

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF August 25, 2020**

The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met at 9:00 AM on August 25th, 2020.

Due to the Covid-19/Coronavirus Pandemic and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Traffic Operations Committee was authorized to meet electronically. The City of Concord utilized the WebEx platform for this electronic meeting. There was no physical location to observe and listen to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to Governor Sununu's emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04.

All members of the Committee had the ability to communicate during this meeting through the WebEx platform, and the public had access to listen and participate in this meeting as necessary.

Attendees: John Thomas, Sam Durfee, Rick Wollert, Karen Hill, Jim Major, Terry Crotty

Absent: Matt Cashman, Fred Reagan, David Cedarholm

Guests: Dick Lemieux

1. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of July 28, 2020 were approved as amended (Motion – Major; Second – Thomas).

2. Regular Discussion Items

a. Overview of City-Wide Crash Data:

- i. July accidents have decreased from prior years; trend is still carrying due to COVID.*
- ii. There was a serious accident on Loudon Road where a motorist intentionally ran into a bicyclist. The bicyclist sustained serious injuries. The accident is still under investigation.*

b. City Council Meeting Updates:

- i. No City Council updates at the time.*

c. Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) Updates:

- i. The Neighborhood Traffic Subcommittee reformation is being pushed down the road due to other City-wide COVID priorities.*
- ii. TPAC was presented with alternatives for the Loudon Road Bridge Project. There was discussion surrounding the proposed bridge typical section and lane configuration at the Ft. Eddy Road intersection.*

3. Ongoing Discussion and Action Items

a. Status of temporary median island test at CVS/Burger King driveway and resident concerns regarding Burns Ave turn-around traffic:

- i. It was discussed that maybe the best approach is to contact the owners of the businesses and propose the two options of the median island test and closing the driveway.*
- ii. Wollert asked if we could collect data on how often the Burns Ave turnarounds are actually happening and if it is a significant problem caused by CVS traffic.*

- b. Referral from City Councilor Pierce regarding dangerous intersection at the corner of Primrose Lane and Borough Road:
 - i. *Engineering went out to examine the sight distance. The trees and shrubs appear to be in the line of sight when stopped at the stop bar. If the vehicle inches up, the sight line is clear.*
 - ii. *The homeowner trimmed the bottom branches of the tree and the shrubs along Borough Road. We asked that she keep them maintained, as they are within the right-of-way, and if they continue to be a problem then they will need to be removed.*
- c. Update on Bog/Carter Hill/ Horse Hill/ River Road intersection study:
 - i. *CNHRPC is collecting traffic data on the Carter Hill and River Road approaches and will send data this week.*
 - ii. *Engineering will then perform a study and examine if warrants are met.*
 - iii. *Major and Lemieux expressed concerns with making this a 4-way stop.*

4. New Discussion and Action Items

- a. Discussion surrounding back to school traffic patterns:
 - i. *Terry Crotty discussed the school district's concerns related to traffic patterns when the schools begin to reopen. He stated that they sent out surveys and are concerned that there will be an influx of parent drop offs at the schools because parents do not want their children on the busses due to COVID.*
 - ii. *He mentioned that currently schools are opening for high risk students, students with special needs, hands on technical center students, and some athletics.*
 - iii. *He mentioned that the schools are looking at on-campus flow solutions in anticipation of a full opening but would like to work with City Staff on potential roadway solutions to help mitigate the traffic.*
 - iv. *Thomas, Major, and Hill all agreed to help in any way they can and asked for Terry to keep them updated on the school's plans to reopen fully.*
 - v. *Wollert stated that the school flashing beacons will remain off until he hears from the schools.*
 - vi. *It was discussed that TOC could schedule an interim meeting, if needed, to discuss prior to September's meeting.*
- b. Discuss problematic WEEBLE locations:
 - i. *Jim Major discussed that there are three WEEBLES that keep getting moved to the side of the road and, as a result, are not doing what they are intended to do.*
 - ii. *There are two in Penacook Village and one on Storrs Street at the southern entrance to Capitol Plaza.*
 - iii. *Discussions included Major looking into a temporary adhesive to keep the WEEBLES in place as well as the possibility of him adding permanent WEEBLE signage to the crosswalk warning sign posts.*
- c. Discuss resident request for speed mitigation on Horse Hill Road:

- i. Hill sent speed data to CPD for directed patrol in the area.*
 - ii. Thomas mentioned that they could also add it to the list to deploy the speed trailer.*
 - iii. Hill discussed the possibility of Engineering placing their counters closer to the area of complaint, if needed.*
- d. Regional Drive/Airport Road intersection signing and striping:
 - i. The “arrows and onlys” at the intersection are almost completely worn. There is minimal advanced lane designation signing.*
 - ii. Major discussed that the paint crew is actively working on refreshing the “arrows and onlys” but have about 900 to do with a two-person crew.*
 - iii. Major agreed to check and make sure there are lane designation signs on all 4 legs*

5. Other Discussion Items:

- a. Downtown Civic District Paving Coordination
 - i. Major discussed that GSD plans to pave the downtown civic area streets in 2022. He would like to discuss the possibility of adding cameras to the signalized intersections instead of loops. He added that he would like to work with Engineering on this effort.*
 - ii. Hill stated that Engineering is currently looking at CIP 283 - Traffic Signals and Traffic Operations Improvements and the possible reallocation of funds to install audible pedestrian signals on Pleasant Street. She indicated that the cameras can be part of that discussion.*
 - iii. Hill agreed to set up a meeting with Rick Wollert, Engineering and General Services.*
- b. Placement of temporary construction signing throughout the City.
 - i. Lemieux discussed the reoccurring issue of temporary construction signage being placed in the shoulders that are intended for bicycle usage. He stated that this created an unsafe/abrupt merge for bicyclists and traffic. He asked that GSD and Engineering consider sign placement more in the sidewalk or behind the sidewalk and off of the roadway, where possible to mitigate the risk for a bicyclist crash.*
 - ii. Hill and Major agreed to follow up with folks in the field to remind them of this hazard.*

6. Tabled items were not discussed:

- a. Discussions on the traffic counter data for Hoit Rd, and “cross traffic does not stop” signs at the Hoit Rd - Mountain Rd intersection. – *Item tabled to see if new signs improve operations.*
- b. Discussions on the request for crosswalk at South Street and Mooreland Ave. – *Item tabled until traffic and pedestrian counts can be performed after COVID-19 subsides.*
- c. Request from resident regarding traffic speed concerns on Ridge Road and intersection with Forest Street. – *Item tabled until traffic and pedestrian counts can be performed during the school year.*
- d. Discuss status of intersection improvements for Centre/Washington Street intersection. – *Item tabled until a Public Meeting can be held and funding can be appropriated.*
- e. Discuss status of installation of Audible Pedestrian Signals at Pleasant/Green and Pleasant/State intersections regarding safety concerns for blind resident. – *Item tabled until funding can be appropriated.*

- f. Referral from City Councilor Todd regarding speed and safety concerns at the sharp corner on Borough Road. – *Item tabled until Engineering collects traffic and speed counts.*