

Minutes
Traffic Management Advisory Committee
Wednesday, November 9, 2022
7:00 P.M.
Charles River Room
Public Services Administration Building
500 Dedham Avenue
Needham, MA 02492
Livestreamed on Zoom Meeting ID #879-0218-5871
Adopted December 7, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Justin McCullen, Chair; Donna Mullin; Rhain Hoyland, Highway Superintendent; Bob Ciccolo; Guss Driessen; Tom Ryder, Town Engineer; Lt. John McGrath

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barry McNeilly; and Rebecca Tarantino

STAFF PRESENT: Tyler Gabrielski, Financial Analyst; Daphne Collins, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT: (See attached Sign-In Form)

1. INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

Mr. McCullen, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and Roll Call was taken.

2. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2022

Vote: Mr. Ciccolo moved to accept the Minutes of October 12, 2022. Ms. Mullin seconded the motion. Ayes: 5, Abstention 2: Mr. Ryder and Lt. McGrath.

3. OTHER BUSINESS/STATUS REPORT

Mr. Hoyland provided an update on the following projects:

- **Forest Street** -one of the solar speed signs is not operational. A work order has been placed for a hard-wired system for replacement which will take a month and a half. Mr. Hoyland estimates a one year waiting period for Verizon to activate the system.
- **Great Plain Avenue at Gleendoon Road and Maple Street** – draft plans were presented for the pilot program which is underway. Red plastic New Jersey barriers, bollards and double back signs for the barriers will be installed in a few days. A lighting contractor is looking into lighting options. Water was suggested to fill the barriers as it is easier to manage and has no disposal issues.
- **Highland Avenue at Town Hall**-draft plans were presented for the proposed safe crossing pilot. A sign “Do Not Block this Box” is proposed.
- **Harris and Dedham Avenues** – the complete-street state funded project has been completed. The RRFB has been installed.

- **Pickering Street at Stephen Palmer Apartments** – signs are in order to be installed next week.
- **Stop lines without Stop Signs** – Mr. McCullen was concerned about all the stop lines without Stop signs throughout Town and the need to be consistent. Lt. McGarth agreed that the inconsistency was problematic and unenforceable.
- **Country Way Split** – the painted stripping at the intersection has been completed. The more permanent island is scheduled for the summer.

4. MARK TREE ROAD - SPEEDING

PETITIONER: Stephanie Pedder, 107 Mark Tree Road

Ms. Pedder reported that speeding on Mark Tree Road made it unsafe for crossing the street and accessing the side of the street that has sidewalks. Ms. Pedder showed a video featuring her sons Hamilton and Shankly Pedder trying to cross and walk on Mark Tree Road to get to school. The side that is without sidewalk was unnavigable for pedestrians. She noted that cars pick up speed as they go downhill.

The road has a 25mph yellow sign. She was told that the yellow signs are for guidance only and are not enforceable. Mr. McCullen noted that the speed limits are set by the State and as a thickly settled area for an unmarked road the speed limit is 30mph. The black and white speed signs are the only enforceable signs.

Mr. Ciccolo asked if a speed study on the street had been conducted. He asked if there was enough width to bottleneck the street. Mr. Hoyland said the road's width is 24' wide and at its narrowest is 20'. Future improvements will make the width consistent. He reported that Mark Tree Road is planned for improvements and that funds for the design have been allocated and the street had been surveyed. The selection of a designer is pending.

Mr. McCullen suggested a *25mph with curve* sign be installed along with a radar speed sign. Ms. Pedder suggested that the now available solar speed sign from Forrest Street be deployed to Mark Tree Road.

Mr. Driessen inquired about sidewalks being installed. Mr. Hoyland responded that there are challenging grade and ledge issues which when removed for sidewalk improvements impact the integrity of the abutting residential structures.

