

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of January 8, 2014 Meeting
Public Services Administration Building
Needham, MA

IN ATTENDANCE

TMAC Members: Jeffrey MacMann, Anthony Del Gaizo, Lt. John Kraemer, Richard Merson, Glen Schneider, Robert Meltzer, Donna Mullin, and Mark Rosen.

Technical Advisor: Bob Wilson.

Guests: Jill Slye, Steve Prokesch, and David Gotthelf.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:02 PM by Mr. MacMann.

I. Crosswalk at Highland Avenue and Hunnewell Street.

Ms. Slye is concerned about pedestrian safety for those in the crosswalk at the Highland Ave./Hunnewell St. intersection in Needham Heights. She personally has nearly been struck multiple times when a vehicle will stop to let her cross in the crosswalk, but another vehicle will attempt to drive around on the right of the stopped vehicle. The vehicle attempting to drive around the stopped car cannot see her or the pedestrians because the stopped vehicle blocks them from view. A letter of support was received from the Carter Memorial United Methodist Church detailing their concerns, especially since scores of children are enrolled in the Church's schools. Although a four-way crosswalk is currently installed, the non-square design of the intersection creates wide corners that give cars an opportunity to drive around stopped vehicles. **The Committee passed a motion** to install diamond pedestrian warning devices with arrows on the northwest and northeast corners of the intersection (in front of the Carter Church and the Suites of Needham townhouse development) to notify traffic of the possibility of pedestrians.

II. Intersection of Parish Road, Meadowbrook Road, and Nehoiden Street.

Mr. Prokesch reported that vehicles frequently drive above the speed limit on Nehoiden Street in the vicinity of Parish Road and Meadowbrook Road, making that a dangerous intersection. Further, after a snowfall, a large snow pile is frequently left on the island at that intersection, limiting visibility. Mr. Prokesch recommended a four-way stop sign be installed. The Committee explained to Mr. Prokesch the warrant requirements for a four-way stop sign, which is that a similar traffic flow is required on both legs of the intersection. However, Mr. Prokesch acknowledged that the traffic flow on Nehoiden Street is probably much higher. Thus, the warrant cannot be met. Regarding the snow piles, Mr. Prokesch was informed that the Town will remove areas of obstruction as fast as possible following a storm, and that he can notify the DPW of such an obstruction as to ensure its timely removal. Regarding speeding on Nehoiden Street, Mr. Prokesch was informed that the actual speed limit on that road is 30 MPH. Although police patrol and observe on Nehoiden Street already, the police presence can be increased. Further, the Needham Police Department will check the signage on the road to verify if any advisory signs are currently installed.

III. Intersection of Marked Tree Road and Oak Street/Perry Drive.

Mr. Gotthelf reported that vehicles travel at a very fast speed on Marked Tree Road, which is concerning given the number of children in the area. He was wondering if anything can be done such as a stop sign, raised speed tables, or electronic speed boards. Mr. Gotthelf acknowledged that the warrant for a stop sign probably cannot be met due to uneven traffic flows. He was informed that the mobile speed board was recently destroyed in an accident, and the Police Department is unsure if and when another speed board will be purchased. Should another one be acquired, the Police Department will add this area to the placement list. The Committee also informed Mr. Gotthelf that raised speed tables are problematic for a variety of reasons, that none have been installed by the town, and that the Town of Dover recently removed some that they had previously installed after receiving noise complaints from neighbors.

IV. Other Business

- Ms. Mullin brought to the attention of the Committee the Highland Avenue/May Street/Chapel Street intersection. In particular, westbound May Street traffic finds itself in a dangerous and confusing situation when trying to take a left onto either Highland Ave. or Chapel St. due to the oncoming eastbound May Street traffic. **The Committee passed a motion** to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that a regulation be drafted for a five (5) second delayed/advanced green light (advance eastbound traffic and delay westbound traffic) for May Street at the intersection of Highland Avenue and Chapel Street. Two committee members dissented, wanting the Town to conduct a traffic study prior to drafting a regulation.
- **The Committee passed a motion** to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2013 meeting incorporating the following change: under item I, modify the second sentence to say, "Other houses on this road between Kingsbury and May Streets have blacktop over the berm."
- Lt. Kraemer informed the Committee that the mobile speed board was recently destroyed following a vehicle accident. Although a small amount of money was recouped from the insurance company, it is not enough to purchase a new speed board.
- Mr. Merson distributed information from the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization regarding their public outreach campaign.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Minutes compiled and summarized by Robert Meltzer.