

Traffic Safety Coordinating Committee  
February 10, 2012  
Flynn Building, 9:00 am  
Minutes

Present: Jody Kablack (Dir. Of Planning and Community Development), Bill Place (DPW Director), Rick Glavin (Police Chief)

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

1. Stops Signs on Dutton Road and Haynes Road

The SPD continued to research the right of way issue as it relates to a throughway and a T-intersection. The terms are not well defined in the Mass. General Laws. The MA RMV Manual does provide some guidance related to this, defining the use of **Throughways** as “On a designated throughway, you must yield the right-of-way to traffic on the throughway before you turn.” There is also a picture in the manual showing a “T” intersection which attempts to demonstrate which vehicle has the right of way (the vehicle traveling straight through). In addition, insurance liability is discussed in **211 CMR 74.04 - Situations in which fault is presumed to be more than 50 percent where** “(31) Collision at a “T” Intersection. The operator of a vehicle subject to the Safe Driver Insurance Plan shall be presumed to be more than 50% at fault when operating a vehicle coming from a roadway that terminates onto a throughway and whose vehicle is in a collision with another vehicle traveling on that intersecting throughway.” Once again the word “throughway” is used and for liability purposes it places fault on whomever attempts to enter a main road (throughway) from a secondary road.

The TSC believes that through streets have the right of way and intersecting streets must yield, and that the Town is not required to install stop signs at all T-intersections.

Additionally, the Traffic Safety Officer reviewed the request to install stop signs along Dutton Road and Haynes Road and provided a report indicating 2 streets on Haynes Road and 5 streets along Dutton Road have inadequate sight distance and were recommended for stop signs. The DPW Dept. will remove vegetation to increase sight distance on the noted streets.

2. Cross walk at North Road and Powder Mill/Mossman Road

Email request from Erika Hunsberger dated 12/15/11 requesting installation of a cross walk near Sierra’s and noting that her son was hit by a car in that location. The TSC has trepidation for installing crosswalks in locations where there is not a connecting walkway, such as this location. The DPW Dept is working on completing the walkways on both Powder Mill Road and Mossman Road, and once there is a link a crosswalk will be painted. Mitigation funds from the large Concord development at the Town line will be given to the Town about ½ way through the construction process, and can be used to increase safety at this intersection. The problem with installing crosswalks across a main road is that it gives pedestrians a sense of security in a very dangerous situation. The TSC is not in favor of installing a crosswalk at this location at this time.

3. Dudley Road Left Turn petition

The TSC is in receipt of a petition signed by 15 neighbors requesting that the residents of Dudley Road be permitted to make a left turn from Nobscot Road onto Dudley, which is currently prohibited for all traffic. The Police Chief noted that this would be impossible to enforce, and would result in all traffic being allowed to make the turn. The TSC noted that this subject was discussed with the Selectmen in 1995 and 2003, both discussions terminating in leaving the regulation in place as is. The TSC is in favor of either removing the turn restriction entirely, or leaving it as is. It was also noted that the traffic light at Nobscot and Route 20 enables vehicles to safely turn left onto Route 20 and may reduce the number of non-resident vehicles turning left onto Dudley Road to continue west on Route 20. The TSC is in favor of instituting a 6 month pilot project to see how many non-resident vehicles make the turn before amending the Traffic Rules and orders. If the street is overburdened with non-resident traffic, the TSC will be inclined to recommend the restriction be reinstated.

4. Request for crosswalk at First Parish

Email request from Bridget Hanson dated 11/28/11 to install a crosswalk across Concord Road. The TSC noted that this feature is part of the intersection reconstruction project, which will create better pedestrian opportunities in the town center. The TSC is not in favor of installing a crosswalk at this time until the town center plans are finalized and the project is funded for construction.

5. Stop sign at Stearns and Moore Roads

Email from Charlotte Janigian dated 10/10/11 request installation of a stop sign at Stearns and Moore Road. The TSC acknowledges that the sight distance at that intersection is not good, however the DPW Dept. has tried for years to get permission from an abutting landowner to trim bushes back from the edge of the road (on private property). The TSC encourages Ms. Janigian to speak to her neighbor about the vegetation to see if this can be done on a neighborly basis. The DPW Dept maintains the vegetation within the Town right of way. The TSC is not in favor of installing a stop sign in this location.

6. Request for speed reduction on Lincoln Road

Phone request from Jill Halperin on 11/03/11 questioning why the speed limit changes 3 times along Lincoln Road. The TSC will add Lincoln Road to its list of variable speed limits in its discussion with MassHighway.

7. Crosswalk at Route 20 and Raymond Road

Email from Dusty Ladieu dated 9/19/11 requesting installation of a crosswalk on Route 20 near Raymond Road. Jody Kablack responded on 10/17/11 informing Mr. Ladieu that a walkway along the entire south side of Route 20 from Mill Village to Sudbury Crossing was in the planning stages, with funds provided by developers, which will allow pedestrians to safely walk to the Union Ave traffic light and cross Route 20 safely. Also noted was that any crosswalk within the Route 20 right of way would need MassHighway approval, and they had denied such a request near the Bullfinches restaurant in the recent past. Ms. Kablack and Mr. Place will schedule a site visit with the Maple Meadows developer on the walkway planning in the near future. After further discussion on this topic, the TSC recommended that the Town not pursue a crosswalk in this location at this time.

8. North Road/Great Road reconstruction project

Email from Michael Hutton dated 1/6/12 noting that the sight distance at the new intersection is restricted by 2 signs that have recently been installed. The SPD has reviewed the

intersection and agrees. The DPW Dept. will move the 2 signs back into the island to allow cars unimpeded vision of Route 117.

9. Johnson Farm traffic issues

Email from Stan Kaplan dated 12/27/11 requesting the TSC provide opinions on pedestrian access within the development, public safety concerns with the boulevard access proposed, public safety concerns relative to emergency access to the buildings, concerns relative to a State Fire Marshal report dated March 2009 (not provided) and public safety concerns relative to the adequacy of traffic lights in the vicinity. The TSC is deferring comments on all of these issues to the Town's traffic consultants who are working with the ZBA on this application. Most of these issues are being addresses in their normal review of the project.

10. Request to remove No Parking signs in front of Haynes School

The Sudbury Public School requested removal of recently installed signs in front of the Haynes School. The signs were initially installed due to parking problems during school hours. It is now felt that there is not adequate parking near the school, and the signs have been requested to be removed. The TSC will investigate, however feel keeping the front of the school free from parking is safer, that cars parking in front routinely block the walkway from use, and that there is ample parking on the abutting side streets.

11. The minutes of 9/30/11 were approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.