



Engineering Services Division

Traffic Operations Committee

Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2014

Attendees: Rob Mack, PE, PTOE, Engineering Services
Ed Roberge, PE, Engineering Services
Jim Major, General Services
Rick Wollert, Concord Fire Department

A. Regular Discussion Items

- 1) **Overview of city-wide crash data, including prior-month crash summary and discussion of select crash locations, circumstances and potential action.**

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: Traffic crash data for September 2014 was reviewed. There were 87 reportable crashes in September 2014. This compares with 105 and 107 reportable crashes in September 2013 and 2012, respectively. 21 crashes resulted in total of 24 people injured. There were no fatalities.

There was one crash involving a bicyclist: a bicyclist aged 3 years stopped with a parent on the sidewalk on the southwest corner of the High/Summer intersection and having his bicycle struck by a vehicle turning right from Summer Street to High Street (injury, driver not identified, helmet worn).

- 2) **City Council meeting update.**

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: At its October 14, 2014 meeting, City Council accepted TOC/TPAC reports on the following referrals from Council: the Washington/Borough/River intersection reconfiguration; the Borough Road sidewalk consideration; and the Snow Street speed concern.

- 3) **Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) update.**

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: At its September 25, 2014 meeting, TPAC discussed a potential update of the city's Comprehensive Transportation Policy, as well as the potential for enhanced non-motorized vehicle access between the downtown and the Horseshoe Pond area.

B. On-going Discussion and Action Items.

- 1) **Referral from Councilor Herschlag requesting that additional traffic calming methods be considered on Wildflower Drive between Abbott Road and Woodbine Avenue and on Woodbine Avenue between Mayflower Drive and Sorrell Drive (Council: 4/14/14).**

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: Further action pending feedback from Councilor Herschlag.

C. New Discussion and Action Items

1) Request from a concerned citizen to add a crosswalk on Broadway near #129 where the sidewalk ends on the east side (*Engineering: 9/12/14*).

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: In the area of #129 Broadway (just south of Rollins Park) there is sidewalk along the west side of Broadway. On the east side, sidewalk extends southward to the driveway at #129 where it ends; sidewalk is not present south of this location. The resident request is to consider adding a crosswalk at #129 so that walkers can cross over to the west side of Broadway to use the sidewalk there to continue to the south.

The existing sidewalk along Broadway is set back behind a grass strip on each side of the street. If a painted crosswalk was to be considered, current city practice would be to construct accessible sidewalk extensions to the crosswalk area with tip-downs and tactile strips. Funding for such construction would need to be programmed in the capital budget. TOC felt that sight lines were very good in this area and, if a walker prefers, safe crossings of Broadway can be made with appropriate crossing habits. Engineering staff studied pedestrian crossings on Broadway in November 2012 and observed minimal delays for pedestrian crossings of Broadway. For walkers continuing south along Broadway, there are also options to: cross over to the west-side sidewalk at the existing crosswalk at the Rollins Park entrance about 500 feet to the north; or continue along the east side of Broadway in the paved shoulder. Ultimately, TOC supports the completion of the sidewalk along the east side of Broadway, as is recommended in the Master Plan.

2) Concern from a resident of Fisk Road on vehicle speeds (*Engineering: 10/6/14*).

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: At issue is an inquiry from Raymond Pallein of #75 Fisk Road on traffic volumes and speeds. Engineering conducted traffic volume and speed counts on Fisk Road at #75 for a six-day period including a weekend from October 8 to October 14, 2014. Average daily traffic, including the weekend, is about 1,550 vehicles. Weekday daily traffic averages about 1,900 vehicles. Average speeds were 37 to 39 mph, and 85th percentile speeds were 42 to 43 mph. The 35 mph statutory speed limit is posted. TOC felt that the recorded volumes and speeds were not unreasonable for a rural collector road such as Fisk Road. As some drivers were recorded as having inappropriate speeds, this data was provided to the police department to assist in enforcement efforts.

3) Request from residents on Cypress Street to improve signage to better indicate the one-way movement along Cypress Street when exiting the middle school parking lot, as well as a request to post 20 mph on neighborhood streets (*Engineering: 10/7/14*).

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: Engineering received concerns from Cypress Street residents at #9 (Chris Moore) and #16 (Linda Labbe) about some cars going the wrong way on Cypress Street, and particularly some exiting the Rundlett Middle School parking lot and travelling the wrong-way up Cornell Street. Cypress Street is one-way eastbound from Cornell Street to Noyes Street, and Cornell Street is one-way southbound from Noyes Street to Cypress Street, completing the one-way loop. Staff field viewed the street and noted that there is only one one-way sign located at the southern end of Cypress Street at Noyes Street. There is no signage indicating the one-way designation along Cornell Street (south of Noyes Street) or on Cypress Street at the school parking lot.

General Services will add a new one-way sign on Cornell Street south of the Noyes Street intersection. They will also post a new one-way sign on Cypress Street facing the school parking lot exit drive. The stop line at the southern end of Cypress Street at the Noyes Street intersection will also be painted fully across the street to be consistent with the one-way designation already posted there. TOC suggested it would be beneficial if Concord School District could post Do Not Enter signs on their parking lot entrance drive from Cornell Street, facing wrong-way drivers from the parking lot.

Another resident concern was traffic speed in the neighborhood and if a 20 mph speed could be posted. It was noted that 20 mph is not allowed per state statute except at an established school crossing with flashing lights, and even then, for only a 45-minute period during school peaks. TOC members were not aware of a notable speeding issue due to the short street segments and turns involved. Rob Mack had discussed this concern earlier with CPD and that enforcement officers would plan to monitor the neighborhood during school peaks. Feedback from CPD is pending.

D. Open Discussion Items

4) Staff response to miscellaneous inquiries (refer to correspondence in agenda packet).

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: None.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Mack, PE, PTOE, Traffic Engineer
Chair, Traffic Operations Committee

***The next Traffic Operations Committee meeting will be held on
Tuesday, November 18, 2014 @ 1:00 PM in the 2ND Floor Conference Room.***