

Minutes
Traffic Management Advisory Committee
Wednesday, August 10, 2022
7:00 P.M.
Charles River Room
Public Services Administration Building
500 Dedham Avenue
Needham, MA 02492
Livestreamed on Zoom Meeting ID #884-5257-4576
Adopted September 14, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Justin McCullen, Chair; Donna Mullin; Barry McNeilly; Thomas Ryder, Town Engineer; Rebecca Tarantino; Rhain Hoyland, Highway Superintendent; Lt. John McGrath; Guus Driessen

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Wilson, Engineer; Tyler Gabrielski, Financial Analyst;

PUBLIC PRESENT: Erik Bakstran; Geoffrey Walker; Arianna Lechan.

1. INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

Justin McCullen, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and Roll Call was taken.

Guus Driessen, the newly appointed member, was introduced to the Committee. Prior to moving to Needham four years ago, Mr. Driessen was a long-time Brookline resident and Town Meeting member. Mr. Driessen is a retired engineering consultant.

2. MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2022

Vote: Ms. Tarantino moved to accept the Minutes of July 13, 2022 with minor edits. Ms. Mullin seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. STATUS REPORT UPDATE

Mr. Wilson reported the following project updates:

- **Bird Street between Broad Meadow Road and Petrini Road** – Signs were installed and the triangle pavement completed. The continental crossway is pending.
- **Great Plain and Central Avenues** – Mr. Gabrielski reported that Tim Bulger submitted an email offering multiple possible solutions for the crosswalk at the location. The Committee discussed options such as closing the slip lane, moving the crosswalk, and installing advance notice signs. Mr. Gabrielski will forward the email to the Committee.
- **Event Parking at George Aggott Road** – Mr. Bakstran summarized the concerns he raised at the last meeting regarding overflow parking from DeFazio Field parking in the George Aggott Road neighborhood creating a safety concern and degrading his driveway by those who use it to turn

around. He wants event goers to obey the instructions posted on the Park and Recreation Department's website.

Lt. McGrath asked if Mr. Bakstran had contacted Stacey Mulroy, Director of Park and Recreation, as she is the responsible party who messages the DeFazio Field users about the rules. Lt. McGrath noted that "*No Parking During Events Only*" signs would be hard to enforce and would limit the residents as well. Mr. Bakstran was supportive of Park and Recreation messaging users. Mr. McCullen will raise the issue to Ms. Mulroy and will include the Minutes of July and August.

Mr. McCullen offered placing "No parking here to Corner" signs. Mr. Bakstran was in support and thought the neighbors would appreciate them. Mr. Bakstran suggested that the Committee get buy in from the neighbors.

Ms. Tarantino thought the real safety concern identified by Mr. Bakstran needed to be addressed. She was supportive of the "No parking here to corner." She also suggested a sign stating "No parking between signs" be installed in the non-defined corner on George Argott and Sutton Roads. Mr. McCullen asked if the resident at 17 Sutton Road, whose property is along the bend, parks on the street. Mr. Bakstran did not know the owner. Ms. Tarantino suggested that the Town notify the neighbor about the signs because it was a safety concern.

Vote: Ms. Tarantino moved to install "No parking between signs" signs along the corner of George Aggott Road/Sutton Road subject to contacting the resident at 17 Sutton Road by the Town. Mr. Driessen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Forrest Street – Mr. Hoyland noted that solar speed signs were cost effective at \$7,900 for two. The vendor has several in stock. Hard wire speed signs are more expensive and take 30 days to install plus there is a backlog with Eversource. He suggested purchasing solar speed signs and observing their success on Forrest Street. If they don't work because of poor solar source, the solar signs can be relocated elsewhere to be replaced by hard wire speed signs if needed.

Speed Sign Criteria – Mr. McCullen asked that a speed sign criteria be developed. Mr. Hoyland will check with other communities in developing a draft set of criteria for the Committee.

4. WEBSTER STREET AT MARK LEE ROAD AND PARK AVENUE - CROSSWALK

PETITIONER: Wes Soper, 32 Mark Lee Road

This was a continued item from July. Petitioner was a no show.

5. KENDRICK STREET AND FOURTH AVENUE INTERSECTION – POOR VISIBILITY AT INTERSECTION

PETITIONER: Geoffrey Walker

Mr. Walker reported that it was dangerous to take a left turn on Kendrick Street from Fourth Avenue. The speed on Kendrick coming off the highway and the overgrown vegetation add to the difficulty at the intersection. Mr. Walker noted that the intersection is in proximity to a school and daycare. Mr.

McCullen noted that this intersection has come before the Board previously. Mr. Wilson said the intersection has come up since 2006 and mitigation was tabled because of construction on 128. A traffic count study was conducted in 2019 which identified 269 left turns during the morning commute hours; and 57 in the afternoon commute hours; from Fourth Street there were 55 left turns in the morning commute hours and 83 left turns in the afternoon. The accident data identified 24 accidents at the intersection.

Mr. Ryder noted that Kendrick Street was a state street under MassDOT jurisdiction. The Town is seeking permission from MassDOT to realign/restripe Kendrick Street between the ramps and Third Avenue for Fall 2022. The purpose is to improve signage and traffic patterns. Locally Kendrick Street and Fourth Street are not in the 5-year Capital Plan. Mr. Hoyland said that projects are listed in order of priority and allocation of funding.

Ms. Tarantino wondered if the vegetation could be pruned to improve visibility. Lt. McGrath noted the property is the responsibility of the state. He also suggested a “No Left Turn” sign.

Mr. Hoyland agreed there was a problem with the geometry of the street.

There was discussion that future developments in the area contribute to funding the cost of street and intersection improvements.

6. CENTRAL AVENUE BETWEEN GREAT PLAIN AVENUE AND MEETING HOUSE CIRCLE– CROSSWALK

PETITIONER: Arianna Lechan, 1606 Great Plain Avenue

Ms. Lechan reported that the sidewalk on the east side of Central discontinues between Great Plain Avenue and Meeting House Circle. In addition, there are no crosswalks on Central Avenue between Central Avenue and Forrest Street. A pedestrian has to walk along Central Avenue when the sidewalk ends or cross Central Avenue where there isn't a crosswalk until Forrest Street which is .6 miles away. She requested that a crosswalk be provided.

Mr. Hoyland and Mr. Ryder agreed that the upcoming improvements at the intersection at Central Avenue and Great Plain Avenue would provide an opportunity to integrate the sidewalk connection. Mr. Hoyland stated that the existing wall would be involved when extending the sidewalks. Mr. Ryder noted that the project – sidewalk, crosswalk, and wall - would demand serious engineering consideration. Mr. Hoyland estimated a \$250,000 cost.

Mr. McCullen informed Ms. Lechan that any crosswalk installation had to meet transportation warrants and the Town's crosswalk criteria. However, because of the safety and connectivity issues of the sidewalk it should be considered when the larger Central Avenue and Great Plain Avenue intersection are addressed.

7. SECOND AND FOURTH AVENUE - POOR VISIBILITY

PETITIONER: Tom White, 300 Second Street, #3167

Petitioner was a no show. The item was tabled to the next meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.