



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Robert J. Mack, PE, PTOE
Traffic Engineer

DATE: January 25, 2018

SUBJECT: Report from the Traffic Engineer on behalf of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee in response to a referral from Councilor Bouchard regarding a constituent concern with cut-through traffic and speeds on Christian Avenue.

Recommendation

Accept this report.

Background

At its November 13, 2017 meeting, City Council referred to the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) a request from Councilor Bouchard regarding a constituent concern with increasing cut-through traffic and speed on Christian Avenue. Engineering Services conducted follow-up traffic volume and speed counts and coordinated findings with the Concord Police Department (CPD). This referral and staff follow-up were reviewed by TPAC on December 15, 2017 and January 25, 2018.

Discussion

At issue is a resident concern with increasing cut-through traffic and speed on Christian Avenue, and particularly since the completion of construction activity along Loudon Road. Engineering Services conducted follow-up traffic volume and speed counts on Christian Avenue from November 17 to 20, 2017. Compared with counts conducted in 2010 (prior to Loudon Road water main and street reconstruction) speeds were nearly identical (average 25-27 mph; and 85th percentile 32-33 mph). Traffic volume has increased only slightly in the last seven years from about 1,650 to 1,850 vehicles per day. Use of Christian Avenue as a significant bypass of Loudon Road may have been likely during construction activity along Loudon Road, but there does not now appear to be significant additional bypassing now that construction activity is over. There were a few inappropriate speeds recorded, and the time-of-day data was shared with the Concord Police Department to assist in enforcement efforts.

This referral and staff follow-up was discussed by TPAC on December 15, 2017. Attendees concurred that police enforcement was appropriate. It was also suggested that deployment of the speed trailer would be an appropriate educational tool to remind drivers to be mindful of their speed. In subsequent follow-up with the Police Department, staff was informed that the speed trailer could be deployed after the end of snow season when space is more readily available along the edge of the street to properly locate the trailer.

TPAC endorsed this finding and recommendation at its January 25, 2018 meeting. Staff will continue to monitor.

cc: Transportation Policy Advisory Committee