

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 22, 2020**

The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met at 9:00 am on December 22, 2020.

Due to the Covid 19 Coronavirus Pandemic and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order # 12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Traffic Operations Committee was authorized to meet electronically. The City of Concord utilized the WebEx platform for this electronic meeting.

There was no physical location to observe and listen to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to Governor Sununu's emergency Order # 12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04.

All members of the Committee had the ability to communicate during this meeting through the WebEx platform, and the public had access to listen and participate in this meeting as necessary.

Attendees: David Cedarholm, Sam Durfee, Karen Hill, Jim Major, John Thomas (joined the meeting at 9:17am during agenda item 2d), Todd Welch, Richard Wollert

Absent: Matt Cashman, Terry Crotty, Fred Reagan

Guests: Dick Lemieux (joined the meeting late)

1. Introductions

2. Regular Discussion Items

a. Approval of Minutes – November 24, 2020

The meeting minutes of November 24, 2020 were approved.

Motion: Cedarholm. Second: Durfee. Unanimous.

b. Overview of City-Wide Crash Data

Hill noted that the report data had been distributed to the Committee. No discussion until Thomas joined the meeting. Thomas reported that the numbers are low compared to past year, and there was only one pedestrian accident.

c. City Council Meeting Update

Cedarholm noted that funds may be repurposed via a consent resolution agenda item for the Washington Street (westerly) bridge in Penacook project. A memo may be presented to Council in January regarding agenda item 3a.

d. Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) Update

Hill reviewed some of the items discussed at the TPAC meeting on December 17, 2020, including the I-89 Exit 2 intersection project. Wollert confirmed that any signals installed will be maintained by the State.

3. Ongoing Discussion and Action Items**a. *Update on Bog / Carter Hill / Horse Hill / River Road intersection study***

Hill drafted a memo to be presented to Council at an upcoming meeting. Cedarholm asked Thomas if he had developed an opinion of whether or not to make the subject intersection a four-way stop since he abstained from commenting at a previous meeting because he wasn't familiar with the intersection. Thomas confirmed that there is an average of one crash per year at the intersection and based on that, the accident data does not support a four-way stop. He diverted to Engineering to make a decision, adding that if we are going to make a change out there, then we need data to support it.

b. *Update surrounding back to school traffic patterns*

Not discussed as there were no school district representatives in attendance. Thomas noted that school traffic is very light due to Covid, with the exception of school days when traffic backs up from the Liberty/School Street intersection to the Centre Street roundabout and beyond.

It was discussed that the multi-way stop at Liberty/School Street needs to remain as it is a school walking route. Members discussed the need for the Langley Parkway extension project, which would help to divert traffic from this neighborhood.

c. *Request to Councilor Pierce from resident Helmet Koch for signage, sidewalks, and traffic calming measures on Knight St, Hutchins St, around the Second Start School, and around Garrison Park, to address his concerns about speeding and safety.*

Hill and Durfee reported that this area is on the proposed sidewalk priority list that will be presented in item 4e.

i. *Specific requests were made to add signage identifying the area as a "School and Park Zone", and installing a sidewalk leading to Garrison Park from Hutchins and Knight Street.*

Hill asked about adding school and playground signage in the area. Major and Wollert discussed that there are school crosswalk signs in each direction at the Hutchins Street crosswalk. Major discussed that the playground signage is not consistent throughout the City. It was discussed that installing sidewalk to the park is the best solution to pedestrian safety in the area. Major stated that General Services can install playground signs, in each direction in advance of the park, as an interim measure, but agreed that sidewalk would be the best solution to address the concerns. He discussed sign pollution throughout the City and the false sense of security signage can introduce. Cedarholm suggested a traffic count be performed next year on Knight Street.

- d. *Request from the Parking Committee on September 21, 2020 to look into speeding issues on Franklin Street near Rumford Street.*

Hill reported that Welch had placed traffic and speed counters on Franklin Street; the average speeds were 31 and 32 mph in each direction, with the 95th percentile being 39 mph. Thomas had 'directed patrols' in the area, however speed data was not collected, and that the speed trailer had been placed in the area. Hill will report back to Councilor Hatfield with the data collected.

4. New Discussion and Action Items

- a. *Discuss resident's sight distance concerns at the corner of Shaw Street and High Street in Penacook.*

Hill presented a photo of the intersection where a bush is obstructing the view; she will contact the property owner regarding trimming the bush, and the utility pole owner to remove the redundant pole as soon as possible.

