



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Karen Hill, P.E., Transportation Engineer, staff representative for the Traffic Operations Committee and Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

DATE: February 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Report from the Transportation Engineer, on behalf of the Traffic Operations Committee and Transportation Policy Advisory Committee, in response to a referral from City Council regarding requests from Claire Michlovitz, South Curtisville Road, regarding traffic concerns involving Broken Ground/Mill Brook Elementary school drop-off/pick-up on South Curtisville Road and traffic safety concerns on Portsmouth Street.

Recommendation

Accept this report.

Background

On November 10, 2025, City Council forwarded to the Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) and Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) a referral from City Council regarding requests from Claire Michlovitz, South Curtisville Road, regarding traffic concerns involving Broken Ground/Mill Brook Elementary school drop-off/pick-up on South Curtisville Road and traffic safety concerns on Portsmouth Street.

There is a long history of concerns in the area, which date back to the Concord School District's construction of the Mill Brook Elementary School, all of which have been discussed at length in past years at multiple TOC and TPAC meetings (see attached summary).

Portsmouth Street is an urban collector street, connecting East Side Drive to Old Loudon Road, with a posted speed limit of 30 mph.

South Curtisville Road is a local street, with a posted speed limit of 25 mph (Ord. 2595 adopted 3-21-2005), connecting East Side Drive to Portsmouth Street, the segment to the north of Portsmouth Street is posted as 30 mph and is a dead-end street that turns into Curtisville Road. It is home to Broken Ground and Mill Brook Elementary Schools.

School zones are established in both directions of Portsmouth Street and the southern section of South Curtisville Road. School zones speed limit signs and flashing beacons are present at all three locations.

All-way stop control exists by Ordinance 2428 (adopted 7-8-2002) at the intersection of Portsmouth Street and South Curtisville Road.

Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) Discussion

TPAC discussed the referral at the December 11, 2025 meeting. Councilor Foote introduced the item mentioning the school queuing issue on South Curtisville Road, the high speeds on Portsmouth Street, and hindered sight lines at the all-way stop intersection of Portsmouth Street/South Curtisville Road.

After some initial discussion, the Committee recognized that there were three issues to be addressed:

1. School drop off/pick up on South Curtisville Road

Claire and Stephen Michlovitz, 47 South Curtisville Road, attended the meeting and spoke about their concerns. Ms. Michlovitz summarized their concerns and mentioned that the issues have existed for several years. She noted that, following the COVID-19 Pandemic, traffic issues have worsened because more parents are driving their children to/from school. The Michlovitzs are concerned about the safety for everyone on South Curtisville Road given conflicts between those vehicles queuing on South Curtisville to access the Broken Ground/Mill Brook site, and those vehicles traveling on the roadway to reach other destinations.

During the design review and permitting process for the Mill Brook Elementary School Project in 2010, the City provided comments to the Concord School District which raised concerns about the proposed traffic circulation for the project, and potential impacts to South Curtisville Road. However, recognizing that the Mill Brook School project was exempt from Planning Board approvals per NH RSA 674:54, the School District chose not to revise its site plans accordingly, and the project ultimately resulted in traffic issues on South Curtisville Road.

It was noted that the traffic safety issues on South Curtisville Road stemming from the Broken Ground/Mill Brook site have been reviewed by multiple City departments and Committees on several occasions since the Mill Brook School opened. The Committees concurred that proposals for minor transportation improvements in the area (such as pavement striping) which have been suggested over the years will not solve the problem at hand.

City Councilors present expressed that the Concord School District needs to come up with reasonable solutions to address traffic and safety concerns associated with vehicles queuing on South Curtisville Road to enter the Mill Brook site. Matt Cashman, Facilities Director for the Concord School District, recognizes that something needs to be done with the School's on-site traffic configuration and will continue to work with his staff to come up with a possible solution.

Councilor Foote suggested that having parents travel north and turn around in the driveway of the home that the District owns (#11 Curtisville Road), to then queue in the opposite direction is worth exploring as a potential temporary, low cost improvement.

The Committee invited Matt Cashman to a future meeting to present the Concord School District's potential traffic and circulation improvements at the Mill Brook/Broken Ground site to address ongoing traffic and safety concerns associated with elementary school traffic queuing on South Curtisville Road.

