

TRAFFIC AND SIDEWALK COMMITTEE (TSC) MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 7:00PM

Weston Police Training Room

180 Boston Post Road By-Pass

Committee Members Attending:

Jay Doyle (Chair), Andrew Chase, Richard Gula, Olga Shulman

Ex Officio Members Attending:

Steve Fogg (Town Engineer), Captain Tom Kelly (Weston Police Dept.)

Public Attending: Jessica Lizza HSH, Justin Woodside Weston Fire, Dean Munson Weston Fire, Bill Fitzsimmons, Bella Wong, Steve Brand, Alex Faigel, Joel Angiolillo, Bonnie Mackool, Tyler Burns

1. Introductions of the Members of the Committee:
2. Approval of minutes from previous meeting/posting of old minutes/assign someone to take minutes
 - The December 2019 minutes were approved, unanimously.
 - Andrew Chase volunteered to take the minutes for tonight's meeting.
3. Public Comments / Letters from Residents
 - Letter – Erin Bascom – Would like to the committee to consider add flashing lights at the crosswalk on RTE 117 and Church St to operate during “rush hour” to remind people they are approaching a crosswalk.
4. Route 30 Reconstruction Project – Design Update
 - Update (short review discussion) was provided by Jay Doyle about the project. Some key points were discussed, lane width, overall road width, the road shoulders and the use of shared use path. The new signals at Winter, Ash, and Oak Streets were identified and discussed.
 - Residents in attendance were overall positive about the project and the improvements being proposed to improve operations, particularly for pedestrians and bicyclists. The updated plans are currently on the Town of Weston website for public review. During the next T&SC meeting in February the committee will continue discussing the pre-25% design plans and welcome public comments. Any residents who have comments can also send them to the Weston Department of Public Works via the Town Engineer, Steve Fogg at fogg.s@westonmass.org.
 - Everyone in attendance was reminded the Route 30 project is still in the pre-25% design stage and the current plans are DRAFT.
5. Chestnut St. / Love Lane Study
 - Analyses were performed for both roadways by the same consultant VHB with traffic counts and speed studies. The consultant evaluated turn restrictions during both the morning and evening peak commuting times aimed at reducing the most problematic cut-through traffic. “Speed Tables” were identified as an option for reducing speeds, and DPW concerns about impact on snow plows and emergency responders was mentioned. The consultant also evaluated the option of creating a cul-de-sac at a midpoint of each street, or dead-ending each street in the middle.
 - The studies are currently on the Town of Weston website for public review in more detail. The current study report is consistent with meeting discussions last month when the consultant VHB presented their findings.
 - Residents in attendance asked for some guidance from the committee. TB – was in favor of the turn restrictions during the morning and evening commutes.

- The committee was in favor of turn restrictions to reduce cut-through traffic because they are low-cost, relatively easy to implement, and don't preclude more aggressive options later, if necessary. Turn restrictions can be for a set amount of time in the morning and evening or they can be 24/7 restrictions. Captain Kelly (WPD) explained 24/7 restrictions are easier to enforce and would not require special treatment. It is recognized that implementation of recommendations will need to be coordinated with a roadway safety audit (RSA) to be performed on Highland Street/Rt20 intersection, and potential ripple effect on potential cut-through routes in other neighborhoods.
- Committee chair Jay Doyle made two motions for the committee to vote on.
 - First motion was to support the suggestion to the Select Board that 24/7 turn restriction be considered on Love lane as follows, on Route 20 eastbound, no right turn on to Love lane southbound and when on Love lane northbound, no left turn on to Route 20 westbound. The motion was seconded by Rich Gula and passed 4-0 by the committee.
 - The second motion was to support the suggestion to the Select Board that limited turn restrictions be considered for Chestnut St as follows, on Highland St. southbound, no left turn in the morning from 6:30 to 10:00AM and on Highland St. northbound, no right turn in the morning from 6:30 to 10:00AM. On Wellesley St. northbound, no left turn on to Chestnut St. in the evening from 3:00 to 7:00PM and on Wellesley St southbound, no right turn on to Chestnut St in the evening from 3:00 to 7:00PM. The motion was seconded by Andrew Chase and passed 4-0.
 - The next step is to recommend the actions to the Select Board.

6. Merriam Street/Rte. 117 – Analysis and alternatives

- Consultant from Howard Stein Hudson (HSH) discussed the current safety concerns, including limited sight line, the speeds throughout the intersection are high and lack of pedestrian and bike accommodations.
- Short term possible solutions include restriping the intersection and installing new signage. Reducing the lane width to 11 feet. Additional brush trimming to improve the sight lines throughout the intersection. Install new warning signal(s) on the approach(es) to the intersection on Rte. 117, east and westbound. Add an overhead flashing signal.
- Members of the public attending the meeting questioned the short term solutions instead of making more impactful improvements for the intersection. Steve Fogg suggested making these short-term improvements and revisiting the operations and safety benefits before making more substantial permanent changes to the intersection.
- BF – Sees benefits to a raised median island on Route 117, and a flashing light to help reduce speeds and increase driver awareness.
- Committee chair Jay Doyle made a motion for the committee to vote on.
 - The motion was to support the option #2 as described in the technical memo provided by the consultant HSH and to take it to the next stage recommending action to the Select Board. The motion was seconded by Andrew Chase and passed 4-0.

7. Updates on active Walkway/Sidewalk projects

a. Merriam Street

- The culvert design and work is in process and the DPW is putting final plans together to go out to bid during the spring of 2020. There are still a few easements needed.

b. Ash Street

- Final design plans are still in process with the DPW. The T&SC requested an update during late spring and early summer about the final cost estimate.

8. Updates Only: Projects/Designs/Studies/Issues:

a. Route 20 at Wellesley Street Design

- Successful neighborhood meeting and site visit occurred and the project has been sent to the Select Board. Consensus with neighborhood was reached on configuration of Winsor Way and an update in February is anticipated.
- b. DPW-Police-School Dept. requests
 - Nothing new requests made

NEXT MEETING DATE: February 26, 2020