

Minutes
Traffic Management Advisory Committee
Wednesday, October 16, 2019
7:00 P.M.
Public Services Administration Building – Charles River Room
500 Dedham Avenue
Needham, MA
Adopted November 13, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stephen DeLisi; Seth Bauer; Justin McCullen; Donna Mullin; Susanne Stein; Anthony Del Gaizo, Town Engineer; Rhain Hoyland, Town Traffic Engineer; Lt. John McGrath; Robert Wilson, Traffic Liaison Engineer.

PUBLIC PRESENT: See TMAC Sign-In Form of October 16, 2019 attached

Stephen DeLisi, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

Vote: Justin McCullen moved to accept the Minutes for September 18, 2019. Seth Bauer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

2. OTHER BUSINESS/STATUS

Robert Wilson reported the following:

- Neihoiden Street at May Street Traffic Study – Completed. Results indicated speeds slightly above posted speeds.
- Manning Street and Gibson Street. – DPW Highway Division notified to install *1 Hour Parking* signs.
- Highgate Street at Arch Street/Rybury Hillway – Traffic Study completed. The car count at Highgate was 700 vehicles. Arch/Rybury was 425 vehicles. Results do not support a 4-way stop at the intersection.
- Central Avenue at Glover Road (Sunita Williams School) – *Do Not Enter* signs were installed.
- Warren Street between School and Junction Street – *2 Hour Parking* signs were installed.
- Crescent Road – Five *No Parking Here to Corner* signs were installed.

3. OTIS STREET BETWEEN WEBSTER AND MANNING STREETS – Speed Signage

PETITIONER: David Willett, 75 Otis Street

The item is rescheduled to the next meeting.

4. FIRST STREET – Signage

PETITIONER: Jonathan Krinsky, 300 First Avenue

Mr. Krinsky, property manager of Intrum Corporation, 300 First Avenue, reported that his tenants are having trouble exiting their driveway to First Street because of parking along the north side of First Avenue. He is looking for three *No Parking Here to Corner* signs. A member queried if relief could be provided with enforcement and ticketing.

Mr. DelGaizo reported that *No Parking* signs were recently installed on the opposite side of the street because Trip Advisor employees were parking along First Street and creating a safety issue. They selected the no parking side not only to provide more space on the street but also to prevent people from crossing the street after parking. Mr. DelGaizo suggested that painting triangles along the curve to guide people not to park so close to the curve as *No Parking Here to Corner* signs are only allowable on public corners and not private drives. *No Parking* Signs can be placed in front of a private business but it would apply to everyone, their customers and tenants included.

Vote: Mr. DelGaizo moved to request that the Highway Division paint 35 to 40 feet long and 8 feet wide triangles on the driveways along 300 First Avenue to guide the public not to park so close to the driveway. Mr. Bauer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

5. BORDER ROAD – Speed

PETITIONER: Nikita Hanley, 46 Border Road

Ms. Hanley stated that her neighborhood borders Nehoiden Street, Central and Great Plain Avenues. The neighborhood has 150 homes, 100 school age children and three bus stops. The area is a 30mph limit with a 20mph advisory limit. She collected over 50 signatures at a block party charging her to take efforts to address the speed issue in their neighborhood. She is requesting enforcement of the speed limit, signs restricting street access during commute hours, and *Stop* signs at Border and Abbott Roads. Mr. Hoyland reported that the Town is looking to redo the intersection, to align the intersection and introduce more green cycle time.

According to Mr. DelGaizo, a *Stop* sign was investigated for that corner but it did not meet the Warrant criteria. Curbing was installed which appears not to have resulted in improved traffic behavior. He informed the petitioner that restricting traffic to neighborhood vehicles during commute hours is unenforceable.

Vote: Mr. DelGaizo moved that a count and speed study be conducted on Border Road at 40-50 Border Road to gather speed information along the street. Mr. Bauer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

Vote: Mr. DelGaizo moved that the petitioner seek a petition from the neighborhood restricting turning movements during morning and evening commute hours period. Mr. Hoyland seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

Mr. DeLisi highlighted that the restriction would apply to all drivers including the neighbors. Ms. Hanley understood and was agreeable to seek the required signatures.

