

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday, August 26, 2013

9:00 am

Flynn Building Conference Room

278 Old Sudbury Road

Present: Bill Place (DPW Director), Scott Nix (Police Chief), Bill Miles (Fire Chief), Jody Kablack (Dir. of Planning and Community Development)

1. Intersection of Cedar Creek and Willard Grant - Email from Craig Lizotte dated 4/30/13. DPW is aware of the issue and believes vegetation management is the best solution at this time. Brush will be cut back and need for a sign will be reassessed.

2. Bicycle Safety - Cate Dill was present for a discussion. She noted an increase in the number of bicycle riders, both sports enthusiasts and recreational riders, around Town. She has also spoken with pedestrians and runners. There is a general fear for the safety for these users. Wellness Coordinators in the schools are encouraging less car use and more mobility on the part of the kids. She is working with Officer Conrado on Safe Routes to Schools thru MA DOT - pedestrian safety in the lower grades, bicycle safety in middle school. The important elements are Education, Safety, and Infrastructure.

Mobility on Route 20 was discussed, including the challenges with it being controlled by the state. Discussed pedestrian improvements planned along Route 20, including pedestrian activated phase at Union Ave, and the Landham Rd signal.

Chief Nix is intending to work with the schools and to have a greater presence/relationship with the schools. His department is also working with SudburyTV to do some public safety programming. There is a need to create a greater awareness of multiple users on the narrow Sudbury roads if we are going to encourage more use.

Cate requested better sweeping of walkways and clearing of brush. Bill Place said to call DPW and request this in particular areas.

Cate next discussed her ideas for Share the Road signs and Points of Interest signs. These signs need further discussion by the TSC. Cate will schedule a follow up meeting on this issue.

Jody mentioned the Complete Streets initiative by MAPC, and will forward Cate the information received.

3. Willow and Hemlock stop sign request – email from Wendy Kaiser dated 8/1/13. Wendy was also present to discuss her request. She has identified numerous issues with pedestrians and cars driving too fast at this intersection. There are also conflicts with bus stops in the area. SS&T brings more traffic in the summer, but it is a problem all year long.

Chief Nix noted 2 possible issues - vehicular speed and the location of the bus stop. He will work with the bus coordinator to determine the safest location. Bill Place noted that the geometrics of the intersection make it somewhat difficult to place another stop sign, but will look at it. A larger Dead End street sign will also be installed. The TSC will take a harder look at creating a 3 or 4 way intersection and will report back. It was also suggested that a Caution Children sign be installed as a temporary measure.

4. Hudson Rd- email from Gladys Nunez dated 5/13/13. Request to limit truck traffic during certain times of the day along this stretch of Hudson Road. TSC not in favor of this request, as this is a major route through town and no alternative exits.

A further request is to consider the use of speed bumps near this location and increase the level of speed enforcement. TSC not in favor of speed bumps, as they are a significant hindrance for public safety vehicles, and are difficult to maintain, particularly in the winter months. The Sudbury Police Dept. will monitor this area for speed, including the use of the portable traffic calming signs to inform drivers of the speed.

5. 271 Hudson Rd – email from Marietta Hodgetts request to lower speed limit and increase speed enforcement.

The speed limit in this area was noted as 40 mph. The density of the neighborhood does not qualify for Thickly Settled. The TSC expressed a concern that going through the MA DOT* process would increase the speed limit in that area. The Sudbury Police Dept. will continue enforcement and education with the use of the electronic speed limit sign.

6. Goodman's Hill Road crosswalk - email from Patricia Lewis dated 5/21/13 requesting a more prominent crosswalk at the intersection of Goodman's Hill Rd and Concord Rd.

The DPW Dept. will paint crosswalk blue. Use of the neon signs is reserved for crosswalks with less visibility. This intersection contains a traffic island separating the lanes of traffic, which mitigates the issue somewhat.

7. 390 Old Lancaster Road - email from Judith Lytel dated 5/29/12 requesting a Blind Driveway sign. The TSC does not see the need for a sign in that area. DPW will review the area and trim vegetation if needed to increase sight distance. Residents are also urged to remove vegetation along street frontage to increase sight distance.

