

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met at 9:06 am on November 16, 2021
in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street.

Attendees: David Cedarholm, Terry Crotty, Sam Durfee, Karen Hill, Jim Major, John Thomas, Rick Wollert

Absent: Matt Cashman, Gary Ford, Fred Reagan

Guests: Chris Mertz of 21 Ridge Road and Dick Lemieux

1. Introductions

2. Regular Discussion Items

a. *Approval of Minutes – October 19, 2021*

The meeting minutes of October 19, 2021 were approved with the following amendment: Durfee requested an addition to page two, in the third paragraph, that ‘Councilors, Staff, Committee Members and a member of the public’ were present at the meeting. *Motion:* Wollert. *Second:* Durfee. *Unanimous.*

b. *Overview of City-Wide Crash Data*

Thomas reported on the October statistics for the city-wide crash data: the numbers are rising and seemingly back to normal. Detailed reports were submitted in advance of the meeting.

Durfee inquired about a motorist and bicycle accident where both parties were at fault; Thomas provided a description of the accident. Lemieux stated that in his opinion, the bicyclist did nothing wrong because they were in a bicycle lane, not a break down lane.

Cedarholm inquired about a crash on Hoit Road, near Tallant Road, in August. Thomas reported that the accident was near the intersection but not intersection-related.

c. *City Council Meeting Update*

Cedarholm noted that there were no transportation related items at the last City Council meeting.

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

Hill reported that at the last TPAC meeting the major agenda item was the discussion on the South St and South State St improvements.

Cedarholm updated the Committee on the status of the upcoming Loudon Road Bridge improvement project.

3. Ongoing Discussion and Action Items

b. *Request from resident regarding traffic speed concerns on Ridge Road and sharp corner at # 21*

Guest Chris Mertz was in attendance for this agenda item, which was moved to be addressed before item 3a.

Cedarholm reviewed the logistics of the intersection using three aerial maps of the area.

Mertz expressed concerns that adding a stop sign may not improve the problem and that the area has the most problems in the early morning hours. He proposed changing all of Forest Street to a one-way, and noted that the sidewalk ends prior to the problem area.

Thomas had prepared an accident report prior to the meeting and noted that there have only been two reported accidents in the past six years, therefore the data does not support a change to the intersection. He would be in support of conversion to a one-way street only if the neighborhood would be in support of the change.

Hill noted that the proposed change would require an ordinance amendment that would have to be approved through Council.

Cedarholm is not in support of conversion to a one-way street, and suggested that a stop sign be added on Forest Street at the intersection with Ridge Road, and another stop sign at the northbound corner of Ridge Road.

Wollert inquired if a traffic count study had been conducted in the area. Hill confirmed that counts were conducted in June while schools were still in hybrid attendance.

Thomas suggested that the options be presented to the neighborhood to determine what issues the residents would like to see addressed.

Hill suggested that the Ward Councilor-Elect, Stacey Brown, get involved and hold a neighborhood meeting to discuss the issues.

The options to be presented to the neighborhood are as follows:

1. Add signage/striping to existing condition.
2. Add stop sign, on Forest Street for southbound traffic at intersection with Ridge Road.
3. Make Forest Street one-way towards Auburn Street.
4. Make short leg of Ridge Road and Forest Street one-way towards Auburn Street.

Durfee voiced concerns that portions of the proposals are not necessarily consistent with the City's stop sign policy. The Committee discussed and removed the recommendation for a stop sign at the northbound corner of Ridge Road.

Mertz left the meeting at 10:22am.

- a. *Referral from City Council regarding traffic speeds, visibility, and illegal parking on Christian Ave*

Agreed to defer to the December meeting until additional crash data is assembled.

- c. *Referral from City Council regarding traffic speed concerns on Elm St, near # 242*

Hill presented the referral from Council. The resident reported that her mailbox has been destroyed seven times. John Thomas reported that there have been four accidents in the last five years. Thomas does not have data to support that there has been a fatal accident.

Hill collected the speed and volume data which was distributed in advance of the meeting. The average speed is 40 mph, and five vehicles were travelling in excess of 76 mph, southbound.

Councilor Todd emailed the results of a neighborhood poll and they would like chevron signs installed to warn motorists of the curve ahead.

The committee did not support chevron signage but agreed that a warning sign may be warranted with the combination of horizontal and vertical curvature. Major agreed to install a sign as soon as possible pending availability.

Cedarholm moved that General Services install a curve warning sign with 30 mph advisory plaque. Wollert seconded. Unanimous.

Lemieux left at 10:42am.

- d. *Resident concerns in regards to speeding on Portsmouth Street near Ladybug Lane.*

Hill reported the concern from the resident who lives at the corner of Portsmouth Street and Ladybug Lane. The speed limit in the area is 30 mph; the speed data shows average speeds of 38-39 mph. Thomas confirmed that the area is patrolled regularly.

Hill noted that the resident has made several suggestions to try to improve speeding, including the installation of flashing lights. Hill will notify the resident that there will be a directed patrol next week and will share the speed data.

e. *Resident request through See Click Fix for stop signs at various roadway intersections with South Street.*

Hill reported that there are no stop signs at Conant at South Street, Winant at Conant Drive, and Rundlett at Conant.

The area is a school zone. Accident data for a five-year period was reviewed.

Based on the City's Stop Sign Policy, minimal accidents reported at the intersections in the last five years, it was determined that the "T" geometry of the intersections suggest the normal right-of-way rule would be followed. The committee discussed that although there are other stop signs in the area at similar intersections, that they were likely installed prior to the policy being adopted.

Major moved that stop signs not be added to the intersections. Crotty seconded. Unanimous.

f. *Resident concerns in regards to speed and safety at the intersection of Hoit and Mountain Roads*

Hill is working with the Planning Commission to assemble an application for a Road Safety Audit (RSA) through NHDOT. To submit the RSA, Hill would need a report of accident severity for a ten-year period; Thomas noted that the data collection would take a great deal of time and that the State already has the data. The data can not be easily shared as it would have to be heavily redacted prior to release.

Durfee commented that the State has the data available and Hill can reach out to the Planning Commission. In 2017, the City added "cross traffic does not stop signs" and since then the number of accidents has decreased.

4. New Discussion and Action Items

a. *Referral from City Councilor McNamara in regards to safety concerns with the driveways at # 125 and # 143 N Main St and their close proximity to the signalized intersection on Centre Street.*

Hill presented the concern and requested accident data from Thomas. The Committee discussed the traffic flow and challenges of possible changes including extending the island. Item to be discussed further at the December meeting pending accident data.

- b.** *Resident concerns at the intersection of Pembroke and Canterbury Roads.*
Item postponed to next month.

Motion: Cedarholm. Second: Durfee. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.