

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF February 25, 2020**

The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met at 9:00 a.m., on February 25, 2020, in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street.

Attendees: Jim Major, Fred Reagan, David Cedarholm, John Thomas, Sam Durfee, Todd Welch, Rick Wollert, Karen Hill, Ashley Hamilton

Absent: Matt Cashman, Terry Crotty

Guests: Doug Ross, Concord resident

1. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of December 17, 2019 & January 28, 2020 were approved (Motion – Major; Second – Durfee).

2. Regular Discussion Items

- a. Overview of City-Wide January 2020 Crash Data showed that 126 accidents occurred. No fatalities were reported. Three incidents involved a collision with a pedestrian.
- b. City Council Meeting Update: The updated 2020 Construction Standards and Details were approved and have been posted on the City website.

3. The agenda was amended to allow Doug Ross, a Concord Resident and meeting guest to speak on behalf of a previously tabled item (5c) - Request for crosswalk at South Street and Mooreland Ave:

- a. *Doug Ross attended the TOC meeting and summarized his request. He asked to have his request grandfathered in as it was submitted in October 2019 which was prior to any policy changes.*
- b. *Ross discussed that many school-aged children live in the Mooreland Ave neighborhood and are within the 1-mile radius of school with no bus service, leaving them the option to walk to school or be dropped off. He explained that many students walk to Abbott-Downing and Rundlett Middle School beginning in the spring. He expressed his concerns of safety due to South Street being a busy road to cross.*
- c. *Hill explained that the issue would be installing a crosswalk to a roadway without sidewalk. She confirmed it was previously done on Rockingham Street due to neighborhood push back and political reasons; engineering did not initially support it.*
- d. *Cedarholm stated that Engineering is taking the crosswalk request seriously, but will need to collect more data on pedestrian volumes. He added that engineering is working on the new policy to ensure crosswalk designs and installations are ADA compliant.*
- e. *Regarding the timeline, Hill indicated that striping wouldn't happen until the spring if/once approved.*

- f. *It was suggested that Doug Ross call Engineering when the neighborhood children began walking to school again so the pedestrian counts would reflect actual data. Ross agreed.*
- g. *Jim Major added that it has been discussed that striping a crosswalk does not necessarily mean vehicles will stop for pedestrians. It can sometimes provide a false sense of security for crosswalk users.*
- h. *Dave Cedarholm explained that eye contact with the driver when crossing the street is most important.*

4. Ongoing Discussion and Action Items

- a. Bus stop relocations on Fort Eddy Road and N. Main Street:
 - i. *David Cedarholm reported that Engineering, TPAC, and TPAC-PT are still reviewing the proposed bus stop location changes and approval process for implementation. TOC unanimously agreed that the proposed N. Main Street change would be ideal with minimal impact and agreed that the Fort Eddy Road stop should be moved to the east of the Planet Fitness parking lot entrance for safety.*
- b. Intersection improvements for Centre/ Washington Street intersections:
 - i. *Karen Hill stated that Engineering had met with several City Councilors at the intersection to discuss the proposed improvement changes and all gave positive feedback and support.*
 - ii. *The proposed changes are still pending Engineering's confirmation of the Concord fire truck and school bus dimensions (length and wheel base) to be modeled within the software program.*
 - iii. *Jim Major asked if Engineering was still planning to paint and cone off the new design layout and recommended having the school bus and fire truck test all scenarios to ensure they can successfully make the turns. He offered to provide the cones with advance notice.*
 - iv. *Hill agreed to reach out to Fire Captain David Dumis and Gary Ford to coordinate a vehicle test date. It was previously determined that weekdays between 9:30 am-12:30 pm would work best for Concord School District Transportation.*
- c. Request for installation of Audible Pedestrian Signals at Pleasant/ Green and Pleasant/State Street intersections regarding safety concerns for a blind resident:
 - i. *Hill stated that she and Cedarholm met with the visually impaired resident to discuss his safety concerns. They wore a blind fold while walking through the two intersections and confirmed and identified several areas that pose safety concerns for anyone visually impaired.*
 - ii. *Engineering is working with VHB, an on-call consultant, to get a proposal to evaluate short, intermediate, and long term solutions. This will help aid in a discussion with City Council about funding, as currently, the intersection improvements are not budgeted until 2023 and 2026.*

- iii. *Rick Wollert discussed hanging chirping devices but questioned whether they might be out of code. He also said he was in favor of any action that would help.*
- d. Referral from City Council on illegal vehicle left turns from East Side Drive into the CVS driveway:
 - i. *Todd Welch presented a new asphalt/bituminous median island design option. The idea would be to have the island installed and priced through the City's paving program to reduce costs. It was discussed that the previous plan to install jersey barriers would require crash protection on either end of the barrier and would likely exceed the budget.*
 - ii. *TOC gave support of the new design option and favored the aesthetics over the jersey barriers.*
 - iii. *Major agreed to get pricing details when Engineering needed.*
 - iv. *Hill stated that the next step would be to discuss the approved test plan with Councilor Bouchard and the property/business owners.*

5. New Discussion and Action Items

- a. Request to examine lack of lighting and pedestrian safety concerns at the State Prison refuge island crossing U.S. Route 3 (N. State Street):
 - i. *TOC reviewed determined that it's been the City standard to light crosswalks.*
 - ii. *Hill agreed to follow up with Unitol on available options.*
- b. Request to add crosswalk signage at Washington Street crosswalks near UNH School of Law:
 - i. *TOC reviewed and Major agreed to install appropriate crosswalk signage at the two crosswalks, one near Perry Ave and the other at Washington/Rumford Street intersection.*
- c. Referral from City Councilor Werner regarding safety concerns at the intersection of Route 13 and Hooksett Turnpike:
 - i. *Hill reported that she has been reviewing the crash history in the area and would bring her collected research and findings to the next TOC meeting to discuss further.*
 - ii. *John Thomas agreed to pull any additional crash data if needed.*
 - iii. *TOC members discussed possible causes for the increase in traffic and linked it with recent residential developments and increased commuters in the area. Sam Durfee suggested that Engineering reach out to the Central NH Regional Planning Commission.*
- d. Request from former City Councilor Cohen regarding drivers disobeying STOP signs on Liberty Street at School Street:
 - i. *Thomas agreed to do an added watch in the area as this is an enforcement issue.*
 - ii. *Major stated the he could pull back the stop bars during his summer paving program if needed.*
 - iii. *Hill stated that she would review the crash data prior to that.*
- e. Request to examine Dixon Ave/Storrs Street and South State/Concord Street parking and intersection sight distance:
 - i. *One parking space was removed on Storrs Street due to non-compliance with the NH RSA. Hill reported that she spoke with Matt Walsh about these concerns and Matt Walsh is*

reported to be working with the City's legal team as there are several other locations throughout the City.

- ii. The South State/Concord Street intersection was recently re-striped but is compliant with the NH RSA for on-street parking in the vicinity of an intersection and crosswalks. Although the crash history is low, Engineering agreed to monitor the intersection in the future.*
- f. Discuss request for "No Parking Here to Corner" Sign on High Street at the corner of Shaw Street.
- i. Hill stated that General Services will be installing the sign as soon as possible.*

6. Tabled Items

- a. Review of traffic/speed counts on Little Pond Rd around curve just west of Pond Place Lane and near 34 Little Pond Rd to address the resident concerns.
 - i. Deferred until spring.*
- b. Discuss traffic counter data for Hoit Rd, and "cross traffic does not stop" signs at the Hoit Rd - Mountain Rd intersection.
 - i. Karen Hill stated that she sent a letter to NHDOT regarding the safety concerns at the intersection.*