

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting December 12, 2012
PSAB Charles River Room
MINUTES – Draft

IN ATTENDANCE

TMAC Members: Mark Rosen, Robert Meltzer, Robert Wilson, Anthony DelGaizo, Richard Merson, John Kraemer, Jeff MacMann

Guests: David Donato, Paula Shea, Malcolm Campbell, Deborah O'Toole, Arvind Palanisamy, Nick Tatar, Lisa Mesicek, Michael Maloney, Eric Monheimer, Stacy Gautier-Nelson, Stephen Adams, Jamie Wexler, Lawrence Marget, Tina Chin, Jane Evans, Matt Healey, Michael Matthias, Valerie Maio, Laure Nawrocki

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:15 PM by Proxy Committee Chairman Mark Rosen.

I. SIGNAGE/CROSSWALK AT THE HIGHLAND AVENUE/WEBSTER STREET INTERSECTION

Ms. Maio made a presentation to the Committee regarding the issue of pedestrian safety at the intersection of Highland Avenue and Webster Street. She was primarily concerned about right-turning vehicles on Webster Street northbound that do not yield to pedestrians crossing Highland Avenue on the “walk” signal. She is also concerned that the crosswalks at the intersection need to be repainted and that the pedestrian signal crossing times be increased. Mr. DelGaizo suggested that a “Stop for Pedestrians in Crosswalk” sign be installed on the same post that the existing “Right Turn on Red after Stop” is on. Also, Lt. Kraemer will ask the Needham Police to increase enforcement at this intersection. **The Committee recommended that the Needham DPW Highway Division install a “Stop for Pedestrians in Crosswalk” sign panel on the existing post that contains the existing “Right Turn on Red after Stop” sign panel and repaint the crosswalks at the intersection. Also, the Committee recommended that the Needham DPW Engineering Division investigate the pedestrian signal timing at the intersection.**

II. CROSSWALKS/SIGNAGE/SIGNALS ON GREAT PLAIN AVENUE NEAR OLIN WAY AND NORTH HILL AVENUE

Mr. Tatar made a presentation to the Committee regarding the issue of pedestrian safety on Great Plain Avenue near Olin Way and North Hill Avenue. He is concerned for the safety of schoolchildren and other pedestrians crossing Great Plain Avenue. He would like to have two crosswalks installed across Great Plain Avenue, one near Olin Way and one near North Hill Avenue. Mr. DelGaizo reported that there is sufficient sight distance for the installation of a crosswalk at Stockdale Road near Olin Way and 50 feet west of North Hill Avenue. Mr. DelGaizo noted that in order for flashing beacons to be

included as part of the crosswalk installation, pedestrian volume warrants would have to be met and that these installations cost \$12,000–\$15,000 per location. Mr. DelGaizo also noted that in order to install each crosswalk, geometric improvements including handicap ramps would have to be constructed. Following the discussion of the costs, Mr. Tatar asked to have the crosswalk installation near North Hill Avenue be given higher priority than the crosswalk installation near Olin Way. **The Committee recommended that the process of funding the installation of crosswalks and related construction improvements and signing along Great Plain Avenue at Stockdale Road and along Great Plain Avenue 50 feet west of North Hill Avenue be started.**

III. PARKING/SIGNAGE ON NOANETT RD

There was no discussion of this item due to the presenter being absent from the meeting. The Committee subsequently removed this item from future meeting agendas.

IV. SIGNAGE/CROSSWALK ON GREAT PLAIN AVENUE NEAR WHITING WAY

There was no discussion of this item due to the presenter being absent from the meeting. Also, the issue related this item is similar to the issue presented in item #2. The Committee subsequently removed this item from future meeting agendas.

V. TRAFFIC SAFETY ON CENTRAL AVENUE NEAR ROSEGATE ROAD

Mr. Palanisamy made a presentation related to traffic safety on Central Avenue near Rosegate Road. He is concerned about vehicle speeds on Central Avenue and the difficulty of exiting from Rosegate Road onto Central Avenue due to sight distance restrictions. He would like to have the convex mirror replaced that is located on the utility pole on Central Avenue opposite Rosegate Road. Lt. Kramer reported that there is no suitable location for the mobile speed monitor along this section of Central Avenue, however, he will ask that the Needham Police increase traffic enforcement in this area.

VI. OLD/OTHER BUSINESS

There was a follow-up discussion of item #8 from the November meeting (Central Avenue near the Walker School). Mr. Donato continued his presentation related to pedestrian safety on Central Avenue near the Walker School. Mr. Donato noted that he was made aware that a school zone cannot be established on Central Avenue in this area because there is no ~~sidewalk~~

crosswalk. Mr. Donato proposed an alternate solution involving the installation of “Slow School” signs, which he brought in samples of. Mr. DelGaizo offered an alternate solution which involved the installation of diamond-shaped “School” signs with speed tabs attached. **The Committee recommended that the Needham DPW Highway Division install diamond-shaped “School” signs with speed tabs on Central Avenue north and south of the Walker School.**

Lt Kraemer presented the Committee a list of overnight parking permit renewals. All permits were approved by the Committee with one exception, #77 Maple Street.

Mr. MacMann asked the DPW Engineering Division to investigate when the traffic study at the intersection of Bond Street and Washington Avenue was performed, as it relates to seasonal variations in traffic volume. Mr. MacMann also asked the DPW Engineering Division to bring to the next meeting a copy of the ADT/Peak Hour traffic volume diagram of the Town of Needham.

The meeting dates for the year 2013 were approved with the exception of the May 8th meeting which conflicts with the Annual Town Meeting.

The minutes from the November 2012 meeting were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM

Minutes compiled and summarized by Robert Wilson