

Town of Needham
Transportation Safety Committee

Minutes: November 13, 2024

Location: Town Hall, Select Board Chamber, 1471 Highland Ave.

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

ADOPTED DECEMBER 11, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Guus Driessen, Tyler Gabrielski, Justin McCullen, Lt. John McGrath,
Barry McNeilly, Tom Ryder
MEMBERS REMOTE: Donna Mullin
MEMBERS ABSENT: Rebecca Tarantino
STAFF REMOTE: Robert Wilson
GUEST: Jeri Smoller, 5 Cogswell Ct

1. INTRODUCTION, ROLL CALL, CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., J. McCullen called the meeting to order, took roll call, and disclosed the video recording.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2024

G. DRIESSEN MOVED AND T. GABRIELSKI SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2024.

ROLL-CALL VOTE: G. DRIESSEN, AYE; T. GABRIELSKI, AYE; J. MCCULLEN, AYE; J. MCGRATH, AYE;
D. MULLIN, AYE; T. RYDER, AYE. B. MCNEILLY ABSTAINED. UNANIMOUS. **MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

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

BROOKLINE ST. - SPEED STUDIES, STOP SIGNS, INSTALLED SIGNS (PER TSC REQUEST)

- Signs and pavement markings were installed on Rosemary St. at the exit to Memorial Park lot.
- Blind Driveway signs were installed on Great Plain Ave. at North Hill Ave.
- Results of the pedestrian count at the corner of GPA and North Hill Ave. indicate that the vast majority of people are using the crosswalk as it was intended to be used.
- Approval for 6-7 Stop signs has been obtained. Public Notice has been sent to the newspaper. Intersections include: West/Hillside Ave; Kearney and Gould; George Aggott/Dedham Ave; Peacedale/GPA.
- The Highway Division contract with the sign contractor has been exhausted until 1/1/25.
- A flashing Stop sign for Hillside and West could be considered after 1/1/25. Before then, remedies could include a traditional Stop sign with fluorescent tabs.
- Add a sign indicating "Do Not Stop on Tracks."
- The new traffic pattern will be socialized on social media, message boards, and the newspaper.
- Preliminary data for the traffic count on Brookline St. indicates there is a speed issue.
 - 85% of 850 cars travel westbound near Holmes St. at 34 MPH
 - 85% of 1,100 cars traveled eastbound near Colgate St. at 33 MPH

Members discussed the risk of breaking from precedent to install granite curbs in a residential neighborhood such as on Brookline St. toward Manning.

- Granite curbing was proposed as a long-term remedy to indicate lane narrowing down the hill.
- The plan for ADA upgrades was pushed off to Summer 2025.
- The road is not wide enough for fog lines.
- Curbing would create drainage issues; install berms
- In the meantime, extend the School Safety Zone and install two solar speed radar signs..

J. McCullen Moved and J. McGrath Seconded to authorize the Traffic Safety Committee to purchase two radar speed signs to be placed at the discretion of both Highway and Engineering with input from residents for maximum efficiency. **Roll-Call Vote:** Unanimous. **Motion Carries: 6-0**

4. Petitioner, Regina Thornton - Pedestrian Safety on West St. near Hunnewell St. -
Petitioner was not present.

5. Petitioner, Jeri Smoller - Signage on Broad Meadow Rd. near Broadmeadow School
At one time, there was school signage which no longer exists. Cars are speeding.

- Members discussed standardizing school signs across town for uniformity.

J. McGrath Moved and J. McCullen Seconded to add three standardized school signs at 20 MPH during specified hours; two signs on Broad Meadow Rd. and two on Bird St. at the approach with speed limit zone hours at the discretion of DPW Engineering. **Roll-Call Vote:** Unanimous. D. Mullin, Abstained. **Motion Carries: 6-0**

6. TSC Expense Account and Funding Requests

Turning Movements/Lane Configurations on Chestnut St. by Hospital

- A Turning Movements Study will determine whether Lane modification is necessary.
- GPI was given the approval to perform its work.
- The hospital intends a \$50,000,000 expansion and will meet with the Planning Board which offers opportunity to incorporate remedying the traffic pattern.

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. T. Gabrielski obtained contents of the Hospital's Special Permit.

Greendale Ave. and Cimino Rd. - Crosswalk investigation continues.

- The opportunity to incorporate a crosswalk as part of the drainage project near Bennington has been pushed out due to project extensions.
- DPW does not have funding for a crosswalk.
- Lt. McGrath has a meeting this week to hear neighborhood complaints.

Warren St. - Permanent Speed Radar Signs

J. McCullen Moved and T. Ryder Seconded to fund \$8,250 for the installed Warren St. speed radar signs. **Roll-Call Vote:** Unanimous. **Motion Carries: 6-0**

Intersection Analysis (Takings, etc.) for Hunnewell St. at Wellesley Ave.

- Needham met with the Consultant. The Scope of Services will be available shortly.
- Action: T. Gabrielski will ask Wellesley to share the cost with Needham.**

7. Joint Meeting of the Transportation Committees - November 20, 2024

- The Mobility Planning and Coordinating Committee, Rail Trail Advisory Committee, and Transportation Safety Committees meet semi-annually to review transportation priorities and DPW

construction plans for the coming year. Members discussed priorities such as sign standardization, a townwide 25 MPH speed limit, and safety zones. Members were invited to attend.

8. MATTERS NOT ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE MEETING - NONE

9. ADJOURNMENT

G. DRIESSEN MOVED AND T. GABRIELSKI 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>



1471 Highland Avenue, Needham, Massachusetts

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