

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 13, 2013 Meeting
Public Services Administration Building
Needham, MA
DRAFT

IN ATTENDANCE

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

Guests: Kathleen Leahy, William Hastings, Carol McKee, Elizabeth Paulson, Cynthia Lingley,
Ilene Effenson

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. SPEED, SIGNAGE ON GREENDALE BETWEEN NEVADA AND ROSALIE

Mr. Hastings reviewed his concerns about the speed with which traffic is negotiating the complex set of intersections where Greendale bends left and Hunting Road begins. At this point cars are entering a more “thickly settled” stretch of Greendale with insufficient signage. Specifically, he pointed out that the existing “Slow Children” sign is faded and illegible and there are no speed limit signs. **The Committee passed a motion** to replace the “Slow Children” sign and install a 25 MPH speed tab advisory on the same sign post.

II. CROSSWALK, SPEED ON GREENDALE AVENUE AT INTERVALE ROAD

Ms. Lingley presented her concerns about vehicles ignoring pedestrians looking to cross Greendale in the crosswalk at Intervale. This is despite the presence of neon green signs (one in each direction) warning of the upcoming crosswalk. While she acknowledged that it is not a heavy pedestrian area, there are a number of walkers and St. Sebastian’s students who are affected. **The Committee passed a motion** to place a free-standing “Yield to Pedestrians” sign in the middle of the crosswalk this spring. This would remain in place during the good weather and removed in the winter.

III. SIGNAGE, TRUCK TRAFFIC ON NEHOIDEN

Ms. Leahy returned to the TMAC meeting for the fourth time to express her frustration with the pace of her request for a truck exclusion on Nehoiden Street. Mr. DelGaizo, reviewed the process of State approval in considerable depth in an effort to assure Ms. Leahy that the town is following established procedures and timetables. In addition, he provided an update on the status of the request package that is being prepared for submission to the MassDOT. While the request could be submitted in its current form, Mr. DelGaizo explained that it would inevitably generate questions regarding plans to redirect (or eliminate) truck traffic arriving at Nehoiden via Parish Road. To preemptively head off this question (and further slowdown of a possible approval), the Town is planning to conduct a traffic study on Parish Road in order to help address this issue in a

single comprehensive submission to Mass DOT. The TMAC informally voiced support for this approach.

IV. CROSSWALK ON HIGHLAND NEAR 1072 HIGHLAND

Ms. Paulson's presentation emphasized the lack of any crosswalks on a busy stretch of Highland Avenue between the Library and West Street. This stretch of Highland Ave. has heavy pedestrian traffic from NHS as well as the school and MBTA bus stops at Dana Place. To cross safely often requires that pedestrians walk several blocks out of the way to use a crosswalk. Mr. DelGaizo explained the various factors that must be in place in order to consider installing a crosswalk. **The Committee passed a motion** to conduct a study to determine the feasibility and an appropriate location for installing a crosswalk somewhere between Rosemary and West Street.

V. SPEED SIGNAGE ON GOULD/NOANETT, BOWER/EVELYN/WEBSTER

Ms. Effenson presented problems associated with Evelyn Road being used as a cut through from Gould to Webster. The most pressing aspect of the situation is the speed with which drivers approach a sharp and nearly blind curve at the base of the "horseshoe" on Evelyn road. Visibility is limited and has gotten more restricted with the construction of a fence and (lately) with piles of snow. Her initial hope was to have TMAC consider the use of speed bumps. Mr. DelGaizo explained several reasons why that was not a practical or viable solution. The TMAC engaged in a discussion regarding the feasibility of installing a "Sharp Curve" sign within 200-300 feet of the approaching bend. While Ms. Effenson agreed to have the sign installed in front of her house, the TMAC recommended that she get the immediate neighbors' approval for the plan. Ms. Effenson plans to return to a subsequent TMAC meeting with the necessary support.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS.

The Committee passed motions to:

Approve the revised minutes from the January, 2013

Attach a copy of the Status Update Summary (status of previous cases) to the minutes of the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Minutes compiled and summarized by Glen Schneider