- b. *Discuss resident's request for stop sign and dead end sign on corner of School Street and Hillside Road.*

Hill presented a map of the area where the No Outlet sign could be installed. Major agreed to install the sign. Hill noted that a stop sign is not warranted.

- c. *Discuss resident's concerns with the intersection of Pembroke Road and Canterbury Road in regards to the location of the stop sign visibility and vehicles not stopping.*

Hill reported that Kevin Demers confirmed that the signage at the intersection is adequate and visible. Cedarholm added that the stop bars are too close to the crosswalk and they need to be moved back four feet the next time they are striped; Major noted the request. Hill will respond that the appropriate signage is present.

- d. *Referral from Councilor Rice-Hawkins from residents in the Freedom Acres community in East Concord who are increasingly concerned about the high speed, high volume cut through traffic from I-93 Southbound that disrupts neighborhood activities and poses serious risks to children during the weekend rush hours.*

Hill presented a report provided by Councilor Rice-Hawkins and commented that there is traffic backup in the area on Friday and Sunday afternoons. Wollert noted that the future I-93 widening may reduce the traffic flow in the area. Cedarholm suggested a traffic study be conducted in the spring on a holiday weekend if possible. Major suggested dead ending Freedom Acres on Pinecrest Circle; it could be done with barriers on a temporary basis to determine the effect. Hill and Cedarholm discussed applying for a Road Safety Audit (RSA) through NHDOT to study the Mountain Road and Hoit Road intersection.

- e. *Discuss TPAC-BP's Sidewalk Priority List*
Durfee presented the Sidewalk Priority List that had been drafted by TPAC's BP subcommittee. The list ranks the proposed sidewalks throughout the City with a multi-faceted scoring process generated by the subcommittee. He reviewed the criteria that were used to score the sidewalks. The list is intended to work as a guide to determining sidewalk priorities, and not to be used as a strict schedule for when sidewalks are constructed. Welch and Major discussed pairing the potential sidewalk construction projects with scheduled paving projects to reduce costs for CIP 17 and 78. Durfee plans to send the report to Council for their January meeting for information purposes only.

- f. *Request from Councilor Hatfield for winter WEEBLE on Storrs Street under Loudon Road bridge.*
Hill presented a request initiated by Councilor Hatfield at TPAC. Major expressed concerns about placing a weeble on a street in the winter on a full-time basis; however, it could be used on a temporary basis only when the proposed farmers market is open. He suggested whoever is in charge of the market, would be in charge of placing/removing the weeble during market hours.

- g. *Added Agenda Item: South State and West Street Intersection Re-Striping*
Durfee presented a photo of the South State and West Street intersection re-striping plan developed from a Parking Committee request. He discussed a request by TPAC-BP subcommittee to revise the proposed striping to include a bike lane.

Hill will update the plan and send to Major for implementation. Wollert requested copies of any related CAD drawings.

- h. Lemieux requested that a Main Street TIGER Report summary be shared with TPAC at a future meeting.

5. **Tabled Items**

- a. *Discuss traffic counter data for Hoit Road, and 'cross traffic does not stop' signs at the Hoit Rd. and Mountain Rd. intersection.*
Item tabled to see if new signs improve operations.
- b. *Discuss request for crosswalk at South Street and Mooreland Avenue.*
Item tabled until traffic and pedestrian counts can be performed after Covid-19 subsides.
- c. *Request from resident regarding traffic speed concerns on Ridge Road and intersection with Forest Street.*
Item tabled until traffic and pedestrian counts can be performed during the school year.
- d. *Discuss status of intersection improvements for Centre and Washington Street*

intersection.

Item tabled until a Public Meeting can be held and funding can be appropriated.

- e. *Discuss status of installation of Audible Pedestrian Signals at Pleasant/Green and Pleasant/State intersections regarding safety concerns for blind resident.*

Item tabled until funding can be appropriated.

- f. *Discuss status of temporary median island test at CVS/Burger King driveway and resident concerns regarding Burns Avenue turn-around traffic.*

Item tabled until Engineering can send out letter to businesses.

- g. *Request to Councilor Todd from resident Sean Dugan of 10 River Road to address speed concerns on River Road. Councilor Todd requested data speed be collected if prior data was not available.*

Item tabled until traffic and speed data can be collected in the spring.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.