

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 14, 2012 Meeting
Public Services Administration Building
Needham, MA
DRAFT

IN ATTENDANCE

TMAC Members: Thomas Stokes, Lt. John Kraemer, Jeffrey MacMann, Tony DelGaizo
Robert Wilson, Glen Schneider, Robert Meltzer, Richard Merson, Mark Rosen

Guests: Chris Lhulier

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. INTERSECTION, CROSSWALK, SPEED, SIGNAGE AT LINDEN, GREAT PLAIN, WASHBURN, POST OFFICE

The Committee resumed a preliminary discussion of this intersection that was deferred in February until the complainant was present. Using an enlarged photo, Mr. Lhulier, review the array of issues that contribute to his concern that this is a particularly danger intersection. These included: 1) Vehicles ignoring the private (unenforceable) sign and exiting left out of the Post Office driveway; 2) West-bound drivers on GP feeling pressured by traffic volume to hurry their left turn on to Linden; 3) Narrowing of west-bound lane of GP before Washburn often preventing vehicles from passing on the right around cars making a left turn; 4) Extremely high volumes of traffic in the morning generated by the High Rock school drop-off; 5) High volume of pedestrian traffic at commuter hours and weekends. The **Committee passed a motion** to have the Public Works Department engineers develop a series of preliminary sketches that will allow for a continued set of discussions about feasible traffic management options. Sketches may include (among others): 1) striping/curbing that will channel traffic to the right out of the Post Office; 2) New exit from Post Office on to Linden Street; 3) Re-striping of GP (West bound) to allow for a dedicated left turn lane at Linden. The Committee also recommended that DPW check the speed limit sign to be sure it is appropriately placed and determine if there are any warrants/regulations supporting the turn restriction sign exiting the Post Office.

II. PHASE THREE OF WEBSTER STREET RECONSTRUCTION

Mr. Merson provided a brief update on a community meeting held to discuss the third phase of the reconstruction/repaving of Webster Street from Highland Avenue to High Street. Topics discussed included a general update on the project, speed and volume of traffic, traffic management at the Temple, options for parking near Avery, use of line striping and vertical curbing. The meeting was also used to provide a preliminary introduction to the bicycle “sharrows” that will be more formally discussed at a separate meeting open to all Webster Street residents.

III. MEETING TO PRESENT BICYCLE MARKINGS ON WEBSTER STREET. After reviewing several calendar options, the Committee confirmed its original plan to use the April TMAC meeting as the forum for presenting the bicycle markings (i.e., sharrows) to the Webster

Street community. It was agreed that Needham Bikes would run the meeting. Mr. Merson also noted that the flyers announcing the meeting had been printed and simply needed a date added. In addition, he noted that the proposed meeting encountered no negative feedback from the Board of Selectman. Needham Bikes will distribute the flyers prior to the April 11th meeting to be held at the PSA building

IV. UPDATE ON “COMPLETE STREETS” WORKSHOP

Mr. Merson confirmed that the Town of Needham had been approved to host the MassDOT workshop on the “Complete Streets” concepts and design tools. Twenty slots are being held for Needham participants from for instance, the TMAC or DRT. Registration is available on line for the three hour course to be held on April 5, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Minutes compiled and summarized by Glen Schneider