



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Robert J. Mack, PE, PTOE, Traffic Engineer
Chair, Traffic Operations Committee

DATE: February 16, 2016

SUBJECT: Report from the Traffic Operations Committee in response to a communication from Councilor St. Hilaire regarding a resident concern of traffic speed along the section of Mountain Road just north of the Hoit Road intersection.

Recommendation

Accept this report.

Background

On October 7, 2015, Councilor St. Hillaire submitted a communication to City Council regarding a resident concern of traffic speed along the section of Mountain Road just north of the Hoit Road intersection. City Council referred this request to the Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) on October 13, 2015. TOC considered this request at its November 17, 2015 and January 19, 2016 meetings.

Discussion

At issue is a resident concern of traffic speed along the section of Mountain Road just north of the Hoit Road intersection. Of concern was the presence of a passing zone along Mountain Road just north of the Hoit Road intersection and in front of the resident's property at #569. Also noted was a safety concern at the Mountain/Hoit intersection where the passing lane ends.

This section of Mountain Road (NH Route 132) is under the jurisdiction of the NHDOT which would be the appropriate authority to consider this request. TOC did however review aspects of the request at its November 17, 2015 meeting. Regarding traffic control at the Mountain/Hoit intersection, TOC felt that the NHDOT's use of multiple stop signs and overhead flashing beacon was appropriate, if not beyond typical requirements for a two-way stop intersection. The subject two-way passing zone is about 1,500 ft long on the straight section of Mountain Road immediately north of Hoit Road. Staff noted this length of passing lane appeared appropriate for the posted speed of 40 mph, but TOC members noted that the passing zone ends near the Mountain/Hoit intersection which does have an

elevated crash history. CPD three-year crash history in the area includes: 13 crashes at the intersection; and 16 crashes on the Mountain Road segment in the area of the passing lane, most of which were related to turns in and out of driveways. TOC members questioned the need for the short passing lane segment this close to the urbanized Concord area. TOC concurred that the subject inquiry was an appropriate consideration for NHDOT as this section of Mountain Road is under their jurisdiction and not the city's.

As a courtesy, staff followed up by sending a communication to NHDOT that included the resident's concern as well as TOC's suggestion to consider the possibility of eliminating the subject passing zone. The State Traffic Engineer responded in a January 4, 2016 letter that the passing zone was appropriate for the 40 mph posted speed, but added that the state could restudy speeds. If running speeds were found to be much higher, then a higher speed limit posting could be considered. The higher speed limit would require a longer passing zone than is currently available there, likely resulting in the elimination of the passing zone.

TOC discussed NHDOT's response at its January 19, 2016 meeting. Since this section of Mountain Road is under state jurisdiction, TOC felt it would be appropriate for the resident to contact them directly with her concerns. Staff shared TOC findings with Councilor St. Hilaire.

RJM/rjm

cc: Traffic Operations Committee