

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

IN ATTENDANCE

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

Technical Advisor: Bob Wilson.

Guests: Dora Manghis, Ron Cronin, Alison Leschinski, and Alan Pisano.

Call to Order

The meeting was convened at 7:00 PM by Mr. MacMann.

I. Intersection, Signage at Intersection of West Street and Hillside Avenue:

Ms. Manghis presented her concern about the large number of accidents at the West Street/Hillside Avenue intersection. In particular, the problem is that motorists stopped on Hillside Avenue do not see vehicles on West Street coming up the hill towards Highland Avenue and proceed into the intersection. Exacerbating the problem is that sightlines may be blocked by a stone wall and hedges on the property abutting this intersection. Ms. Manghis was informed that the Department of Public Works is already looking into the issue. They have considered a flashing intersection beacon, but determined that the simpler and more cost effective solution is to use flashing LEDs mounted on standard street signs. Currently, the DPW is pursuing this option. The Committee and Ms. Manghis determined that the traffic which would benefit most from a warning is traffic heading up the hill on West Street. **The Committee passed a motion** to have the DPW conduct a traffic study at the West Street/Hillside Avenue intersection, to install a yellow warning sign on West Street eastbound prior to Hillside Avenue if one does not currently exist in that vicinity, to investigate the viability of installing flashing LEDs on that warning sign and install them if available, and to survey the corner clearance at that intersection.

II. Speed on Sylvan Street/High Rock School:

Mr. Cronin presented his concerns about the design of the bus entry, the parking areas, and the roadways at High Rock School. In particular, the roundabout in which buses drop off students at this school is poorly designed and causes a backlog of buses. This backlog has caused buses to resort to backing up in an attempt to exit or park on Ferndale Road, which causes a safety concern because children walk to school in this vicinity and a bus monitor is not always available to safely back up the buses. Part of this problem could be solved by redesigning the bus drop-off area so that buses do not block each other in. In addition, some "no parking" signs are faded and unreadable, and on occasion individuals will park their privately owned vehicles in the bus roundabout, blocking the way. Although Mr. Cronin presented other concerns and ideas on how to solve the problem, the Committee noted that it was limited in regards to school property, which is under the purview of the School Committee. The Committee informed Mr. Cronin that the Town was aware that the bus roundabout at High Rock School may not conform to state standards, and has already put in a request to the engineering firm that designed the roundabout

to ensure that it meets school safety guidelines. In addition, the Department of Public Works has already received a request to replace the faded signs at the school.

III. Speed on Paul Revere Road:

Ms. Leschinski presented her concerns about speeding on Paul Revere Road, and came to the Committee to seek advice on speed calming solutions. It was noted that there is some police presence in the area, that speeding vehicles appear to come mostly from the Tower Avenue/Lindbergh Avenue area, and that there is currently a pedestrian sign at Lindbergh Avenue. It was determined that the best course of action is to conduct a speed study and then evaluate solutions based upon its results. **The Committee passed a motion** to conduct a speed study in the vicinity of # 157 Paul Revere Road.

IV. Speed on Brookline Street and Falcon Street (not on agenda):

Mr. Pisano returned to the Committee to follow up on his petition from September 10, 2014. In particular, he sought the Committee's advice on what traffic calming devices would be appropriate for Brookline Street in the area of the Falcon Street intersection. The Committee relayed that it does not see any option besides granite curbing for that stretch of Brookline Street given that road's status as a collector road. **The Committee passed a motion** to request that the DPW add granite curbing to Brookline Street between Bancroft Street and Falcon Street (note: this motion modifies the motion from September 10, 2014). In addition, the Committee agreed to ask DPW to check the warrants for an intersection control beacon and determine if one could be placed in this area. Mr. Pisano agreed to talk to the neighborhood about such a beacon.

V. Other Business:

- **The Committee passed a motion** to approve parking passes for 43A Central Avenue and 43 Maple Street.
- **The Committee passed a motion** to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2014 meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Minutes compiled and summarized by Robert Meltzer.