

Traffic Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 1, 2021  
9:00AM

Approved  
10/6/2021

NOTES:

1. Roll Call

- a. Chief Cassidy
- b. Mr. Horton
- c. Ms. Hein
- d. Mr. Reese
- e. Mr. Dellicker
- f. Ms. Raffi
- g. Mr. Sipsma
- h. Chief Stone

Motion to approve remote participation by Ms. Hein. Seconded by Mr. Sipsma. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

2. Review and approval of meeting minutes

Motion to approve minutes by Ms. Hein. Seconded by Ms. Raffi. Approved by roll call vote with 1 abstention (Mr. Dellicker)

3. Traffic Petition Hearing

a. 1432 Washington Street

i. Ms. Murphy is not currently on the call - Chief Stone will follow up to reschedule.

b. 1028 Washington Street

Mr. Henderson of 1028 Washington Street

i. Chief Stone: re: 555 Hopping Brook. Please keep all petitions relevant to *current* conditions.

ii. Focus on Highland-to-Pine, Phipps Hill

iii. There is a 'No Jake Brake' sign

iv. There is an increase of 18 Wheel Trailers that are making "thunderous" noise

v. The request is not about keeping people off the road, this is about speed and noise

1. Other trucks are not an issue, but these are

vi. Mr. Henderson obtained a decibel recorder last Spring

1. Most vehicles ranged 40-60db

2. These louder trucks were hitting 105db

3. Unable to measure speed, but anecdotally, residents are seeing smaller and smaller windows to enter Washington

a. This is an indicator that speeds are excessive

4. Smaller vehicles stop faster, loaded trucks stop slower

vii. There are skid marks that indicate abrupt stops

1. Neighbors report hearing screeching brakes multiple times a day

viii. Any irregularities in the street are also places where noise can be amplified

ix. Sympathetic vibrations occur due to traffic

x. Summary: speed and excessive noise issues, predominantly "local" trucks

1. Trucks with a loud downhill also have a very loud uphill

xi. Recommendations from the petitioners

1. One neighbor has offered his driveway to host HPD observation/monitoring

2. Can trucks be assessed for noise potential? Is there an inspection process?

3. There are certain outfits that haul locally that are repeat offenders

4. Is the jake brake sign (across from 1077 Washington) an enforceable mandate? Or a polite request?

**Chief Stone: will explore whether that sign is enforceable or advisory**

a. Mr. Reese: "jake brake" is a proprietary phrase that we can no longer use on signs. This method is actually one that allows trucks to better stop, so many states do not have regulations prohibiting.

5. Can there be a more obvious speed limit sign at the top of the hill?

6. Ms. Hein:

Are there any other road characteristics that contribute to the issue? Aside from pavement failures?

i. Mr. Henderson: This has been ongoing more than 5 years. 5 years ago, the existing jake brake sign was posted.

a. There's a lot to learn about the weight of a vehicle and the speed re: vibration and rattling

Mr. Henderson: there are differences in trucks that appear to be the same size and the noise they generate are much much more.

c. 21 Concord Street

Petitioner has withdrawn and opted to defer to a later date

4. Review and discuss the South Street traffic petition hearing heard on February 24, 2021

Mr. David Bastille (Rockland) presented

a. Speed and increased number of commercial motor vehicles using Rockland and South

b. MassDOT Truck Exclusion is underway:

Chief Stone: there is a resident petition to make South a Scenic Road via the Planning Board. There is a placeholder on the warrant.

i. Preliminary info back from DOT indicated that there should be little trouble getting the exclusion. Presentation of the data will be at Select Board meeting on April 5th

ii. ~3mo cycle from application to approval

iii. Mr. Dellicker: in the 90s, we tried to block truck traffic on South, but it was blocked by Medway.

1. Chief Stone: this time, Medway is present and in agreement!

c. Street lights - Chief Cassidy directed residents to Town Hall who can follow up with Eversource

d. Ms. Hein: looking into DOT recommendations on lane marking best practice:

Lt. Leurini followed up with MassDOT

1. Reflective poles may be confusing for people pulling in and out of driveways and present a danger to pedestrians and cyclists

2. Recommended a green sign with "suggested truck route"

Mr. Reese: do we need Milford buy in to post such?

a. Ms. Hein: with a MassDOT recommendation on a state route within Holliston, it seems like we would not need their approval

b. Chief Stone: these signs are advisory, so should be sufficient

c. Mr. Ahern: get the sign off from MassDOT - where we intend to place, what signs we intend to buy.

d. Mr. Reese will follow up and confirm with Lt. Leurini

Motion to approve suggested truck route signs for Washington street, pending approval from MassDOT from Ms. Raffi. Seconded by Ms. Hein.

Motion to amend "approve" to "recommend" in motion above by Mr. Horton. Seconded by Ms. Hein. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Motion to recommend suggested truck route signs for Washington street, pending approval from MassDOT from Ms. Raffi. Seconded by Ms. Hein. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Mr. Horton to draft a recommendation for Chief Stone.

f. Mr. Reese: large culvert repair project this Fall will likely be a deterrent

g. Ms. Hein: we have flex posts and could delineate the lane markings to enhance the existing geometry.

i. Suzanne Adelman, 46 South Street - thanks, Tina! We still need a deterrent

ii. Ms. Hein: update on MassDOT process

h. Chief Stone: are we creating a situation where we have to repeatedly replace/maintain flex poles?

