

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of September 14, 2016 Meeting
Public Services Administration Building
Needham, MA

IN ATTENDANCE

TMAC Members: Jeff MacMann, Lt. John Kraemer, Ford Peckham, Glen Schneider, Tony DelGaizo, Mark Rosen, Donna Mullin, Stephen DeLisi, Bob Wilson

Guests: Joseph Kambourakis, Dana Devereux, Rick Devereux, Evan Wells, Helena Bialski, Scott Livingston, Heather Horan, Sally Theran, Rachael Susan Guzelian, Danial Maw, Kerry Hurwitch

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. SIGNAGE ON BOBSLED DR. AND BOOTH STREET

Ms. Bialski explained what she felt to be a dangerous set of conditions at the corner of Bobsled Drive and Booth Street where there is a sharp turn at the bottom of the hill. She explained that the speed of the vehicles going down the hill coupled with over 30 kids living on the street is a very dangerous combination. Neighbors have taken to actively parking their cars towards the middle of the street to force traffic to slow down. The **Committee passed a motion** to conduct a traffic study (speed and volume) at the corner to determine if conditions are being met for a stop sign.

II. SPEED ON FOREST STREET

Mr. Devereux gave a detailed description of incidents on Forest Street result from a curvy, poorly lit, poorly marked, and narrow (no sidewalks) section near Volante Farms. He recounted a long history of incidents resulting in skids, broken fences and mail boxes being knocked down. Most importantly, he emphasized it was a very dangerous section for pedestrians. He asked the TMAC to consider a range of options including more lighting, more signage, lower speed limit and granite curbing. Mr. DelGaizo explained that Forest St. may benefit from two ongoing efforts that are broader in scope. Specifically, the legislature is considering a new (25 MPH) speed limit for certain conditions and the town is experimenting with various LED lighting options that will eventually improve visibility on all streets. The Committee also discussed the viability of a 25 MPH advisory speed tab to call attention to the dangerous section of road. This option had been discussed with previous petitioners to TMAC. The **Committee agreed to table this issue** so it can research what was previously discussed and decided.

III. INTERSECTION, CROSSWALK, SIGNAGE ON FOREST AND CENTRAL

Mr. Maw presented his concerns about the frequency with which drivers on Forest Street fail to stop at the red light when turning right on to Central Avenue. He noted that the intersection was particularly dangerous in light of the number of seniors who walk from North Hill to Volante Farms. The **Committee passed a motion** to install a new style sign which reads “Stop for Pedestrians on Red” above a circular symbol of a red traffic light. The light will be placed at the corner on its own post.

IV. CROSSWALK STREET LIGHT AT INTERSECTION OF DEDHAM AND SOUTH STREETS

Ms. Hurwitch presented her concerns about the safety of pedestrians walking from South Street (from Edgewater Drive) to Dedham Ave. and eventually up towards DeFazio and Pollard. Her first request was for a sidewalk between Edgewater and Dedham Ave. Her second request was for crosswalks across both Dedham Ave. and then back across South Street. Mr. DelGaizo explained that the sidewalk was not likely to be approved since South Street was a designated scenic road and alterations are rare. He also noted that the two crosswalks would require three handicapped ramps which must be considered and prioritized as part of a future capital improvement budget. He noted that these funds may be appropriated in 2019 as part of a larger upgrade of this intersection. In the interim, the **Committee passed a motion** to install “Watch for Pedestrians” signs on both sides of South Street to particularly alert those who are turning right on red.

V. CROSSWALK AT THE INTERSECTION OF SCHOOL AND GRANT STREETS

Ms. Theron is concerned about the volume of traffic on School Street and was proposing a crosswalk as a way to slow the flow of traffic and allow for safer pedestrian crossing. Mr. DelGaizo explained that it was not effective or safe to use crosswalks as a “traffic calming” device. Particularly since the adjacent intersections (Warren and Lincoln) already have crosswalks, a third crosswalk may actually make the street less safe by creating a frustration factor among drivers. The **Committee took no action** on this issue.

VI. SPEED, SIGNAGE HIGHROCK/GAY AND HIGHROCK/TOLMAN

Mr. Levingston had appeared before the TMAC previously and was returning having conferred with his neighbors. He reiterated the initial concern over traffic turning from High Rock on to either Gay or Tolman and using the side streets (Pond, George, Smith) in order to avoid Central Avenue. The neighborhood was proposing to post signs on High Rock and Gay and High Rock and Tolman prohibiting right turns between 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM. Their request also included an exception for neighborhood residents. He was informed by TMAC members that these types of exceptions or exclusions for residents were not possible. The **Committee agreed to table the discussion** until Mr. Levingston can confer with neighbors about their support for the signage (No Right Turn 7:00AM- 9:00 AM) if it also applied to them.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee heard from Susan Guzalian who was not on the agenda but stayed behind to chat briefly about the intersection of Dedham Ave. and South Street. She said her question had been answered during the discussion of item IV (above)

Mr. Del Gaizo gave a brief update on the I95 construction projects as well as the Eliot Street bridge construction.

The Committee passed a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Minutes compiled and summarized by Glen Schneider

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