8. Landham Road – email from Jon Danielson, 37 Landham Rd, dated 6/24/13 with 4 requests.

- DPW will inspect catch basin grate to see if anything can be done to alleviate the rattling. (Note – DPW installed a gasket in this grate, but further work is still needed and has been requisitioned).
- A shroud was ordered over 1 month ago to be installed by second party vendor on the street light outside the home.
- Speed - enforcement signs have been deployed to this area. See the process for MA DOT * speed assessment (below). The TSC does not believe this area will benefit from a petition.
- Walkway maintenance - most walkways in South Sudbury were reconstructed at the opening of Loring School (1999). Landham Rd is on the schedule for repaving in 2013/2014.

9. Woodside Rd – email from Rena Bickel dated 7/12/13 requesting a Blind Drive sign in the location of 87 Woodside Road.

DPW cut back the vegetation over the summer. The resident is requested to notify the TSC if conditions are more acceptable.

10. Old Framingham Rd – email from Phyllis Bially dated 8/5/13 requesting a speed limit sign on Old Framingham Road, and a continuation of the walkway on Old Framingham Road north towards Nobscot Road.

Chief Nix will verify the speed limit and DPW will post the street if it is a posted street in the Traffic Rules and Orders. Bill Place noted that constructing the remainder of the walkway north along Old Framingham Road is difficult, and needs easements that the property owners had previously not consented to. A walkway can be constructed along Nobscot Rd to fill in the gap, but that is currently not high priority for the funds. It was suggested that this topic be discussed within the context of the next Walkway Prioritization with the Planning Board to see if this section should be reconsidered.

11. 220 Maynard Rd – email from Lina and Stephen Andrade requesting a Blind Drive sign. DPW will inspect the area. Residents are urged to remove vegetation along frontage to increase sight lines.

12. Parking at Ducketts Funeral Home – email from Sgt. Robert Grady dated 5/8/13
Problems with parking during large funerals have been noted by area residents, and it seems that the problem is escalating. SPD has authorized temporary no parking areas during large funerals, but the funeral owner has not installed them. A letter will be sent from SPD to Ducketts and to Waterman.

13. Pines Lakes intersections – The SPD reported that there was an accident recently. TSC may need to re-evaluate this. Vegetation clearing necessary in some areas by DPW.

14. Town Center – Bill Place noted that he is doing preliminary work associated with the recently approved plans for the intersection and is moving Hudson Road 3' to the south to avoid moving utility poles, as planned. This work is in concert with the intersection plans, and will reduce the overall cost when the project goes out to bid. The intersection plans under review by VHB prior to bid.

15. Approved 3/28/13 minutes.

16. Follow up from March 28, 2013 meeting:

- Dudley Road, removal of No Left Turn Sign – Jody Kablack will write a letter to Mr. Demos requesting he contact additional neighbors on Dudley Rd to ascertain the level of support from these residents. The TSC is withdrawing its support of this request until we receive more input from neighbors. The TSC was under the impression that more neighbors wanted this.
- Willis Road Truck Exclusion – Jody will request the BOS exclude trucks greater than 2 ½ tons along the section from Maynard Rd to Marlboro Rd.
- Variable speed limits – Data will be provided to MA DOT on variable speed limits on several roads, with the goal of reducing speed and standardizing the speed limits.
- Install additional speed limit signs – the TSC will ask IT Dept. to generate a map of all speed limit signs for TSC review.
- Landham Road intersection – In June 2013 MA DOT agreed to take over the project, from design to funding. Nothing further to report at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

* MA DOT speed assessment process is contained in the 2008 MA Amendment to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), Chapter 11A-8, which is governed by M.G.L. c. 90, s. 18. Speed limits which are changed in any other way are not enforceable. Modifying a speed limit requires an engineering study of the roadway conditions, including volume and speed recordings and trial runs by municipal officials. The ability to modify the speed limit of a roadway is based on the speed that 85% of the vehicles actually travel on the road, as noted in the studies. What Sudbury officials have experienced is that when requested to do such an assessment, the 85% percentile speed is generally higher than the posted speed limit. Modification of the speed limit is then at the discretion of the MA DOT. If the Town agrees with MA DOT, the Board of Selectmen must also approve the change to the Traffic Rules and Orders.