

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met at 9:00 am on September 17, 2024
in the Second Floor Conference Room, 41 Green Street.

Attendees: Alec Bass, Karen Hill, Michael Bezanson, Harold Palmer, Jim Major, Terry Crotty, John Thomas

Absent: Matt Cashman, Fred Reagan

Guests: Jessica Smith, Michael Smith

1. Introductions

2. Regular Discussion Items

a. *Approval of Minutes – August 20, 2024.*

Palmer motioned, seconded by Bass to approve the meeting minutes of August 20, 2024.

b. *Overview of City-Wide Crash Data*

August data was submitted in advance of the meeting and reviewed.

There were 87 reportable crashes in August 2024. This compares with 106 and 105 reportable crashes in August 2023 and 2022, respectively. 18 crashes resulted in injuries. There were no fatality involved accidents. There was one reported accident involving a collision with a pedestrian and no collisions involving a bicyclist.

c. *City Council Meeting Update*

Hill provided a Council update sharing that City Council approved \$10,000 in the Sidewalk, Bikeway, and Streetscape Improvements project (CIP #17) for the design of bus stop improvements on North Main Street; however, Council decided to not temporarily relocate the CAT bus stop between 214 and 220 North Main Street.

Hill shared that Council accepted the report recommending supporting the New Hampshire DOT proposal to convert the intersection of Hoit Road and Mountain Road to an all-way stop.

d. *Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) Update*

No update.

3. Ongoing Discussion and Action Items

- a. *Council Referral from Councilor Kretovic requesting review of speeds and commercial/cut through traffic on Sewalls Falls Road and West Parish Road.* Hill confirmed that there is a “No Thru Trucking” sign at the Concord/Hopkinton town line on West Parish Road, so the action is enforceable. Thomas shared that he requested added watch and officers did not observe thru trucking on West Parrish Road.

The Committee did discuss that some preliminary data showed about 14 large 5-axle trucks on Sewalls Falls Road per day. Sewalls Falls is not a posted no trucking route. The Committee had initial discussions about whether or not to post it. Hill will follow up on the process for such posting.

- b. *Council Referral from Councilor Kretovic regarding a request for the installation of curbing on Sewalls Falls Road between First Street and Second Street; together with communication from Linda Schmidt.* Hill shared that she has received some traffic data, but is still seeking more before continuing this conversation with the Committee.

4. New Discussion and Action Items

- a. *Resident request for a speed study in the neighborhood of Walker’s Reserve in regards to speed and cut-through traffic on Thackeray Road.* Jessica Smith and Michael Smith, 4 Emerson Road, attended the meeting and shared their concerns of increased volume and speed of traffic using Thackeray Road as a cut-through between Little Pond Road and Fisk Road. In addition to this concern, Thackeray Road also has vertical and horizontal geometry that results in poor visibility for pedestrians walking the neighborhood. They are requesting a 25 mph speed limit and/or speed bumps in the neighborhood.

Hill mentioned that it is hard to believe motorists think they would be saving time by using this neighborhood as a cut-through. She also asked if the neighborhood had considered trimming back overgrowth at the corners to improve sight lines.

The Committee determined that the next step would be for Engineering to set a radar counter out on the roadway to begin the process of collecting data. The Committee will discuss the data once it’s collected.

- b. *Request from Abbott-Downing School for a WEEBLE in the crosswalk on South Street just south of Bow Street.* Hill shared that the pedestrian school crossing signs were recently replaced with new fluorescent yellow-green signs in response to an earlier concern.

Crotty shared that a crossing guard is usually present at this crossing, however they are still having incidents and are looking to increase safety measures.

The Committee discussed the effectiveness of the current safety measures which are in place and if the addition of a WEEBLE would increase safety. The Committee also felt that if a WEEBLES were to be placed, then a second WEEBLE would be warranted at the Rundlett crosswalk as well.

The Committee felt that a WEEBLE would be most effective during school hours and asked that Hill communicate with the School District on whether or not they would purchase and control the proposed WEEBLES. Hill will report back to the Committee.

- c. *Resident request through SeeClickFix for an additional speed limit sign on Mountain Road, north of Shaker Road.*
The Committee determined that the best action is to move the existing sign near #148 south, to just north of Shaker Road. The sign will be moved as soon as resources are available.

- d. *Council referral regarding a request for a sidewalk to be constructed along Borough Road between 33 Borough Road and Primrose Lane.*
The Committee agreed that the Council decision in 2020 to not construct a sidewalk was the latest directive and determined no further action at this time.

5. Other Business
None.

Next Meeting: October 15, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 am.