

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of November 14, 2018 meeting
7pm at the Public Services Administration Building
Needham, MA

IN ATTENDANCE

TMAC Members: Kara Holmquist, Stephen DeLisi, Lt. John Kraemer, Tom Ryder, Justin McCullen, Suzanne Stein, Rhain Hoyland, Seth Bauer, Donna Mullin

Technical advisor: Bob Wilson

Guests: Rachel Horman, Lucas Silva, Mo Handel

CALL TO ORDER

I. INTERSECTION OF LAWTON ROAD AND GREEN STREET

No one in attendance.

II. INTERSECTION, CROSSWALK, SIGNAGE, SPEED AT INTERSECTION OF SOUTH STREET AND WEBSTER STREET

Lucas Silva appeared to address concerns about this intersection. Stacy McAllister was here at a previous meeting on this issue.

This is a busy intersection, with cars traveling quickly down Webster toward 128. There is no crosswalk or traffic light. A hill blocks the view of pedestrians and cars. There is a neighborhood on one side of the intersection and folks who live there cross this intersection to get to schools and the commuter rail. There is no place to even stand to cross. There is no sidewalk. The northwest corner is terrible; can't see around telephone pole.

Rhain said the Town previously developed a plan to reconstruct this intersection but neighbors did not want this project to go ahead. Rhain surveyed this and it was funded, but then the neighbors did a petition to stop it. It's plowed as a school walking route.

Given turnover in the neighborhood, Lucas will do a petition to see if sentiment about a reconstruction has changed, which could result in the project going back to the selectmen and get in the queue.

Lt. Kramer cautioned that there is a plan within 2 years or so with Eversource to run a new power line down Webster Street, which will involve digging up the road in the area of concern. Therefore, a redesign, even if approved, would need to wait, but the process to get approval can be started now.

Are there any interim steps to mitigate concerns, such as making this a 4 way stop? Bob will look at the traffic numbers but likely the intersection will not meet warrants for a 4 way stop. Rhain said he could put up some border.

This is not one of the 11 critical areas from the town traffic study. It may be included in the study as it's the end of a school walking route. Bob said it probably won't warrant a 4-way stop because of traffic not being equal.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to bring the 2010 plan to the Select Board to a new review pending a neighborhood petition.

Another motion was made and unanimously approved to do a speed study at this intersection.

We discussed, but decided against, pinning some stations. It will still be dangerous, but it would slow down traffic if coming up south and taking a right. The consensus is that it would overall make the area less safe.

III. SPEED ON FAIRFIELD STREET

No one in attendance.

IV. SPEED, SIGNAGE ON FOREST STREET AND BROOKSIDE LANE

No one in attendance.

V. FOLLOW UP – SPEED STUDY ON HORACE STREET OTHER BUSINESS/STATUS REPORT

Rachel Horman appeared to get the results of a previously completed speed study. Bob said that on Horace St northbound the 85 percentile speed is 27mph; Central St southbound down the hill is 28mph; 2-4% are trucks. There are 350 vehicles per day; 40 vehicles in the peak hour. Speeds here are less than the thickly settled speed of 30mph.

The previous concern was about walking on the sidewalks and the cars that go really fast. At least one of the people who speed is someone that lives on the street.

Lt. Kramer will explore having police presence in that area during busier travel times. Rachel was also reminded that the town may adopt the 25mph in the future.

VI. STREET LIGHT NEAR GLENDON ON GREAT PLAIN AVE

Mo Handel appeared regarding a constituent concern regarding safety crossing at this location. He knows that this will be addressed in the next stage of the downtown configuration but people cross a lot at night and cars having trouble seeing pedestrians. Tom said we may have missed the opportunity for striping the crosswalk because of the weather. Tom said we can look at 60 watt LED lights. It will take about 3 months total to get them all done. Engineering will look at these being 60 watt instead of 20 watt. There may be trees obscuring the light too; Tom said they will look at to see if they need to be trimmed.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

VIII. APPROVE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 17, 2018

The minutes were unanimously approved pending edits from Tom Ryder on the second page regarding the issue of possibility of the speed limit being reduced to 25 in certain areas.

Notes taken by Kara Holmquist