

Town of Needham
Transportation Safety Committee

Minutes: April 10, 2024

Location: Forbes/McLeod Community Room, Public Safety Building, 88 Chestnut Street

Livestreamed on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88341769950>

ADOPTED MAY 15, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Guus Driessen, Tyler Gabrielski, Lt. John McGrath,
Barry McNeilly, Tom Ryder

MEMBERS ABSENT: Justin McCullen, Donna Mullin, Rebecca Tarantino

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Wilson

1. INTRODUCTION, ROLL CALL, CALL TO ORDER

At 7:01 p.m., T. Gabrielski called the meeting to order, took roll call, and disclosed the video recording.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2024

T. GABRIELSKI MOVED AND G. DRIESSEN SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2024.

VOTE: G. DRIESSEN, AYE; T. GABRIELSKI, AYE; J. MCGRATH, AYE; B. MCNEILLY, AYE; T. RYDER, AYE.

MOTION CARRIES: 5-0

3. OLD BUSINESS/ STATUS UPDATE REPORT - R. WILSON

PARISH RD. - VEHICLE SPEED/SIGNAGE ISSUE

- DPW Highway installed "S Curve" Warning signs on 4/9/24.

WEST ST. AND HILLSIDE AVE.

- "Do Not Stop on Tracks" Sign Regulation has been prepared for the 3/12/24 Select Board meeting

WEBSTER ST. AT MARK LEE RD. - NEW CROSSWALK

- Conduct a Survey investigation while contractor performs ADA compliance down the road
- Add a crossing to adjacent ramp on far side in addition to existing ramp (less time in roadway)
 - Crossing to contain block with high visibility, continental lines
- Add flashing crosswalk signage since it is close to the intersection

CHESTNUT ST. AT EMERSON RD. - POTENTIAL CROSSWALK

- The advance sign for the new crossing location may block sight of the bus stop sign

KIMBALL ST. AND WARREN AVE.

- B. Antonio requests to place permanent speed radar signs on Warren St. section south of Kimble St.
- DPW and T. Gabrielski evaluated for potential solar powered apparatus at locations:
 - Side lot of the corner of Kimball St. and Warren Ave.

- No line striping, no speed bumps

Members discussed possibility of making a ramp across Warren and Kimball with bump outs.

- Petitioner requested bump outs
- Signage placement would change with bump outs
- It is possible to begin with stanchions at the corner initially?

CHESTNUT ST. LOCATION OF CROSSWALKS AT WEBSTER ST. AND MARK LEE RD. AND CHESTNUT ST. AT EMERSON RD.

- DPW Engineering investigated mid-block crosswalks on Greendale Ave., Chestnut St. and Webster St. as well as installing "Pedestrian Crossing" warning signs on Chestnut St. near Emerson Rd.

- Per the new MUTCD, Manual On Uniform Traffic Control Devices, the Town may place the signs at this location.

SPEEDING ON HIGH ROCK, CROSSINGS AT WEBSTER ST./MARK LEE RD. AND CHESTNUT ST./EMERSON RD.

FALCON ST. AND BOND ST. - POTENTIAL CROSSWALKS

- Potential crosswalk, continental style, on the north side with appropriate signage

WASHINGTON ST. AND BANCROFT ST. - POTENTIAL CROSSWALKS

- Crosswalk on left side/west side of Bancroft St. (school roof side) across from Washington St. with appropriate signage
- Stick with the walking route, cross at the beginning

HIGH ROCK ST.

- Moved portable speed radar signs from High Rock St. to Brookline St.
 - Residents request DPW observe drivers speeding down the hill from the school
- Speed data collected will soon be reported
- After an observation period, signs will be redeployed to the Peacedale neighborhood
 - January petitioner complained that drivers cut through the neighborhood.

WEBSTER ST. PROJECT PRESENTED IN JANUARY

- J. McCullen and T. Gabrielski attended a neighborhood meeting.
- Recommendations were to collect baseline data prior to implementing traffic calming changes.
- Other speed radar equipment will be deployed to track speed data along the corridor.

CORNER OF ROSEMARY ST. AND WEBSTER ST. - BUMP OUT

- Residents do not want a crosswalk with flashing sign near their home
- The Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) is a necessary part of this plan.
- DPW is not comfortable just taking the sign out.
- The designer has not been briefed but plans will shortly be finalized.

4. MARY MAREFAT - STREET LIGHTING ON CONCANNON CIRCLE - NEW STREET LIGHT

The petitioner was not present. Members discussed the location history.

- A streetlight was requested at the end of the cul-de-sac.
- T. Ryder took night photos. There is a light at the intersection 200 feet from the cul-de-sac.
- He does not believe a light is necessary. He suggested increasing light intensity at Rosemary.
- A well-lit building abuts the cul-de-sac.
- Petitioner said Town plows back into the guardrail in the cul-de-sac.
 - The reason for this is not for lack of lighting but due to the tight turnaround for plows there.
 - One suggestion is to add reflectors to the guardrail.
- The cost to add a light at the cul-de-sac is \$8,500-\$9,000 with license and permit fees to Eversource.
- The Town's Streetlight Maintenance program will be short \$6,500 this year.

5. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION - TSC BUDGET AND POTENTIAL EXPENSE ITEMS

Members reviewed several years of TSC Budget accounting reports for comparison.

- The Fiscal year 2024 budget beginning 7/1/2023 is \$50,000 of which \$44,000 remains.
- The Fiscal year 2025 budget beginning 7/1/2024 will be an additional \$50,000.
- Funds do roll over from year to year but should be utilized.

Members discussed proposed items to consider purchasing with the \$44,000 balance:

- Ramp crossing at Webster St. - \$12,000 share
- Solar RRFB at Dedham Ave. - \$18,000
- Pair of portable radar signs - \$13,000
- Jersey barriers - \$400 each
- Pilot stanchions for Warren St. - \$???

DEDHAM AVE. PROJECT AT GEORGE AGGOTT RD. - POTENTIAL CROSSWALK

- The wired RRFB quote of \$22,000 with trenchwork for the conduit.
- A solar RFB would cost approximately \$18,000.
- Establish a crossing with signage.
- Decide whether the RRFB would be solar or wired.
- Physical improvements to consider: (speed analysis, counters, tubes, radar engineer)
- Split the cost of curbing

6. MATTERS NOT ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE MEETING - NONE

7. ADJOURNMENT - ROLL CALL VOTE

T. RYDER MOVED AND G. DRIESSEN SECONDED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:45 PM.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIES: 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Michaud
Recording Secretary

INFORMATIONAL: The Meeting Packet is available at <https://www.needhamma.gov/Archive.aspx>