

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met at 9:00 am on February 23, 2021.

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, Todd Welch, Rick Wollert

Absent: Matt Cashman, Terry Crotty, Fred Reagan, John Thomas

Guests: Councilor Bouchard, Dick Lemieux, Margaret Porter

1. Introductions

2. Regular Discussion Items

a. Approval of Minutes – January 26, 2021

The meeting minutes of January 26, 2021 were approved. *Motion:* Durfee. *Second:* Major. Members in favor: Durfee, Major, Wollert, Cedarholm, Hill. *Unanimous.*

b. Overview of City-Wide Crash Data

Thomas was not in attendance; the reports that he submitted in advance of the meeting will be reviewed next month.

c. City Council Meeting Update

Cedarholm reported that there were no transportation items discussed at the last Council meeting.

d. Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) Update

Hill reported that there were no new items discussed at the last TPAC meeting. Cedarholm noted that the Loudon Road Bridge Engineering Study Report is being finalized and will be submitted to NHDOT.

3. Ongoing Discussion and Action Items

- a. No items on the Agenda.

Cedarholm commented on the ongoing discussions related to the Bog Hill and Horse Hill Roads intersection and that Mayor Bouley, Councilor Pierce, and the Engineering Division are all in favor of a four-way stop at the intersection. Engineering will be making a recommendation for a four-way stop at the March 8th Council meeting.

4. New Discussion and Action Items

- a. *Discuss issues at Pembroke Road and Blodgett Street intersection.*

Hill presented and discussed a concern that Major had submitted regarding traffic travelling westbound on Pembroke Road to the new entrance at the National Guard; he noted that the City's Sign Supervisor had noticed the problem while working at the intersection. The Committee reviewed a map of the intersection and discussed options for improvement. Cedarholm noted that, due to a lack of funding, the National Guard had opted not to construct the preferred option at the time that they moved their entrance. Since the entrance has been changed, the traffic flow in the area has increased. Welch recommended that a stop sign be installed at the end of Blodgett Street and that the island be removed. Cedarholm will add this issue to the list of intersections that need to be studied by the City, and Hill will perform traffic counts or work with CNHRPC to collect data.

Guest Lemieux suggested that the National Guard be asked to fund the intersection improvements. Bouchard enquired if the National Guard had previously agreed to the plan, and Cedarholm responded that the original Planning Board submission did not include the intersection improvements, however, the issue had been discussed after the entrance relocation project was underway. Cedarholm will contact the National Guard to discuss the Committee's concerns.

- b. *Discuss referral from Councilor Bouchard regarding resident's concerns at the Pembroke Road and Canterbury Road intersection.*

Councilor Bouchard initiated discussion regarding a resident's concerns that drivers are ignoring the stop sign at the intersection of Pembroke and Canterbury Roads. There may be a future residential development in the area which will result in increased traffic and pedestrian flow. Cedarholm reported that a traffic study is underway for Phase One of the development project and the City has asked that the intersection be included in the study. Councilor Bouchard expressed great concern about the possibility of a pedestrian accident. Durfee confirmed that the project will be brought before the Planning Board at a public hearing on March 17th and invited Councilor Bouchard to attend the hearing to

voice her concerns. Hill noted that there are no sight issues at the intersection and that the problem is a result of the drivers choosing to ignore the stop sign. Cedarholm confirmed that the Police Department regularly monitors the intersection. Rick Wollert suggested that Councilor Bouchard request that Council provide funding to reinstate the Concord Police Department Traffic Division for dedicated traffic enforcement which will help to re-educate drivers in the area.

c. *Discuss resident request for crosswalk signage on Bog Road*

Hill presented a request from a resident for crosswalk signage to be installed on Bog Road at the crosswalk near The Vineyards neighborhood. Major will have Pedestrian Crossing signs installed.

d. *Discuss resident request for stop sign at Dunklee Street at Holly Street*

Hill presented a resident's request to install a stop sign at the end of Holly Street where it intersects with Dunklee street. A map of the intersection was reviewed, as well as the City's Stop Sign Policy. The Committee noted that there are some stop signs in the area at similar intersections, and that they were likely installed prior to the policy being adopted. Based on the City's policy, and no accidents reported at the intersection in the last five years, it was determined that the "T" geometry of the intersection suggests the normal right-of-way rule would be followed. Cedarholm *moved* that the City does not install a stop sign at the intersection in accordance with the Stop Sign Policy. Motion *seconded* by Wollert. Roll call in favor: Hill, Durfee, Major, Wollert and Cedarholm. *Motion approved.*

e. *Discuss resident concerns for speeding and pedestrian safety along Columbus Ave*

Guest, and City of Concord resident, Margaret Porter, initiated discussion regarding a concern she submitted to the City via the See Click Fix program. Columbus Avenue connects Auburn and Penacook streets. There is additional traffic in the morning and afternoon at Bishop Brady High School, as well as usual rush hour traffic. Since the pandemic began, the pedestrian traffic has increased tremendously in the area and she has observed excessive speeding. Hill recommended that the Engineering Division collect speed data in the spring, and if a speeding issue is determined, the Police Department will be notified with a request for targeted enforcement and deployment of the speed trailer. Ms. Porter has not noticed police activity aside from an occasional pass-through presence. Porter would like an opportunity to review the data collected. Cedarholm confirmed that the data will be reviewed at a future TOC meeting and shared with Porter.

5. Tabled Items

Cedarholm noted that most of the tabled items, with the exception of item 5F,

have been tabled due to COVID, or due to the winter weather which affects the ability to perform speed counts.

- 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.

Hill reported that a request will be made to Council to reallocate funding within CIP 283, which provides funding for signal improvements or modifications. The request will be to place the signal head improvement project at Storrs Street and Pleasant Street Extension intersection on hold in an effort to provide funding for the audible pedestrian signal improvements at the intersections of Pleasant/Storrs, Pleasant/State, and Pleasant/Green/South. The audible signal improvements are estimated to cost \$42,000.00; the funding request will be submitted for the fiscal year 2022 budget.

- 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.
2. d. *Item continued at end of the meeting by Guest Lemieux*

Guest Lemieux reinitiated discussion regarding the Loudon Road bridge project and enquired if there had been a decision made regarding the location of the multi-use path and whether it will be on the north or south side of the bridge. Cedarholm confirmed the current engineering study concept plan provides for the path being located on the north side of the bridge, and that the plans are not yet finalized. The issue can be discussed at the next TPAC-BP subcommittee meeting in April. Cedarholm agreed to work with Lemieux and develop concepts in support of placing the path on the north side of the bridge; the ideas will be presented at the next TPAC-BP meeting.

- 4 f. Hill recommended that the TOC monthly meeting date be changed from the fourth Tuesday of the month to the third Tuesday to allow for a separation of one week between the TOC and TPAC monthly meetings. If agreed upon, the next TOC meeting will be on March 16th. All members in attendance agreed. Hill will notify those members that were not in attendance.

Adjourn

Motion: Durfee. *Unanimous.* Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.