



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

MINUTES

Traffic Operations Committee

May 16, 2017, 12:00 PM
2nd floor Conference Room
City Hall, 41 Green Street, Concord, NH

Staff Present:

Rob Mack, Engineering Services (Chair)
Jim Major, General Services
John Stoll, Planning Division
John Thomas, Police Department
Rick Wollert, Fire Alarm Division

Guests:

1. Regular Discussion Items

a. Overview of City-Wide Crash Data

Crash data for April 2017 was reviewed. There were 109 reportable crashes in April 2017. This compares with 101 and 85 reportable crashes in April 2016 and 2015, respectively. 19 crashes resulted in total of 21 people injured. There were no fatalities.

There were no crashes involving pedestrians or bicyclists.

b. City Council Meeting Update

At its May 8, 2017 meeting, City Council referred a resident concern on Franklin Street speeding to TPAC (Item 3a below).

c. Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) Update

TPAC will be discussing the Franklin Street referral from Council (Item 3a below). TPAC-Bike/Ped is also continuing to plan for a bike-lane demonstration project along Broadway this August.

2. Ongoing Discussion and Action Items

a. None.

3. New Discussion and Action Items

a. Referral from Councilor Champlin regarding a constituent concern on Franklin Street speeding (*Council: 5/8/17*).

At issue is a resident concern with speeding traffic on Franklin Street and a request to consider installing multi-way stop signs at Rumford, Lyndon and Jackson Streets to slow traffic. Rob Mack

noted that Franklin Street in this area is 40 feet wide with parking on both sides and painted center and edge lines. Crosswalk bump-outs are located at the Franklin/Rumford and Franklin/Jackson intersections. The street is classified as an Urban Collector Street and services about 3,500 daily vehicles. Much of that volume is commuter traffic from the I-393 corridor that uses Franklin Street as an intermediate route to get to the regional medical campus and state office park to the west. Franklin Street is also listed as one of the City's emergency response routes. A speed study conducted in 2013 indicated average speeds of about 30 mph and 85th percentile speeds of about 35 mph (the speed limit is 30 mph). A small percentage of traffic was recorded as travelling at excessive speeds.

Regarding the request for stop signs, Rob Mack reported that traffic volumes and crash history at the subject intersections were well below the Federal thresholds for considering multi-way stop control. Additionally, City policy precludes the addition of stop signs solely for the purpose of 'speed control'. Also per city policy, vertical deflection to control speed, such as bump-outs, are inappropriate on a street like Franklin Street as it is both an emergency response route and an urban collector route. Another consideration related to the request to add more stop signs would be the added stop-and-go noise of accelerating and decelerating Franklin Street traffic for residents living near affected intersections.

TOC members did not support the addition of multi-way stop signs for speed control at the requested intersections. Members felt strongly that the proposed Langley Parkway Phase 3 project could make a long-term improvement to livability along this section of Franklin Street by diverting away a substantial volume of traffic, and particularly the daily commuter cut-through between I-393 and the medical campus area. TOC noted that overall speeds seemed reasonable, but recommended speed enforcement to target the more-aggressive speeders. CPD would conduct targeted enforcement and report progress back to TOC next month. Staff would also update TPAC on TOC's findings.

4. Open Discussion Items

a. Staff response to miscellaneous inquiries (refer to correspondence in agenda packet).

None.

b. Traffic operations follow-up on the recent signal phasing update at the Pleasant/South/Green intersection.

TOC members concurred that traffic operations at the subject intersection have improved under the recently-updated signal phasing change. There are no safety concerns.

c. John Thomas also noted that the Concord Police Department planned to hold a 'Bike Rodeo' at the Steeplegate Mall on June 3, 2017 from 9:00 AM to noon. This CPD outreach event for the public, including kids, will feature bicycle safety tips and free giveaway items.

Next meeting date: June 20, 2017