

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting March 10, 2010

Newman School Media Center, Needham, MA 02492

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE

David Callaghan, Chief Tom Leary, Lt. John Kraemer, Tony Del Gaizo, Bob Wilson, Richard P. Merson, Glenn Schneider, Sarah Smith, Thomas Stokes, Rebecca Turner

Guests:

Sue Pouliot, Cara Hawkey, John Legelis, Karen Stahl, Richard Lee, Michael Gallagher, Martha Gowetski

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:04 pm.

I. BROADMEADOW SCHOOL SIDEWALK AREA

Ms. Pouliot requested that sidewalks on the even side of Broadmeadow Road be plowed and expressed concern for students in the area. Currently, only the sidewalks on the odd side of Broadmeadow Road are plowed and students and parents walking to Broadmeadow on the even side have difficulty navigating the snowpiles on the sidewalks and walk in the road. Ms. Pouliot presented a petition with 26 signatures and a statement from the Broadmeadow principal in support of plowing the sidewalks on the even side of Broadmeadow Road. Lt. Kraemer noted that there are many traffic issues around Broadmeadow School at drop-off and pick-up times and encouraged parents to follow traffic rules by allowing enough time to use the school driveway instead of the street for drop-off and pick-up, by walking on the sidewalk instead of the road, and by crossing streets where crossing guards are posted. Mr. Merson and Ms. Turner mentioned that the Safe Routes to School Program might be a way to encourage walking and to cut down on some of the vehicle traffic in the area. Mr. Merson stated that a group made up of members from the school department, the DPW and the police had just been formed to take a more formal look at the plowing routes, including around Broadmeadow School, before next winter.

II. MARK LEE/HIGHLAND AVENUE CROSSWALK

Ms. Hawkey expressed concerns about the safety of pedestrians crossing Highland Avenue in the crosswalk at Mark Lee Road. She explained that cars parking too close to the corner, activity around the bus stop, and cars going the wrong way out of Mark Lee Road and the one-way gas station driveway, in addition to the heavy traffic at commuting times, make crossing in the crosswalk difficult. Mr. Del Gaizo stated that the Needham Heights Streetscape Plan would make some changes to improve pedestrian safety, such as curb bump-outs at the corner, but is not on the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan, so no work would be done until after 2015. Mr. Del Gaizo did note that the town parking lot on Mark Lee/Hunnewell is scheduled for reconstruction this year and that may help with some of the wrong-way traffic on Mark Lee. The police will monitor the area.

Action: It was moved and seconded that the TMAC recommend the placement of a pedestrian crossing stanchion in the crosswalk on Highland Avenue at Mark Lee Road. The motion was called a vote and passed unanimously.

III. SIGNAGE AT ROSEMARY AND HIGHLAND STREETS

Mr. Legelis requested that the "No Turn on Red" signs be removed from Rosemary Street at Highland Avenue and that the traffic light timing be checked in order to reduce traffic backups on Rosemary. Mr. Del Gaizo stated that the stone wall and the angle of the road on the south (High School) side of the intersection limits visibility and that the "No Turn on Red" sign should be left in place. Mr. Del Gaizo stated that there were no

visibility issues on the north (railroad track) side of the intersection and that the “No Turn on Red” sign could be removed.

Action: It was moved and seconded that the “No Right Turn on Red” sign on the north side (railroad track side) of Rosemary Street at Highland Avenue be removed. There was discussion about checking the light timing to see if that would alleviate backups and concern for vehicles making unsafe turns and pedestrians in the crosswalk. The motion was called to a vote and passed with 4 in favor and 3 opposed.

IV. OAK STREET/MAPLE STREET SIGNAGE

Ms. Stahl expressed concern about the intersection of Oak and Maple Streets. This is a two-way stop (Maple Street stops; Oak Street does not) but drivers may think it is a 4-way stop, similar to the nearby Oak/Linden intersection, and pull into oncoming traffic. Mr. Del Gaizo suggested that a traffic study be performed to see if a 4-way stop is warranted. If a 4-way stop is not warranted, Mr. Del Gaizo suggested putting tabs on the stop signs on Maple Street at Oak Street indicating a 2-way stop.

Action: It was moved and seconded that a traffic study be performed at Maple Street and Oak Street. The motion was called to a vote and passed unanimously.

V. BARRETT/FRANCES STREET SIGNAGE

Mr. Lee, Mr. Gallagher and Ms. Gowetski spoke to the committee about speed and traffic on Barrett Street in the Barrett/Francis Street neighborhood.

Action: It was moved and seconded that a traffic study be performed at Barrett Street and Francis Street. The motion was called to a vote and passed unanimously.

VI. FOLLOW UP REPORTS

The traffic counters have been placed on all four legs of the Tower Avenue/Paul Revere Road/Hoover Road intersection.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

The minutes from the January 13, 2010 TMAC meeting were accepted.

Action: It was moved and seconded that the minutes from the January 2010 meeting be accepted. The motion was called a vote and was passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2010.

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

Minutes compiled by: Rebecca Turner