

**CITY OF CONCORD  
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF October 22, 2019**

The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met at 9:00 a.m., on October 22, 2019, in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street.

Attendees: Jim Major, Terry Crotty, David Cedarholm, Fred Reagan, John Thomas, Rick Wollert, Sam Durfee

Absent: Matt Cashman

Guests: Chris Mertz, Dick Lemieux, Todd Welch, Ashley Hamilton

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The meeting minutes of September 24, 2019 were approved (Motion – Wollert; Second – Thomas).

**2. Regular Discussion Items**

- a. Overview of City-Wide Crash Data showed 97 accidents occurred in September 2019, which is less than September 2018. One fatality was reported. Three incidents involved a collision with a pedestrian and one involved a bicyclist.

**3. Ongoing Discussion and Action Items**

- a. Referral from City Council on illegal vehicle left turns from East Side Drive into the CVS driveway:  
*TOC members agreed that Councilor Bouchard and the City should meet with the impacted businesses to discuss all options and then host a public forum.*
- b. Beaver Meadow School pick-up configuration follow up:
  - i. *An onsite TOC traffic evaluation was conducted by John Thomas to increasing police presence, noting that no major traffic issues were witnessed or identified.*
  - ii. *Terry Crotty reported continued positive feedback and would follow up with the school to confirm no additional issues are pending.*
  - iii. *Jim Major installed additional pedestrian crossing signs on posts for increased visibility.*
- c. Concern about an increase in the vehicle crashes at the intersection of Green, South, and Pleasant Streets.
  - i. *Upon review of the crash history data, Todd Welch reported that there appears to be no pattern or repeated turning movement that might explain the apparent increase in crashes. Additional crash data history was requested to determine if any historic patterns could be identified.*
  - ii. *John Thomas agreed to provide detailed intersection crash data detailing the times, directions, causes and collision types from Jan. 2014 – Dec.2016.*
- d. Review of traffic/speed counts on Little Pond around curve just west of Pond Place Lane and near 34 Little Pond Rd to address the resident concerns.
  - i. *John Thomas agreed to have the speed trailer set up once repaired.*

- e. Request to install a “Local Traffic Only” sign or a No Thru Traffic” sign at the entrance to the lane that runs parallel to N. State Street just north of the Franklin Street roundabout.
  - i. *TOC members unanimously agreed that a sign would not be warranted at this time as this road is a public street and is open to the public.*
  - ii. *David Cedarholm agreed to follow up with the resident on this decision.*
- f. Council referral from Councilor Champlin regarding resident concerns with the intersection of Hoit Road and Mountain Road.
  - i. *Jim Major added “Stop Ahead” wording to existing signs to help with driving visibility.*
  - ii. *Todd Welch reported that the average North and South speeds collected in the area were 41-43 mph, which was not significant as the posted speed is 40 mph.*
  - iii. *John Thomas agreed to provide more detailed historic crash data details for TPAC’s review. Recent crash data did not show a significant increase in accidents since May.*
  - iv. *TOC members unanimously agreed that adding blinking stop signs on Hoit Rd was not a viable solution and reported concerns about potentially increasing accident counts if stop signs were added to Mountain Rd making it a 4-way stop.*
  - v. *David Cedarholm indicated that this item would also be discussed at TPAC.*
- g. Discuss traffic counter data for Hoit Road.
  - i. *Todd Welch reported that speed in this area appears to be an issue as the posted speed is 35 mph, but traffic speed data confirms that 26% of westbound traffic traveled over 45 mph and 13% of eastbound traffic traveled over 45 mph.*
  - ii. *John Thomas agreed that this is an enforcement issue and would reach out the State Police for assistance.*

#### **4. New Discussion and Action Items**

- a. Discuss visibility when turning left turn onto Storrs St from Theater Street. Concord resident Chuck Anna claims there is a visibility issue when making this turn and believes it is due to the placement of the parking space on the left when coming out of Theater Street.
  - i. *TOC reviewed the area and it there was general consensus that there is acceptable visibility when viewed from all directions.*
- b. Discuss request by a resident, Jennifer Chase, for additional 25 mph speed limit sign and “Children at Play” sign at the intersection of Swett Street and Elm Street in Penacook.
  - i. *Jim Major agreed to install additional 25 mph speed signs in the area if warranted.*
  - ii. *The Committee agreed that “Children at Play” signs were not MUTCD compliant and installation was against City practice.*

#### **5. Open Discussion Items**

- a. Ridge Road traffic concerns reported by Concord resident Chris Mertz:
  - i. *Mertz indicated that drivers are seeking alternative routes to avoid the congestion at Liberty/Centre Street roundabout. He reported that the increased traffic on Ridge Road*

*are primarily speeding and taking corners too fast which has cause some neighborhood safety concerns. He asked TOC to look into the roundabout area to determine if a solution could be identified and for the installation of a stop sign or traffic control device to slow down traffic on Ridge Road.*

- 1. David Cedarholm agreed to have traffic counters placed to gauge speeds and volumes of traffic in the area. TOC agreed to discuss further once the data was collected.*
- 2. John Thomas reported that a 2 week directive watch was completed by CPD as requested by a resident on Ridge Road and only 1 ticket and several warnings were issued for speeding. Thomas agreed to review the collected data to determine the details of the watch.*
- 3. Jim Major questioned if the 4-way stop was effective on Liberty/School Street if it was causing congestion.*
  - a. David Cedarholm agreed that a review of the areas would be beneficial once a new City Traffic Engineer is hired.*
  - b. Dick Lemieux affirmed that the Langley Parkway extension would relieve the traffic in the area.*