Ms. Adelman: how much could they possibly cost?

i. Chief Stone: we can get that cost

ii. Chief Cassidy: we are recommending a signage update - can we trial that and hold off on a secondary recommendation in order to test and learn?

1. Ms. Raffi: echo those thoughts.

2. Ms. Hein: can we add a standing agenda item to review efficacy of trials? (#8 on the agenda, below)

Motion to recommend to Select Board fully pursue the commercial motor vehicle enforcement process by Ms. Raffi. Seconded by Mr. Sipsma. Unanimously approve by roll call vote.

Mr. Horton to draft recommendation for Chief Stone.

5. Traffic sign audit update
    - a. February TAC recommendation to Town Administrator to audit by end of Summer 2021.
    - b. Ms. Hein: is it possible to create a Google Doc (similar to the street light one) that we can open to the public?
    - c. Chief Cassidy: if memory serves, that was to be an internal document
    - d. Chief Stone: opening to the public opens a potential avalanche of sign requests
    - i. Ms. Raffi: offer to start an internal Google Doc
    - e. Mr. Ahern: Mr. Reese mentioned a possible intern option for assessment. Budget for DPW signage updates is limited and TAC signage budget (\$4500) was intended more for new signage needed.
    - f. Chief Stone: HPD may be able to significantly contribute since they hit every street, every day.
    - g.
  6. Warrant article update
    - . Currently there is a placeholder on the warrant for \$24,987 for "public safety signs and equipment" related to school zone safety
    - a. Placeholder for Scenic Road designation for South Street, sponsored by Planning Board
    - b. Related to past Warrants, we received the large LED sign board
    - . Need further discussion on storage
  7. Update on actions to date on previous hearing recommendations
    - . We are up to date with petitioner follow ups, excepting one from Curve Street
    - a. Next meeting will hit 28 petitioners and we have 56 remaining (as of 4/1)
    - b. Locust Street: deploy equipment in April to collect data for next meeting
    - c. Bullard Street: deploy equipment in April to collect data for next meeting
  8. Any other items
    - . Mr. Reese: request from a resident. Highway Dept is out of money for fiscal year, but there is a Union Street request for a "Deaf Child" area. Can TAC pay for that?
    - . Mr. Ahern can cover the request to the Select Board and confirm the process under 'other business'
- Motion to recommend to Select Board to mount the display of deaf child sign on Union Street and that DPW be allowed to charge the cost to the TAC article by Ms. Raffi. Seconded by Ms. Hein. Unanimously approved by role call vote.

Mr. Horton to draft recommendation.

- b. Mr. Reese: residents of Winter Street noted a 30mph sign, potentially in conflict with a 25mph one. Are there two speed zones or can DPW remove one?
- i. Ms. Hein to confirm and follow up with Mr. Reese, but it should be 25mph both ways
- c. Mr. Reese: Bullard Street, DPW is going to remove 30mph signs. TAC recommendation was to also add a 25mph sign.

Motion to recommend to select board that DPW remove the 30mph sign and post a 25mph sign and be allowed to use the TAC funding source by Ms. Raffi, seconded by Ms. Hein. Approved 5 to 2 by roll call vote.

Mr. Horton to draft a recommendation and Mr. Ahern to put an agenda item for 4/12 Select Board

- d. Mr. Sipsma: there has been consideration for the intersection of Highland and Washington... would those fall under the jurisdiction of the town or the state?
- i. There is a large tree in the easement that potentially interferes with traffic
- ii. Consideration of a crosswalk. This is the only section within a 2 mile radius of the schools that does not have a crosswalk
- iii. Mr. Reese: jurisdiction is DOT. They have already upbranched the tree and consider the case closed.
- iv. Mr. Reese: we're in the middle of a sidewalk study. We can request they focus on this intersection.

1. We may not need a petition as the DOT is already involved
- v. Ms. Hein: Complete Streets is underway and this intersection is on the list of highlighted areas
  1. Not against a petition, but there are other routes to cover this
  2. Will send the Complete Streets draft to the committee
- e. Mr. Horton: should TAC be following up with residents of past petitions?  
Chief Stone: we hear a petition, we make a recommendation. If there is more to be done, petitioners should re-approach TAC with further recommendations
- i. Ms. Raffi: is there anything we can do to "close the loop" with petitioners?
  1. Chief Stone: we can discuss further, but similar to following up with a message of petition receipt, we should probably have a mechanism to close out
- ii. Ms. Hein: can we keep a standing open agenda item to address past petitions?
- f. Ms. Raffi: next meeting?  
Chief Stone: Town Meeting is May 10th, can we aim for after that?
- i. Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 18th @ 7pm

Motion to adjourn at 10:56AM by Ms. Raffi, seconded by Mr. Sipsma. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.