 2025. Members discussed spending down the \$100,000 annually and prioritizing raised crosswalks among other traffic calming items.

### **CURB CUTS REALIGNMENT TO ALLOW SHORTER CROSSWALK ACROSS WEBSTER ST. AT MARK LEE RD.**

- Survey layout work will be accomplished in the Spring. Highway will attempt to schedule the contractor to return to this area to make the curb/ramp changes.

### **TURNING MOVEMENTS/LANE CONFIGURATIONS ON CHESTNUT ST. BY HOSPITAL**

- A Turning Movements Study will determine whether Lane modification is necessary.

Members proposed the Hospital share the \$8,300 modification cost since changes the Hospital made to the intersection have created the issue. By State law, the Hospital has a private driveway with a signal that discharges into the street.

**ACTION: T. GABRIELSKI WILL ASCERTAIN THE CONTENTS OF THE HOSPITAL'S SPECIAL PERMIT.**

**ACTION: T. GABRIELSKI WILL REQUEST THE HOSPITAL SHARE THE COST.**

**WARREN ST. - PERMANENT SPEED RADAR SIGNS** - This item will be considered at a future meeting.

**R. TARANTINO MOVED AND T. RYDER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE TURNING MOVEMENT LANE CONFIGURATION EXPENDITURE FOR CHESTNUT ST. BY THE HOSPITAL. ROLL-CALL VOTE: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIES: 6-0 (BY THIS TIME D. MULLIN HAD LEFT THE MEETING).**

### **INTERSECTION ANALYSIS (TAKINGS, ETC.) FOR HUNNEWELL ST. AT WELLESLEY AVE.**

- Needham is waiting on the Consultant's Scope of Services.

**ACTION: T. GABRIELSKI WILL ASK WELLESLEY TO SHARE THE COST WITH NEEDHAM.**

## **8. APPOINTMENTS TO MOBILITY PLANNING & COORDINATION COMMITTEE AND NEEDHAM CENTER PROJECT WORKING GROUP**

**J. McCULLEN MOVED AND R. TARANTINO SECONDED TO APPOINT GUUS DRIESSEN TO THE MOBILITY PLANNING & COORDINATION COMMITTEE. ROLL-CALL VOTE: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

**J. McCULLEN MOVED AND J. McGRATH SECONDED TO APPOINT JUSTIN McCULLEN TO THE NEEDHAM CENTER PROJECT WORKING GROUP. ROLL-CALL VOTE: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

## **9. MATTERS NOT ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE MEETING**

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

**R. TARANTINO MOVED AND T. RYDER SECONDED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:24 PM.**  
**ROLL-CALL VOTE: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Michaud  
Recording Secretary

**INFORMATIONAL:** The Meeting Packet is available at **<https://www.needhamma.gov/Archive.aspx>**



TOWN OF NEEDHAM  
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY  
COMMITTEE

**October 9, 2024 –Public Safety Building, Forbes/McLeod Community Room**

88 Chestnut Street, Needham, Massachusetts

## PLEASE SIGN IN

[illegible]