



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

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

DATE: July 21, 2015

SUBJECT: Report from the Traffic Operations Committee in response to a communication from Kristina Snyder requesting the installation of traffic calming measures on Pearl Street.

Recommendation

Accept this report.

Background

At issue is a complaint about traffic speeds on Pearl Street and a request for enforcement or traffic calming measures. Pizza delivery vehicles were specifically noted as a concern. Engineering and Police staff conducted a number of investigations. The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) discussed this request at its June 16 and July 21, 2015 meetings.

Discussion

Pearl Street is a short one-way westbound street about 550 feet long that provides: access to about a dozen residential and commercial properties; and local vehicle access between N. Main Street and N. State Street. The street is about 20 feet wide with no parking on the north side and 2-hour parking on the south side.

Engineering staff deployed a radar speed counter at the midpoint of Pearl Street, roughly near #12, from Wednesday, June 10 to Monday, June 15, 2015. Between 500 and 600 weekday vehicles were recorded reflecting an average speed of 22 mph and 85th percentile speed of 28 mph. These speeds are less than the statutory 30 mph speed limit and reflect slower speeds due to the short and narrow street segment. TOC members concurred that overall travel speeds on the street appeared reasonable. There were however, a few inconsiderate drivers travelling at speeds in excess of 35 mph at select times of day. TOC members concurred that enforcement was the appropriate course of action. Concord Police Department (CPD) was provided with time-of-day speed data and followed up with targeted speed enforcement.

CPD staff met with managers of several nearby pizza shops to inform them of the reported resident concerns on speeding. CPD also followed up by conducting eight directed patrols on Pearl Street at various times of the day during June and July. No speeding was observed during these patrols. Four pizza drivers were checked for speed: the fastest was travelling 16 to 18 mph and the other three were going too slow to register a speed. CPD also contacted Ms. Snyder on July 15, 2015 to follow up on her inquiry and inform her of enforcement efforts.

TOC reviewed the above-noted enforcement efforts at its July 21, 2015 meeting. It was noted that the CPD contacts with pizza shop management appeared to have a positive effect on recently-observed speeds from pizza-delivery vehicles. The same action was initiated by CPD on a similar complaint from Chapel Street residents a few weeks earlier. CPD will continue to monitor.

RJM/rjm

cc: Traffic Operations Committee