

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of December 9, 2015 Meeting
Public Services Administration Building
Needham, MA

IN ATTENDANCE

TMAC Members: Jeff MacMann, Lt. John Kraemer, Ford Peckham, Glen Schneider, Tony DelGaizo, Mark Rosen, Donna Mullin, Stephen DeLisi

Guests: Walter Pansuk, Suzanne Stein, Larry Stein, Mia Stein, Sadie Stein, Melyssa Taylor, Libby Wachter, Carlyn Uyenoyama

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:05 PM by Mr. MacMann

I. INTERSECTION HILLSIDE AND WEST STREET

Mr. Pansuk reported having recently witnessed a serious accident at this intersection. While additional signage has been added on Hillside (blinking stop signs), his primary concern was with the speed of the traffic on West Street particularly going towards Central Avenue. Mr. DelGaizo explained that his suggestion for a stop sign or blinking yellow light was not practical since traffic would back up over the train tracks. **The Committee passed a motion** to conduct a (Lidar) speed study in both directions between Hillside and Crescent.

II. CROSSWALK ON GREAT PLAIN AND HILLCREST

Mr. Buckley presented his concerns to the committee regarding the visibility of the crosswalk across GPA from the Hersey station to Hazel's Bakery. He pointed to a combination of solar glare in the morning and inadequate street lighting after dark. He was exploring the possibility of installing a manually operated flashing LED light to illuminate the crosswalk when pedestrians are crossing. Prior to discussing any options, the **Committee passed a motion** to monitor the volume of pedestrian traffic at times when the train arrives. In addition to the town conducting its formal count, two TMAC members (Ms. Mullin and Mr. Peckham) volunteered to informally take counts for separate two hour shifts.

III. CROSSWALK, SIGNAGE AT CENTRAL AVENUE AND CEDAR ST.

Ms. Stein (supported by Eliot parents and her two children) made an elaborate presentation detailing what she perceives to be inadequate signage, traffic management, and other pedestrian safety measures near the Eliot School. Her presentation highlighted problems at the Central Avenue crosswalk (no signage, excessive speed, aggressive driving), the Cedar Street crosswalk (poor visibility, crossing guard issues) and the Webster Street crosswalk (visibility). Her proposal to address these concerns included a combination of flashing school signs, radar speed limit signs, green reflective crosswalk paint, curb extensions, pedestrian ahead and crosswalk signs

and flashing lights at the crosswalks. These remedies were discussed in the context of the criteria for having these intersections designated as part of an official school zone. The **Committee passed a multi-part motion** to address several of the items that could be remedied in the very short run. The motion included:

- Install “Pedestrian Crossing Ahead” and “Pedestrian Crossing” signs at all appropriate locations
- Repaint the crosswalks with cross hatching
- Investigate if the location meets the “1000 feet” criteria to be designated a “school zone”
- (If location can be designated a school zone), install appropriate “20 MPH” speed limit sign
- Follow up on status of a previously submitted “Safe Routes to School” application that may generate additional resources from the State

The availability of state funding would potentially allow the Committee to consider a broader set of remedies over a longer time horizon.

IV. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ON HUNTING ROAD

Mrs. Griffin was particularly upset over what she perceives as the Town ignoring her requests to install sidewalks in front of her home and crosswalks at Kendrick Street. Particularly with the added traffic and construction in recent months she feels that she is “imprisoned” and cannot even take her dogs for a walk. Multiple TMAC members explained that there was very little that the Committee could do particularly in light of the large scale construction project that is under way. Mr. DelGaizo did try to remind her that one of the long term goals of the new I95 exit at Kendrick St. was to reduce the volume of traffic on Greendale/Hunting Rd near her home. Mrs. Griffin was not satisfied with this explanation and plans to take her complaints to “higher authorities”.

V. MISCELLANEOUS OTHER BUSINSS

The Committee passed a motion to accept the minutes from the October meeting pending the correction of one typo.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Minutes compiled and summarized by Glen Schneider

Minutes submitted with summary of all TMAC follow-up items (separate attachment)