

**CITY OF CONCORD  
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2021**

The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met at 9:00 am on April 20, 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, Rick Wollert, Fred Reagan  
John Thomas – arrived late

*Absent:* Matt Cashman, Terry Crotty

*Guests:* Councilor Grady-Sexton, Dick Lemieux, Anne Diefendorf, Doug Ross, Leslie Barry

**1. Introductions**

**2. Regular Discussion Items**

**a. Approval of Minutes – February 23, 2021**

The meeting minutes of February 23, 2021 were approved. *Motion:* Durfee. *Second:* Major. Members in favor: Durfee, Major, Wollert, Cedarholm, Hill, Reagan. *Unanimous.*

**b. Overview of City-Wide Crash Data**

Thomas was not in attendance at the time of discussion; Cedarholm suggested putting item on hold until later in the meeting if Thomas joins. Item was discussed after Item 4a.

Hill inquired about the fatality on Penacook Street on 2/17/21. Thomas discussed that it was still under investigation and he could not provide any more information at this time.

Thomas mentioned that there were 10 accidents along Pleasant Street and would look into details since this stood out to him. Hill also asked about the 2 accidents at the signalized intersection of N Main St. @ Pleasant St.

Wollert inquired about the accidents at signalized intersection of Centre and N State Streets, since there were 3 in the month of January. Thomas to follow up.

**c.** *City Council Meeting Update*

Cedarholm reported that the intersection report recommending a 4-way stop at the intersection of Bog, Horse Hill, River, and Carter Hill Roads was on Council's consent agenda for April, with a public hearing set for May. Cedarholm also mentioned that the TIF District expansion was approved for the Hoit and Whitney Road Intersection Improvements Project. He mentioned that there is a public pre-bid meeting scheduled for this week. Information can be found on the City's purchasing website under CIP #30.

**d.** *Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) Update*

Hill reported that TPAC discussed the TAP Application that the City submitted which was for the construction of a portion of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT) from the Boscawen town line to Sewalls Fall Road. Hill also mentioned that TPAC asked City staff to look at improvements to the striping along Loudon Road since General Services is resurfacing from Main Street to Airport Road this month.

**3. Ongoing Discussion and Action Items**

**a.** *Discuss request for crosswalk at South Street and Mooreland Ave.*

Cedarholm discussed that the request was initially brought to the City's attention in October of 2019, but due to winter months, the COVID lock down and schools being remote; the study was put on hold. He mentioned that the Engineering Department is looking to implement a crosswalk policy to approach these requests with consistency city-wide.

Hill discussed that the study is underway, observations have shown plenty of gaps in traffic for safe crossing and it is important to note that Mooreland Ave does not have sidewalk that a crosswalk would cross safely to.

Doug Ross, guest and requester, asked that his request receive special consideration or be grandfathered before policy is adopted. He added that South Street is a busy street; residents from Mooreland Ave need to cross this arterial roadway and asked that safety be a top priority. The neighborhood is home to many young children (current count is 24 school aged children in neighborhood). He added that there is no bus service within a 1-mile radius from the schools, which encompasses the Mooreland Ave neighborhood; this encourages more walkers/bikers in fall and Spring. He also stated that many residents walk to and from Rollins Park. He then discussed that the neighborhood was built in the 1960s when there was less traffic and no sidewalk construction requirements, he asked

that the neighborhood not be penalized for its age. He reminded the committee that there are crosswalks along Rockingham Street, just down the road, that cross to roadways without sidewalk. He believes these crosswalks and signs have helped to reduce traffic speeds and improve pedestrian safety along Rockingham Street and is asking the same for South Street.

Leslie Barry, a resident of Midland Street, with school aged children, spoke in support of a crosswalk being installed at Mooreland Ave. She mentioned that she has concerns with study data being skewed because of schools still having the option of being remote. She added that the school system is encouraging walkers to reduce congestion during pick up and drop off times and that they are also suggesting alternate pick up sites at various locations where students would walk to and parents would pick them up off-campus. She expressed concerns with the pavement condition of the neighborhood, as well as excessive speeding along South Street, heavy traffic all day long, and the increase in distractibility. The residents believe that adding the crosswalks and signage would help.

