

TRAFFIC AND SIDEWALK COMMITTEE (TSC) MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 7:00PM
Via Zoom

Committee Members Attending:

Jay Doyle (Chair), Andrew Chase, Richard Gula, Olga Aginsky, Tom Benson

Ex Officio Members Attending:

Elika Bahrevar (DPW), Captain Tom Kelly (Weston Police Dept.)

Public Attending: Members of the public attended the zoom call, attendance was not taken.

1. Introductions of the Members of the Committee:

1A. Approval of minutes from previous meeting/posting of old minutes/assign someone to take minutes

- The June 16, 2021 minutes were approved, unanimously.
- Andrew Chase volunteered to take the minutes for tonight's meeting.

2. Letters, emails and comments from the public:

- Andrew Chase asked for some follow up from Cpt. Kelly about an email related to an accident at Wellesley Street and Meadowbrook road. Cpt. Kelly – Speed study is ongoing and a site visit was done. He found the stop line is set back too from the intersection and sightlines at the end of Maple road. are hampered by a tree to the south and brush to the north. The intersection has visibility and sightline issues.
- Katrina Wilkins – Chair of Weston's Sustainability committee introduction to the committee. She discussed how the Sustainability committee might partner with Traffic and Sidewalk.

3. Complete Streets Program Overview, Kortni Wroten, Sustainability Coordinator, Town of Weston

- Provided an introduction to a program the T&SC might utilize called Complete Streets. Complete Streets purpose is to increase access to various modes of transportation to resident or visitors of a community. The program is all about connecting people with other options for transportation.

4. Other updates:

- Rte. 20 @ Wellesley Street / Boston Post Road and the Rte. 30 Reconstruction Project -
 - Both projects have had their respective 25% design plans submitted to MassDOT and MassDOT has completed its review. The 25% designs for both projects are on the town website. The design consultants VHB is working through some newer updates reviewing the plan comments from MassDOT for the Rt. 20 at Wellesley Street. The town and MassDOT are currently working through the project details and looking for a public hearing in the fall of this year.
 - In terms of project timing the Rte. 20 at Wellesley Street project is ahead of the Rte. 30 Reconstruction project.
 - The Rte. 30 Reconstruction Project is larger and the town and MassDOT are working on comments and follow up from recent meetings about the project.

- MassDOT will schedule a separate design public meeting for each project sometime over the coming months.
- Ash Street – Sidewalk application
 - This section of the Ash street sidewalk would connect the southernmost point at the reservoir to the north at the Legacy trail completed in 2020. Since the warrant did not pass at last town meeting multiple new ideas have been communicated and alternatives have been explored.

5. Proposed Love Lane Traffic Restrictions: Background, Survey, and Next Steps,
Chris Houston, Select Board Member

- Select Board member Chris Houston discussed the Love Lane (LL) traffic presentation and the details from a survey that was conducted
 - The LL survey listed the following recommendations:
 - Immediate items -
 - Do NOT implement proposed traffic restrictions, due to equity and other concerns highlighted in the survey results
 - Do NOT install speed bumps on LL, per current townwide policy
 - Consider signage at Highland and LL to direct traffic down Highland to Rte. 20
 - Increase Police presence and enforcement to the extent possible
 - Longer-term items -
 - Prioritize traffic signal at Highland and Rte. 20, either through TIP or without state assistance
 - Consider additional Police enforcement measures if permitted
 - Evaluate sidewalks or other measures to ameliorate dangers to residents on LL and other street.
 - Through further discussions with the Select Board, with the Town Manager, DPW and others, Mr. Houston provided an update with the following suggestions:
 - Do new speed and volume analysis in September to get updated data in the area.
 - Implement turn restriction on a trial basis.
 - When the trial basis is complete, conduct updated speed and volume analysis in the same area as the initial analysis.
 - Reevaluate the turn restrictions in place and continue the trial period for additional support or pivot to a more permanent solution.
 - To prioritize traffic signal at Highland and Rte. 20 without the TIP process but as a town initiative because funding through the TIP process would take five years or more and the improvements can't wait that long.
 - Jay Doyle T&SC Chair offered the following motion: I move that the Traffic and Sidewalk Committee recommend to the Select Board the implementation of the turn restrictions on Love Lane that were identified in the engineering report prepared by the town engineering consultant that was reviewed and discussed with the traffic and sidewalk committee and that those turn restrictions be preceded by a volume and speed count to be done this fall prior to the implementation of the turn restrictions and that the turn restrictions be in place for a period of at least 6 months potentially 12 with the exact duration to determine by the results and that this will be monitored periodically over that time frame. And that a set of speed and volume counts be taken at the same locations again at the end of the trial period and that the turn restrictions be considered a trial or a pilot pending the outcome of the counts and an analysis of the results. The motion passed unanimously 4-0

6. Request added to the meeting for discussion:

- DPW is seeking the approval of funds from the Traffic and Sidewalk Committee for the replacement of the four school zone radar display signs.
 - Existing signs, two at Wellesley Street and two at School Street are over ten years old and in various states of disfunction. The company they were originally purchased from is out of business and needed repair parts are not available. The proposal would be to replace all four signs with new displays which are be programmable. The proposed equipment's total cost as quoted is \$43,450. The crosswalk account for School Street pedestrian signal (Art. 24B 5/14 Pedestrian Signal) has a balance of \$29,211.00. The remaining funds, \$14,239 might come from the Traffic and Sidewalk Committee.
 - DPW is requesting that the Traffic Committee vote to approve the use of \$14,239 out of Traffic and Sidewalk Committee budget for this purpose. Completing this task as soon as possible instead of waiting for the next Town meeting to request capital money would help to have working flashing signs for start of the new school year.
 - The Traffic and Sidewalk Committee discussed the options but more will need to be discussed in detail during a future meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Future meetings – August 11th 2021 at 7PM