

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

IN ATTENDANCE

TMAC Members: Jeffrey MacMann, Lt. John Kraemer, Rick Merson
Glen Schneider, Tony DelGaizo, Tom Stokes, Bob Wilson, Robert Meltzer,

Guests: Sonia Pansuk, Pat Day, Gerard Batchelder, Mat Leibman, Daniel White

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. TEMPORARY CROSSWALK ON DEDHAM AVENUE

Ms. Day came to the TMAC to express her support for the temporary crosswalk that spans Dedham Ave at the “travel building” downtown. The crosswalk has been installed and is being maintained by the construction firm who closed the local sidewalk due to apartment construction. She would like to see the crosswalk become permanent because she perceives that it slows down vehicle traffic as they approach GPA. Subsequent discussion raised the possibility that the slowdown and caution may be due to the surrounding construction rather than the crosswalk itself. Ms. Day and the Committee agreed that any decisions about this particular crosswalk must be made in conjunction with the larger downtown development plan. Ms. Day agreed to continue to update the TMAC from her vantage point as a pedestrian and business owner in the area.

II. SPEED, SIGNAGE-BORDER ROAD AND NEHOIDEN STREET

Ms. Pansuk described the situation on Border Road which combines an increase in vehicle traffic and speed in a neighborhood that has seen considerable growth in families with young children and dog walkers. She was particularly concerned about the 4:00-7:00 PM period. The TMAC is aware of this situation and noted the previous installation of a speed tab and the past use of the speed board on Border Road. The **Committee passed a motion** for the DPW to deploy the traffic tubes to conduct a vehicle speed study (tubes south of Paine Road) and a vehicle count (tubes north of Meredith Street).

III. SIGNAGE, DALE STREET

Mr. Batchelder expressed concern over the impact of the housing construction on Dale Street. Specifically, there is no longer a driveway across from his driveway which means he cannot back out of his driveway without driving on his lawn if there are cars parked across the street. He claims that this situation exists when he leaves for work at 6:00 AM as there are already vehicles parked across the street. While many cars and trucks belong to early arriving construction worker, others may be parking illegally overnight. Lt. Kraemer agreed to put a note in the patrol log to monitor this street and tag as needed for overnight parking. Mr. Batchelder also agreed to

monitor the situation to see if it eases when the construction wraps up in its current location and shifts to lots around the corner.

IV. SIDEWALK ACCESS: LIVINGSTON CIRCLE TO DEDHAM AVE.

Mr. Leibman, speaking on behalf of other Livingston Circle residents, described the need to improve walking access to Dedham Ave. by constructing a sidewalk along South Street. While it is only a short stretch of road, Mr. Merson noted the challenge of adding a sidewalk since South Street (and Charles River Road) are designated as scenic routes. This adds to the complexity of removing or trimming trees that may be in the way. As an alternative, the Committee discussed the possibility of linking Livingston Circle via a pathway or trail to the “All Persons” Trail currently being plan around the reservoir. The plan would entail creating a “stub” from Livingston circle that would be connected to the trail when constructed. Mr. Leibman was advised to make contact with Patty Carey from the Parks and Recreation Department to discuss the feasibility of an easement through one of the lots that would ultimately connect with town property.

V. BICYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE ON GREENDALE AND GPA

Mr. White approached the TMAC to discuss bicycle markings and signage on Greendale and Great Plain Avenues. These two major roadways were featured in the original Needham bike plan of 2000 as well as the revised plan that is currently in progress. Mr. Del Gaizo explained that these two roadways have enough shoulder width to accommodate edge striping for bicycles but will only be marked by “Needham Bikes” signposts rather than markings on the lane itself. The five year paving plan will continue to incorporate edge striping and will connect with the bicycle markings planned for Kendrick Street. Mr. White’s interest in more street signs as well as street markings was discussed but was determined to be in need of additional detail. The TMAC asked Mr. White for specifics on how many additional Needham Bikes signs were needed, where they would be placed, how much they would cost and how they were being funded? The Committee also asked Mr. White for examples of the types of street markings he would like TMAC to consider for use.

VI. OTHER

-Mr. Merson updated the Committee on his intention to revise and update the TMAC pamphlet and FAQs.

-The Committee discussed the value of sending out scanned map sections either with the monthly package or by e-mail just prior to the meeting.

-The **Committee passed a motion** to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Minutes compiled and summarized by Glen Schneider

Minutes submitted with summary of all TMAC follow-up items (separate attachment)