Rick Wollert agreed that Engineering should collect speed data in the area. Hill will also reach out to Terry Crotty from Concord School District to discuss.

A comment was received from guest Diefendorf, stating that she lived on South Street for 19 years, and agrees that the traffic and pedestrian volumes on South Street have grown exponentially...we were recently amazed at numbers of walkers, bicyclists and speeders.

*Discuss options for problematic WEEBLES.*

- b. Hill presented an option for fixed-base, flexible WEEBLES to be mounted in the roadway in areas where they are continually moved or knocked over. She added that MUTCD does not recommend that the signage be placed on the side of the road beneath the pedestrian warning signs. Major stated that he would rather see them post-mounted in these areas due to problems with mounting and the potential for vehicle damage. He suggested Engineering follow up with the legal team to discuss. Cedarholm to reach out to other municipalities via PW.net to inquire about what others are using for WEEBLE options and if any are using the fixed-base option.

#### 4. **New Discussion and Action Items**

- a. *Resident concern through SeeClickFix of speeding on South Street near #28.*

Thomas suggested that this may be a case of perception; he mentioned that it would be difficult for vehicles to travel at those high speeds due to the narrowness of the roadway especially when parked cars are present. He added that it would be hard to not get into an accident going that fast. He also discussed that when the Police Department deploys their speeds trailer in response to

these requests, residents are surprised at the speeds in which vehicles are actually traveling are much less than expected. TOC concluded that a speed limit sign in the area will not help with the few inconsiderate drivers that are traveling above the speed limit. Hill to respond to resident.

- b.** *Resident request through SeeClickFix for Deer Crossing Sign on Sewalls Falls Road.* Major confirmed that the City does not install these signs. He mentioned that the City has received requests in the past along Portsmouth Street and Borough Road and it was determined that deer can cross any City Street at any given time and there would be a proliferation of signs throughout the City, resulting in a loss of effectiveness. Thomas confirmed that over the past 5 years, there were 3 accidents along the entire stretch of Sewalls Falls Road involving animals. The committee agreed that this was not enough to warrant a sign. Hill to respond to resident.

- c.** *Referral from Councilor Grady-Sexton regarding resident's concern of speeding on Mountain Road near #35. (Item moved and discussed before item 4a).* Anne Diefendorf, guest and requester, discussed her concerns with speeding along Mountain Road. She expressed her gratitude for the roundabout improvements at Exit 16, but she mentioned her concerns with a major increase in speeding over the years. She added that when trying to cross in the crosswalk at Fernald Street, she often witnesses 20 cars pass by without stopping. She understands that the Police Department is busy and is asking for the WEEBLE to be placed back at the location and inquired about a radar sign. She added that Sunday afternoons seem to be the worst with the backup on the highway.

Councilor Grady-Sexton discussed that she receives multiple concerns regarding speeding throughout the City especially on Portsmouth Street and Mountain Road. She believes there are some areas that vehicles are traveling at dangerous speeds, 20-25 mph more than posted speed limit. She hears concerns that residents do not feel safe even getting their mail or crossing the road within a crosswalk. She asked if there is an analysis that can be performed and if any traffic calming measures can be implemented.

Engineering will complete further study of the area and collect traffic volumes and speed data, to be discussed further next month. Major agreed to add WEEBLE signage on the crossing sign posts in each direction.

Thomas reported later in the meeting that the Police Department performed 3 separate patrols along Mountain Road last week and wrote 12 speeding tickets and issued many warnings. He discussed that CPD receives a Highway Safety Grant to do these patrols each year, and that the budget was recently reduced from \$75k/year to \$21k. He added that S Main Street and South Street were also

on their list. He also informed the committee that the speed trailer was deployed on South Street this week.

*Adjourn*

*Motion:* Durfee. *Unanimous.* Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.