Vote: Mr. Hoyland moved that the Town hire an outside engineering consultant to study the incremental green cycle timing on Central Avenue and Great Plain Avenue. Mr. Bauer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

6. WARREN STREET AND GREAT PLAIN AVENUE – Signage

PETITIONER: Kimberly McCollum, 843 Great Plain Avenue

Ms. McCollum reported that there is a *No Parking from Here to Corner* affixed to a utility pole on Warren Street to no effect. Violators park there to avoid paying for the meters on Great Plain Avenue while attending the YMCA. Violators block visibility for those turning from Great Plain Avenue. Warren Street is a busy cut-through street to the High School. Warren Street is a restricted parking on one side only. Because it's so busy and narrow cars jockey to maneuver the street. With violators parking in the No Parking area, visibility to get onto the Warren is compromised. She requested that the *No Parking from Here to Corner* be placed further down the street to improve visibility from oncoming traffic. Rochelle Goldin, 68 Warren, supported the request.

Lt. John McGrath informed that there was one accident recorded at the corner.

Mr. DeLisi wondered why moving the sign would make violators comply with the law. The length of the *No Parking from Here to Corner* is set by law. To extend a no parking area the petitioner has to collect signatures. The petitioner requested to make the area in front of her home a *No parking* area for safety concerns. Mr. DelGaizo said that the petitioner needs to collect signatures supporting the request so that neighbors are informed that a parking space has been removed.

Vote: Mr. DelGaizo moved that Ms. McCollum provide a petition specifying the area of no parking requested on Warren Street. The petition shall include the people in the immediate area at a minimum two houses beyond the area requested and to submit it to the TMAC. Mr. Bauer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. McCollum requested that a parking directional sign to nowhere in front of 843 Great Plain Avenue be removed. She'd like it removed because it is of no use and it reflects light at night. Mr. Hoyland said that old signs directing public parking areas in the downtown are being removed by DPW and being replaced with new blue *P* directional signs. This effort is one proposed by the Council of Economic Advisors. Mr. DelGaizo will forward a map of the removal and placement locations with an illustration of the new sign to Ms. McCollum. Mr. Hoyland will do a site visit.

7. STEVENS ROAD – Signage

PETITIONER: Elizabeth Gallagher Ward, 50 Stevens Road

Ms. Ward is following up with the petition TMAC requested from her for speed limit signs (a 15mph was preferred) to be located along Stevens Road. She also requested painting the street with the speed limit. Mr. DelGaizo informed that speed limit signs are based on a required speed study set by state Warrant. Generally the speed study results in speed limit signs higher than those requested. But there is a local option of signs of 25mph and 35mph. However, the first step is to conduct a speed study.

Vote: Mr. DelGaizo moved to conduct a speed study at midpoint along Stevens Road between Great Plain Avenue and Harris Avenue. Mr. Bauer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved.**

The Status Report will be posted on the TMAC website sometime in October. The study will be conducted for a week. Mr. Hoyland said emotionally intelligence sign campaigns highlighting speeding in a school zone are effective and he suggested that Ms. Ward work with the school and Teacher/Parent Associations.

Ms. Ward requested enforcement presence for the area to Lt. McGrath. A member suggested a neighborhood effort to parallel park on the street to slow down traffic.

8. OAK STREET BETWEEN LINDEN AND CHESTNUT STREET –Speed

PETITIONER: Michelle Ripperger, Oak Street

Item tabled to next meeting.

9. PLEASANT STREET –Signage

PETITIONER: Shanna McClennen, 44 Pleasant Street

Ms. McClennen reported that there has been an increase in parking on her street by Needham Junction commuters to avoid the metered parking spaces and abutting *No Parking* and *2-Hour Parking* streets. She requested *No Parking 9am-3pm, Monday-Friday* signs for Pleasant Street.

Vote: Mr. DelGaizo moved that the petitioner conduct a petition of the neighborhood identifying the area to be designated as *2-Hour Parking Zone 9am-3pm, Monday-Friday*. Donna Mullin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

10. PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. DelGaizo reported that the Pedestrian Crossing consultant will be making a presentation of the findings of the Town Wide Pedestrian Safety Audit at the Select Board Meeting of November 12, 2019. Some recommendations include the adoption of 20 mph safety zones. This zone will be identified with solid green painted edge line to curbs. Mr. DelGaizo recommended that the TMAC watch the Select Board meeting on Needham Cable.

Electric Light Company from Maine was awarded the bid to install Rapid Retention Beeping Flashing Lights at eight locations plus the Eliot School for Spring of 2020. The funding was made through a \$200,000 grant from Rep. Denise Garlick.

Highland Avenue/Needham Street Corridor Improvement Project will begin in Spring of 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

September 18, 2019 - ~~Town Hall, Great Plain Room~~
Charles River Room, PSAB
500 Dedham
~~1471 Highland Avenue, Needham, Massachusetts~~

PLEASE SIGN IN

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PLEASE SIGN IN

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