



Engineering Services Division

Traffic Operations Committee

Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2015

Attendees: Rob Mack, PE, PTOE, Engineering Services
Jim Major, General Services
Heather Shank, Planning Division
John Thomas, Concord Police Department
Mike Adam, Concord Police Department
Rick Wollert, Fire Alarm Division
Dick Lemieux, TPAC Chair

A. Regular Discussion Items

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

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: Crash data for September 2015 was reviewed. There were 86 reportable crashes in September 2015. This compares with 88 and 105 reportable crashes in September 2014 and 2013, respectively. 21 crashes resulted in total of 21 people injured. There were no fatalities.

There were three crashes involving pedestrians: a pedestrian aged 74 years crossing S. Main Street in the crosswalk north of Fayette Street and being struck by a vehicle turning left out of Fayette Street (injuries, motorist at fault); a pedestrian aged 54 years walking in the parking lot at 24 Bridge Street and being struck by a vehicle backing up (injuries; motorist at fault); and a pedestrian aged 38 years crossing Storrs Street in the crosswalk at the southern end of the Market Basket plaza parking area and being struck by a vehicle that fled the scene (injuries; vehicle not identified).

There were two crashes involving bicyclists: a bicyclist aged 45 years traveling eastbound along Loudon Road on the westbound side (wrong-way) and colliding into the side of a vehicle turning right out of the Everett Arena west driveway (minor injuries, bicyclist at fault, helmet not worn); and a bicyclist aged 12 years traveling westbound along Warren Street on the eastbound-side sidewalk and colliding into the side of a vehicle turning right out of the Concord High School parking lot (injury, bicyclist at fault, helmet not worn).

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

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: There were no TOC items considered at the October 13, 2015 Council meeting.

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

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: At its September 24, 2015 meeting, TPAC discussed the Union Street accessibility referral from City Council, as well as options to restripe the remaining segments of Main Street immediately adjacent to the Main Street Complete Streets project.

B. On-going Discussion and Action Items.

1) Referral to TPAC from City Council regarding a concern on wheelchair accessibility on Union Street (Council: 8/10/15)

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: In follow-up to TOC's discussion of this item on August 18, 2015, General Services constructed a temporary bituminous pavement fillet to correct the high curb reveal on the northeast corner of the Union/Maple intersection which was reported as an obstruction to wheelchair users. General Services anticipates that Union Street will be scheduled for repaving next year, at which time the corner curb ramps can be properly reconstructed. This item will be further considered by TPAC and its Public Transit subcommittee later this week.

C. New Discussion and Action Items

1) Concern on traffic speeds along W. Portsmouth Street related to the athletic fields and a request to consider posting a lower speed limit (Engineering: 9/29/15).

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: At issue is a concern about traffic speeds on W. Portsmouth Street and a request to lower the speed limit. The request by Matt Hicks of Shaker Road School related to the speed of traffic headed for the athletic fields at the end of the street. W. Portsmouth Street is a lightly-traveled rural street about one-half mile long that serves several residential and agricultural properties and ends at the athletic field property. The statutory speed limit in the rural zone is 35 mph.

Engineering staff deployed a radar speed counter on the straight section of W. Portsmouth Street, roughly near #18, from Friday, October 1 to Monday, October 5, 2015. The athletic fields were in active use on Friday and Saturday and accounted for the majority of traffic flow on the street. About 700 vehicles were measured between Friday and Monday with the average speed being 27-29 mph. While most vehicles appeared to be traveling at an appropriate speed, there were a handful of drivers recorded in the 35-40 mph range. As an initial measure, staff suggested that a public service announcement to attendees of the sport events might be an effective first step. Mr. Hicks followed up with an email to participants and reported back that he felt that travel speeds at the next event were noticeable slower than before.

TOC concurred that overall speeds along the street appeared reasonable and did not feel that it was appropriate to change to the current statutory speed limit in this area. TOC felt that the issue of concern was primarily due to drivers associated with activities at the sporting fields, and that periodic notification to participants and guests to be mindful of their speed in that area seemed most appropriate. There were a few inconsiderate drivers recorded as traveling fairly fast for conditions and the CPD indicated that they would plan a targeted enforcement effort on the coming weekend if the fields were in use. Engineering would provide CPD with the recorded speed data to help with the enforcement effort.

D. Open Discussion Items

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

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: None

2) Discussion of truck routes in the downtown area.

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: CPD inquired as to the routing of truck traffic from Loudon Road to Pleasant Street westward to the medical center. The current truck route follows N. Main Street (US 3) and Pleasant Street (NH 9). However with construction activity on N. Main Street, some trucks from the Exit 14 area could elect to continue west on Centre Street only to find that the Liberty/Centre roundabout is as far as they can go before the ‘no through trucking’ restrictions begin at Liberty Street. Attendees concurred to include a review of the city’s truck route map at the next meeting.

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 17, 2015 @ 12:00 PM in the 2ND Floor Conference Room.***