Vote: Mr. McCullen moved to conduct a speed study at Mark Tree Road at Oakcrest Road; a 25mph with Curve speed be installed on the downhill side; and that the white fog line be evaluated. Ms. Mullin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

The Committee asked that the Pedders remove their personal safety signs when the speed study is conducted. Jennifer Reynolds, 159 Mark Lee Road, asked that the study be conducted when the RTS is open. She was assured that the study will be conducted for an entire week.

Alex Shapeton, 115 Mark Tree Road, was in support of the petitioner. He noted that because of speed it was difficult for him to exit his driveway. He was a proponent of locating a speed radar sign on the street.

Linda Delaney, 57 Mark Tree Road, said there was once a *No Trucks* sign on the street. She'd like to see a similar sign posted to exclude trucks from the street. Lt. McGrath responded that it is challenging to obtain approval from the State to exclude trucks from using a street. Staff will investigate whether there are records indicating whether Mark Lee Road was a truck excluded road.

5. SPRING ROAD - SPEED

PETITIONER: David Jordan, 67 Spring Street

Mr. Jordan was concerned about the traffic that was using Spring Road to avoid High Street and Webster Street intersections and speeding at 50mph. He would like speed bumps installed. He was told that the Town does not install speed bumps because they are problematic for snow removal and on Town snow removal equipment.

Lt. McGrath noted that it's hard to enforce sporadic drivers using the streets as cut throughs at high speed. Mr. Ciccolo thought a study would be good to determine the time of day of the occurrence. A "Do Not Enter" with a time period sign might be an effective deterrence.

Mr. Driessen suggested that neighbors park on the street to create a traffic calming effect.

Vote: Mr. Ryder moved to conduct a traffic study to determine volume, speed and type of vehicles. Mr. Ciccolo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

6. HUNTING ROAD AT DAVID ROAD AND SACHEM ROAD - CROSSWALKS

PETITIONER: Miryam Gafanovich, 8 David Road

Ms. Gafanovich reported that Hunting Road has sidewalks on only one side of the road. As a new mom walking with her child in a stroller it is difficult to cross the street to access the side with a sidewalk because of the speeding cars that are coming off the highway. She requested that crosswalks at David Road and Sachem Road be installed with signs with flashing lights.

Mr. Ciccolo identified sight issues on Hunting Road. Mr. Ryder was not sure the criteria to support a crosswalk could be met. Mr. Hoyland said there must be a safe location to support a crosswalk.

Lt. McGrath agreed that there were speed and sight issues on Hunting Road.

Mr. Ciccolo thought the situation would improve once the reconstruction of Highland Avenue is completed.

Ms. Gafanovich requested a *Children Area* sign.

Mr. McCullen thought speed enforcement was needed on Hunting Road. It's a fast commuter road with sight issues. He was concerned that people would not heed the signs. Lt. McGrath will look into enforcement presence on Huntington Road.

7. SECOND AVENUE – POOR VISIBILITY

PETITIONER: Lee Fallontowne, 300 Second Avenue

No show. Item to be continued to next month.

8. MARK TREE ROAD – CROSSWALK

PETITIONER: Wes Soper, 32 Mark Lee Road

No show. Item to be continued to next month.

9. PROCESS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF TMAC MEETINGS – COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Mr. McCullen open the discussion about possible improvements the TMAC could implement that would improve the Committee's effectiveness. Possible suggestions were:

- Designing frequently asked questions/answers to post on the website;
- Criteria for the allocation of radar speed signs; and
- Status Report Improvements.

Mr. McCullen charged the members to review the Status Report and make suggestions to bring to the next meeting.

10. DECEMBER MEETING DATE

vote: Mr. Cicollo moved to change the regularly schedule December 14, 2022 meeting to December 7, 2022 to accommodate Mr. McCullen who will be out of town. Ms. Mullin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:04p.m.



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

November 9, 2022 – Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room

500 Dedham Avenue, Needham, Massachusetts

PLEASE SIGN IN

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