

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF July 28, 2020**

The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met at 9:00 AM on July 28th, 2020.

Due to the Covid-19/Coronavirus Pandemic and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Traffic Operations Committee was authorized to meet electronically. The City of Concord utilized the WebEx platform for this electronic meeting. There was no physical location to observe and listen to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to Governor Sununu's emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04.

All members of the Committee had the ability to communicate during this meeting through the WebEx platform, and the public had access to listen and participate in this meeting as necessary.

Attendees: John Thomas, Sam Durfee, Rick Wollert, Karen Hill, Ashley Hamilton, Kevin Demers

Absent: Matt Cashman, Terry Crotty, Jim Major, Fred Reagan, David Cedarholm

Guests: Janice Hansen, Concord resident

1. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of June 23, 2020 were approved (Motion – Durfee; Second – Thomas).

2. Regular Discussion Items

a. Overview of City-Wide Crash Data:

i. June accidents have decreased from prior years.

b. City Council Meeting Updates:

i. City Council approved funding for the design of a multi-lane roundabout at the intersection of Hoit Road and Whitney Road.

c. Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) Updates:

i. TPAC approved to reinstate the Neighborhood Traffic Subcommittee for additional review of policies surrounding City-wide traffic volumes and speeds.

3. Ongoing Discussion and Action Items

a. Status of temporary median island test at CVS/Burger King driveway and resident concerns regarding Burns Ave turn-around traffic:

i. Janice Hansen, a Concord resident, attended the meeting to discuss her concerns with vehicles making U-turns in her driveway located on the corner of East Side Drive and Burns Ave. It was noted that several cars are doing this daily and several have driven over her lawn and have almost hit her mailbox.

ii. TOC members agreed that this was a new issue that hadn't been considered and should be taken into account. The possibility was discussed to first run a test of closing the CVS entrance entirely on East Side Drive. More internal discussion and review is needed.

iii. The owners of the businesses still need to be contacted.

- b. Referral from City Councilor Pierce regarding dangerous intersection at the corner of Primrose Lane and Borough Road:
 - i. *The tree and shrubs are in the City right-of-way. Hill is trying to make contact with the resident for the tree removal.*
- c. Referral from City Councilor Todd regarding speed and safety concerns at the sharp corner on Borough Road:
 - i. *Speed and volume counts are needed and will be collected by Engineering.*
 - ii. *Durfee referred Hill to submit a request to The Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) for possible assistance this summer.*

4. New Discussion and Action Items

- a. Resident concerns for narrow roadway, parking, and speed issues on Morton Street:
 - i. *The resident requested a 10 MPH speed limit sign.*
 - ii. *TOC confirmed that 25 MPH is the lowest posted speed possible for public streets.*
 - iii. *Engineering will add this roadway to the speed data collection list.*
 - iv. *John Thomas discussed that due to the narrowness/length of the roadway, it would be difficult to deploy the speed trailer.*
 - v. *John Thomas reviewed the accident data on Morton Street and reported two minor accidents in the last two years; one of which included a resident backing out of their driveway into a parked car.*
 - vi. *It was discussed that this roadway is only 500 feet long and it is not considered a cut-through road, therefore it is hard to imagine vehicles driving much over the speed limit and may be more of a perception issue.*
 - vii. *Hill agreed to respond to resident.*
- b. Resident concerns regarding parking on corner of Tremont Street and Harrod Street:
 - i. *Hill is reviewing turning movements, but standard “no parking to corner” signs might be needed to give proper clearance for trash and fire trucks.*
 - ii. *Kevin Demers agreed that General Services will install the proper signage once signing locations are confirmed by Engineering.*
- c. Resident request for speed mitigation on Mountain Road near Fernald Street:
 - i. *Hill suggested that this would be an ideal discussion for the Neighborhood Traffic Subcommittee to review further as speed concerns on collector roads continue to arise throughout the City.*
 - ii. *It was discussed that enforcement is currently the best solution for speeding issues as adding signage will likely not be effective.*
 - iii. *Thomas said added directed patrolling is ongoing and picking up again post-covid. He mentioned this is an area that is patrolled pretty often.*
- d. Referral from Councilor Pierce on behalf of a resident requesting a crosswalk at the Bog/Carter Hill/ Horse Hill/ River Road intersection:
 - i. *TPAC tasked Engineering to review if a four-way stop is warranted at this intersection.*

- ii. *Engineering is collecting traffic counts to perform a study and make a recommendation to council.*
 - iii. *Wollert noted that the angles and sight distances at the intersection are skewed and crosswalks would be dangerous. Hill noted that crosswalks were ruled out, but the four-way stop is still being reviewed.*
 - iv. *Crash data reflected minimal accident history.*
 - v. *Kevin Demers mentioned that the River Road (looking left) approach may be hindered by overgrowth along the roadway edge.*
- e. Referral from Councilor Hatfield in regards to Liberty Street (from Rumford to Franklin St.) and concerns about traffic speeds and safety near the ball field during games:
- i. *Currently, there is no striping or marked crosswalks. Kevin Demers mentioned that if striping is needed it adds an additional expense.*
 - ii. *It was discussed that often, striping can lead to higher speeds because driver's feel more confident in a marked lane vs. unmarked.*
 - iii. *Hill agreed to look into traffic count and accident data for the area to determine if there are any existing issues.*
 - iv. *TOC members were not in favor of striping the road and felt that traffic in the area was not an issue.*
 - v. *It was discussed that the parking areas to the west were controlled by Parks and Rec and are used for snow storage in the winter.*
 - vi. *Hill stated that she would continue discussions with Councilor Hatfield.*

5. Tabled items were not discussed:

- a. *Discussions on the traffic counter data for Hoit Rd, and "cross traffic does not stop" signs at the Hoit Rd - Mountain Rd intersection. – Item tabled to see if new signs improve operations.*
- b. *Discussions on the request for crosswalk at South Street and Mooreland Ave. – Item tabled until traffic and pedestrian counts can be performed after COVID-19 subsides.*
- c. *Request from resident regarding traffic speed concerns on Ridge Road and intersection with Forest Street. – Item tabled until traffic and pedestrian counts can be performed during the school year.*
- d. *Discuss status of intersection improvements for Centre/Washington Street intersection. – Item tabled until a Public Meeting can be held and funding can be appropriated.*
- e. *Discuss status of installation of Audible Pedestrian Signals at Pleasant/Green and Pleasant/State intersections regarding safety concerns for blind resident. – Item tabled until funding can be appropriated.*