

Town of Needham
Transportation Safety Committee

Minutes: May 15, 2024

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

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

ADOPTED JUNE 12, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Guus Driessen, Tyler Gabrielski, Justin McCullen, Barry McNeilly, Tom Ryder, Rebecca Tarantino

MEMBERS ABSENT: Donna Mullin, Lt. John McGrath

STAFF REMOTE: Robert Wilson

1. INTRODUCTION, ROLL CALL, CALL TO ORDER

At 7:04 p.m., J. McCullen called the meeting to order, took roll call, and disclosed the video recording.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2024

T. GABRIELSKI MOVED AND B MCNEILLY SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2024.

VOTE: G. DRIESSEN, AYE; T. GABRIELSKI, AYE; B. MCNEILLY, AYE; T. RYDER, AYE. **ABSTAINED** FOR THE REASON THEY WERE NOT PRESENT: J. MCCULLEN, R. TARANTINO

MOTION CARRIES: 4-0

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

BROOKLINE ST. NEAR MITCHELL SCHOOL - SPEEDING VEHICLES

- The traffic counter battery ran low on the eastbound side.
- Results of the traffic counter on the westbound side from Mitchell School toward Manning St. were 881 vehicles daily with 110 in the peak hour. Eighty-five percent of vehicles counted outside the School Zone from Dell St. to Bancroft St. traveled at average speed of 35 mph miles per hour down the hill toward Manning St.
- T. Gabrielski provided context. Google maps shows the speed posted at 40 mph on Brookline St.
- Members discussed:
 - The GPI Study
 - "Opting in" to a street by street speed limit versus Townwide 25 mph speed limit with exception
 - Regulatory signage versus Advisory signage, Thickly Settled signage
 - Safety Zones in school areas 24 hours per day, 7 days weekly versus hourly School Zones
- DPW Engineering discussed doing a Safety Zone at Webster St.
- **ACTION:** Check the Waze maps application to verify the speed limit.
- **ACTION:** Verify with the Select Board what was already decided.
- **ACTION:** J. McCullen will email members the GPI Study for review.
- **ACTION:** Members agreed to assemble a package of requirements and a process timeline by the June meeting to present a preliminary list of streets to the Select Board by the September meeting which will be implemented thereafter.
- The public will be informed by neighborhood meetings.

PEACEDALE RD., INTERVALE RD. VALLEY RD. NEIGHBORHOOD - SPEEDING VEHICLES

- A Study conducted north and southbound from Great Plain Ave. revealed 85% of average speeds of 27 and 26 mph respectively for less than 500 vehicles. The Study did not support speeding.
- Highway accidents increased traffic delays during one particular hour of the day with traffic spilling over to this neighborhood.
- **ACTION:** J. McCullen will notify the Petitioner the Study did not support speeding vehicles; the traffic will be recounted at a new location.

- **ACTION:** DPW Highway will do a recount of traffic at a new location beyond Intervale St.

WEBSTER ST. AT MARK LEE RD NEAR CIMINO RD. - NEW CROSSWALK

- DPW Highway presented concept plans to the committee for review.
- The crosswalk will be relocated to the south and more perpendicular to the road.
- DPW will confirm there are no driveways or fire hydrants in the vicinity.

GREENDALE AVE. NEAR CIMINO RD. - CROSSWALK

- Members discussed considering a bumpout west of Cimino Rd. with signage for this location.
- The water main will be updated on Greendale Ave. This work would follow the water project.
- **ACTION:** T. Gabrielski will notify the Petitioner of the plan.

GREAT PLAIN AVE. AND STOCKDALE RD.

- Members discussed the placement of bollards in the middle of the road. They are getting hit and need to be replaced periodically. Crosswalk upgrades still to be done.

KIMBALL ST. AND WARREN AVE.

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

Members discussed making a ramp or crosswalk across Warren and Kimball with bump outs and tie in curb extensions and other ramp upgrades in advance of paving.

- To be modeled next spring 2025
- Signage placement would change with bump outs
- **ACTION:** Members will develop a process that includes prioritizing one project over another for budgeting purposes.
 - Members discussed the process for which streets qualify as priorities.

BANCROFT ST., BOND ST. AND FALCON ST. - POTENTIAL CROSSWALKS

- Potential crosswalk, continental style, on the north side with appropriate signage
- **ACTION:** R. Wilson will request the crosswalks.

WEST ST. AND HILLSIDE AVE.

- "Do Not Stop on Tracks" Sign Regulation has been prepared for the next Select Board meeting.
- New traffic configuration with stop signs and new tabs

GOULD ST. AND KEARNEY RD. INTERSECTION - SIGHT LINE ISSUE

- Vehicles park in the street at the school.
- A stop line and stop sign across the street were to be added.
- **ACTION:** R. Wilson will double-check that a regulation for the stop does exist.
- **ACTION:** T. Gabrielski will contact the daycare to discuss:
 - Notifying parents not to park there
 - Cutting back or removing the tree causing the sight line issue.

At 8:29 pm, R. Wilson left the meeting.

4. TAL DIBNER, DINA ITKIN - CROSSINGS AT HUNNEWELL ST. NEAR SUDBURY PATH, ARDMORE RD.

The petitioner was not present.

- T. Ryder has arranged to present to the Wellesley TSC Needham traffic improvements at this locale.

5. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION - TSC BUDGET AND POTENTIAL EXPENSE ITEMS

- 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 \$100,000.
- Funds do roll over from year to year but should be utilized.

Members discussed a path and budget for Pilots to mature from Studies to permanent structures especially in the Town Center at Maple and Linden. The design will be scoped out in the summer of 2025 with project construction in 2026. Residents and businesses will be able to add input.

- Solar RRFB for George Aggott crosswalk - \$16,000
- Jersey barriers at Great Plain Ave. near Pickering - \$500 each
- Diamond pushbutton, crosswalk sign at Rosemary Complex - \$8,700
- Crosswalk across Webster at Mark Lee - \$15,000
- Additional portable, speed radar signs
- 3 pairs Jersey barriers, DeFazio - \$3,000 each

R. TARANTINO MOVED AND G. DRIESSEN SECONDED TO APPROVE ALL ITEMS LISTED FOR THE TSC BUDGET AND POTENTIAL EXPENSES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PORTABLES FED OUT OF THE EXISTING ALLOCATION.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

6. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION - VICE-CHAIR POSITION

- J. McCullen accepted a seat on the Planning Board. Members discussed adding a resident member
- **ACTION:** At the next meeting, members will vote on the Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

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

8. ADJOURNMENT - VOTE

R. TARANTINO MOVED AND G. DRIESSEN SECONDED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:04 PM.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Michaud
Recording Secretary

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