

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 14, 2015 Meeting
Public Services Administration Building
Needham, MA

IN ATTENDANCE

TMAC Members: Lt. John Kraemer, Rick Merson, Ford Peckham, Glen Schneider, Tony DelGaizo, Mark Rosen (Acting Chair), Donna Mullin, Stephen DeLisi

Guests: Joseph Cargile, Joshua Siegel, Robin Sjostram, Anne Wilkinson, Joe Gibson, Anne Finucane, Matt Smith, Adena Smith, Kim Turisi, Kelly Faggiano, Kevin Keane, Angel Machesei, Laura Weisman

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. CROSSWALK AT PINEWOOD/GREAT PLAIN/GREENWOD

Ms. Finucane reviewed her concerns with the visibility of the crosswalk connecting Pinewood and Greenwood crossing GPA. She feels that it is particularly problematic for kids leaving Pollard after the crossing guard has left. **The Committee passed a motion** to install two pairs of “Pedestrian Crossing Ahead” and “Pedestrian Crossing” signs at the appropriate distances from the cross walk on both sides of GPA.

II. INTERSECTION OF DAMON AND TANGLEWOOD

Ms. Wiseman made a return visit to TMAC to request an update on a past investigation of this intersection. Mr. DelGaizo explained that the current sight lines do not meet the “obstruction” warrant that would permit the placement of stop signs on Damon. However, he explained that the application of “engineering judgment” would permit stop signs since the intersection is a school bus stop. **The Committee passed a motion** to install stop signs on Damon Road. The motion also included the installation of a bus stop sign.

III. SPEED AND SIGNAGE ON BIRCH

Ms. Lazarova explained a unique situation on Birch Street in which (for reasons that are unclear) many cars mistakenly turn into this dead end street and then have to turn around. In their haste to resume their travel, they are prone to speeding. In her estimation this is particularly problematic since the street has a large number of young kids who play outside. **The Committee passed a motion** to conduct a traffic study (volume, speed, vehicle type) at 12 Birch. Lt Kramer also agreed to examine existing signage at the entrance of the street to determine if it was faded or obstructed.

IV SIGNAGE ON FAIRLAWN

Mr. Siegel explained that many drivers mistakenly think that Fairlawn is a parallel through route option running between Manning and Webster. He was confident that the situation would be rectified (which included an instance when a tractor-trailer that had to back out) with an appropriately placed “Dead End” sign. **The Committee passed a motion** to install a “Dead End” sign at the beginning of Fairlawn.

V. SPEED, SIGNAGE ON LEXINGTON AND BURNSIDE

Ms. Deitert explained her concerns about the increased volume of traffic on Lexington and the hazard it creates particularly at Burnside where there are no sidewalks. She was exploring the possibility of making this intersection a four way stop. **The Committee passed a motion** to conduct a traffic study (volume, speed, vehicle type) to determine if the warrants are met. The Committee also agreed to determine if a replacement “Go Slow Children” sign was needed.

VI. INTERSECTION OF WEBSTER AND HIGH

Mr. and Mrs. Smith reviewed the tendency of drivers to “slide” through the intersection while making a right from Webster to High. The situation is exacerbated by the “rounded” or “curved” configuration of the corner itself. The tendency to continue without coming to a full stop on red also makes it difficult for them to back out of their driveway. Mr. DelGaizo explained that the corner did not meet the warrants for a “No Right Turn on Red” sign. In deference to the circumstances described however, **the Committee passed a motion** to install a “Right Turn On Red After Stop” sign.

VII. INTERSECTION OF MAY AND WEBSTER

Ms. Torrisi provided an extended explanation of what she sees as two major problems with the crosswalk at May and Webster. First, she felt that the crosswalk was in the wrong location since it forced kids crossing the street to monitor traffic on Webster as well as cars turning left from May to Webster. The second issue she raised is visibility with insufficient warning given to drivers that they are approaching the crosswalk. This general visibility issue is exacerbated by the unfortunate placement of the utility pole that tends to shield kids from the view of drivers. **The Committee passed a motion** to install two pairs of “Pedestrian Crossing Ahead” and “Pedestrian Crossing” signs at the appropriate distances from the cross walk on both sides of Webster. The motion also included a recommendation to increase the visibility of the crosswalk by repainting it with a cross-hatched pattern.

VIII. SIGNAGE ON PARKER ROAD

Mr. Kassel made a return appearance to bring a petition in support of a “Children Playing” sign on Parker Road when entering from Richdale. **The Committee passed a motion** to install the “Children Playing” sign in front of 168 Richdale. Mr. Kassel expressed his desire to have neighborhood input on the exact placement and angling of the sign.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee passed a motion to accept the minutes from the September meeting pending the completion of one sentence.

The Committee stayed after adjournment to informally meet with two Olin College students who were observing the meeting as part of their “Capstone” project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Minutes compiled and summarized by Glen Schneider

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