2. All-way stop intersection at Portsmouth Street/S Curtisville Road

Ms. Michlovitz expressed her concerns with the all-way stop intersection because vehicles on Portsmouth Street just do not stop at the intersection. She mentioned prior accidents and a significant number of near misses.

The Committee reviewed recent crash data for the intersection of Portsmouth Street and South Curtisville Road, summarized as follows:

Year	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Total Crashes	0	0	2	1	0

Chairman Bakos stated that engineering judgement would suggest that installing flashing stop signs at the intersection would be an improvement.

The Committee agreed that flashing “STOP” signs on Portsmouth Street would improve compliance and draw attention to the intersection.

The Committee also agreed that the “Stop Ahead” signs should be replaced as they are faded.

Councilor Foote made a motion to recommend that the City Council fund the installation of flashing STOP signs on the Portsmouth Street approaches and replace the stop ahead signs; seconded by Councilor Todd, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Speed on Portsmouth Street

Ms. Michlovitz stated that she and her husband have contacted the Police Department and they were told that over the last two years that 189 traffic citations were issued on Portsmouth Street. She hopes that drivers are being ticketed, because she feels that is the only way to help with the speeding issue.

The Committee reviewed speed and volume data that was collected in November 2021, summarized as follows:

Direction	Avg (mph)	85 th (mph)
Eastbound	38	42
Westbound	39	44

85th percentile speed is the speed at or below which 85 percent of the drivers travel on a road segment.

Avg = Average speed

mph = miles per hour

The Committee discussed the need to control speeds on Portsmouth Street.

It was noted that Portsmouth Street is essentially being used as a bypass of Loudon Road and without a lot of friction, the straight geometry of the road, encourages high speeds.

The Committee discussed that there are no recent bicycle and pedestrian volume counts at the intersection and no recent bicycle and pedestrian related crashes recorded. It was also confirmed that there is a crossing guard present on South Curtisville at Dominique Drive, but not at the all-way stop intersection.

Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) Discussion

TOC discussed the referral at the December 16, 2025 meeting. TOC was provided an update from the December 11, 2025 TPAC meeting.

Claire and Stephen Michlovitz, 47 S Curtisville Road, attended the TOC meeting to speak to their concerns. Ms. Michlovitz shared the same concerns as presented to TPAC, mentioned above.

The Committee briefly discussed the queuing traffic on South Curtisville Road. Hill provided one suggestion to change the vehicular traffic circulation pattern at the schools and modify the grassed median to send traffic south through the site.

TOC then discussed the solution presented at TPAC to send traffic north on South Curtisville Road, past the schools to turn around in the school's property at 11 South Curtisville. The Committee noted that the proposed suggestion would only be successful if ALL parents followed the suggested traffic pattern, which some may not.

The Committee also discussed that the two schools currently release students at the same time and confirmed that the 2010 traffic study for the elementary school consolidation/Mill Brook project recommended offsetting the hours to stagger drop-off and pick-up of Broken Ground and Mill Brook Schools.

The Committee was informed that TPAC voted to recommend that Council fund the installation of flashing STOP signs on the Portsmouth Street approaches and replace the stop ahead signs. TOC concurred with TPAC's recommendation.

TOC also recommended adding parking restrictions on Portsmouth Street along both sides of the intersection with South Curtisville Road, 30-feet to the west, and increasing that distance to the east so that the stop sign visibility is not obstructed.

Summary

- The Concord School District is aware that traffic circulation issues associated with the Broken Ground / Mill Brook school complex are having negative impacts on South Curtisville Road. The School District has been invited to share its ideas for potential solutions with TPAC and TOC once available.
- TPAC and TOC recommend that the City Council fund the installation of flashing stop signs at the intersection of South Curtisville Road and Portsmouth Street. This item can be taken up by City Council, if it so chooses, as part of the upcoming FY2027 Budget process.
- TPAC and TOC recommend that on-street parking issues associated with sight distance concerns at the intersection of South Curtisville Road and Portsmouth Street should be reviewed by the Parking Committee. (The staff liaison to the Parking Committee is aware of this recommendation and will initiate Parking Committee review).
- Using existing budgetary resources, the General Services Department will replace the "Stop Ahead" signs (x2) on Portsmouth Street.

Attachments:

S Curtisville Road Summary