

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met at 9:00 am on September 21, 2021 in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street.

Attendees: David Cedarholm, Karen Hill, Sam Durfee, Jim Major, Rick Wollert, John Thomas, Terry Crotty, Todd Welch

Absent: Matt Cashman, Fred Reagan

Guests: Sandy Lee, Felicia Gennetti, Matt Walsh, Dick Lemieux, Meredith Mertz

1. Introductions

2. Regular Discussion Items

a. *Approval of Minutes – August 17, 2021*

The meeting minutes of August 17, 2021 were approved. *Motion:* Durfee.
Second: Major. Unanimous. Abstain – Wollert.

b. *Overview of City-Wide Crash Data*

Thomas discussed that the total number of monthly crashes actually went down from last year. He also mentioned that with the highway safety grants, CPD has been performing more patrols.

c. *City Council Meeting Update*

None.

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

Hill stated that TPAC discussed the South Street an S State Street corridor improvements and neighborhood meeting.

3. Ongoing Discussion and Action Items

a. *Referral from City Council regarding traffic speeds, visibility, and illegal parking on Christian Ave.*

Guest Sandy Lee reiterated her concerns from the last meeting in regards to parking along the north side of Christian Ave and the safety of residents exiting their driveways. Walsh discussed the history of the concerns on Christian Ave dating back to 1978, when parking was restricted to the north side of the road. In 2013, the Havenwood Heritage Heights (HHH) administrator brought similar concerns to the parking committee. At the time, the parking committee and City

staff reviewed parking setbacks and adjusted City's ordinance language to allow for 20 to 30-foot setbacks at all driveways along Christian Ave. It was recommended to leave parking on the north side and to standardize setbacks. The setbacks that are currently in place are equivalent to intersections throughout the City and are more generous than the standard 5-foot from driveways. Thomas believes that 90% of the parking is utilized by Concord Gardens residents. Walsh mentioned that neighborhood parking enforcement is currently minimized due to lack of staff. Crotty discussed that special needs buses pull right up to front of residences at the Gardens and that parked vehicles on the south side may create safety issues for children accessing/exiting the busses. He estimated approximately 50 kids at each stop location, some with learning and language barriers. Crotty was not in support of switching the parking from the north side to the south. Hill will draft a Council report to bring to TOC for review outlining the options and pros and cons of each.

b. *Referral from City Council regarding traffic speed concerns on Elm Street, near #242.*

Thomas to check on accident data in the area. Hill to place traffic counter over the next few weeks. It was discussed that the horizontal and vertical geometry of the roadway could catch a driver off guard, especially if speed is a factor. Hill will follow up with committee after data is collected.

c. *Request from resident regarding traffic speed concerns on Ridge Road and sharp corner at #21.*

Meredith Mertz, resident at #21 Ridge Road discussed concerns with speeding and vehicles cutting off the sharp corner in front of her home. Concerns include safety of pedestrians walking in the roadway as there is no sidewalk on Forrest. Another concern is that traffic data was collected when COVID was still affecting volumes. She requested a stop sign at Forrest and Ridge to slow vehicles down before approaching the corner. It was discussed that a stop sign at that location would go against the City's policy. Thomas said there was an officer out there for a week after the last complaint, but he hasn't received any more complaints since. Mertz added that the morning traffic is the worst, traveling southbound. Hill will explore other options for improvement. In the meantime, Thomas mentioned that CPD can do an added watch in the neighborhood and he will collect accident data.

4. New Discussion and Action Items

a. *Discuss concerns with increased traffic surrounding the Beaver Meadow School during school pick-up times.*

Crotty discussed the current pick up pattern, he mentioned that traffic was backing up from Sylvester onto Fisherville at the beginning of the school year but he believes it has gotten better. He explained that traffic into campus is one way

in and one way out and that cars start to stack an hour before pick up time to be the first in line. He mentioned that the prior plan worked well in previous years but now because of COVID, more parents are driving their children. Walsh asked if they had considered switching direction to offer longer queuing distance on Second Street. Thomas suggested leaving it for now and continue to monitor it. He mentioned that he cannot dedicate a police officer every day. Crotty estimates about 40% of the 360 students are picked up each day. The committee discussed the possibility of increasing stacking onto Margerie Street in the future if the problem persists. Concerns were raised about front lawns, driveways and neighborhood push back. Cedarholm suggested that the school district look at modifications to the existing site layout to address stacking and efficiencies. He also suggested scheduling a workshop to discuss overall issues and path forward.

- b.** *Discuss referral from Councilor Rice Hawkins for speeding concerns on Portsmouth Street in the vicinity of the Conservation Area.*
No discussion. Deferred to the next meeting.
- c.** *Discuss resident concerns for speeding on Portsmouth Street near Ladybug Lane.*
No discussion. Deferred to the next meeting.
- d.** *Request for WEEBLE at new crosswalk on South Street at Mooreland Ave.*
No discussion. Deferred to the next meeting.
- e.** *Introduce City-Wide Striping Policy Initiative.*
No discussion. Deferred to the next meeting.
- f.** *Adjourn*
Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.