

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF September 22, 2020**

The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met at 9:00 AM on September 22nd, 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, David Cedarholm , Rick Wollert, Karen Hill, Jim Major, Terry Crotty

Absent: Matt Cashman, Fred Reagan

Guests: Dick Lemieux

1. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of August 25, 2020 were approved as amended (Motion – Cedarholm; Second – Durfee).

2. Regular Discussion Items

a. Overview of City-Wide Crash Data:

- i. John Thomas mentioned that traffic volumes and accidents are still very low due to COVID.*
- ii. He discussed a pedestrian accident where a gentleman actually ran himself over with his vehicle after neglecting to put it in park in a parking lot.*
- iii. He also discussed a bicycle accident that occurred on Loudon Road where the bicyclist was found at fault for riding on the sidewalk and not following the rules of the road.*

b. City Council Meeting Updates:

- i. Hill shared with the group that the 30% plan for the Hoit/Whitney Road intersection improvements was presented to City Council. Council agreed to move forward with the 100% design.*
- ii. Cedarholm shared the plan with TOC and discussed key elements of the proposed improvements.*

c. Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) Updates:

- i. Hill discussed that TPAC discussed the ongoing Bog/Carter Hill/Horse Hill/River Road intersection study.*
- ii. She also informed TOC that TPAC had been vetting alternatives for the Loudon Road Bridge project.*

3. Ongoing Discussion and Action Items

- a. Referral from City Councilor Todd regarding speed and safety concerns at the sharp corner on Borough Road
 - i. Hill shared the speed/volume count data that Engineering collected from 08/24/20 to 09/08/20 near #37 Borough Road.
 - ii. The mean (average) WB speed is 33 mph, with an 85th percentile speed of 38 mph.
 - iii. The mean (average EB speed is 32 mph, with an 85th percentile speed of 37 mph.
 - iv. The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volume is 2,498 vehicles.
 - v. In summary, speeds do not seem to be excessive in the area. It was discussed that the police department will continue their directed patrols as mitigation.
 - vi. Thomas discussed that from August 1, 2020 to Sept. 22, 2020, the police department completed 10 directed patrols, which only resulted in 3 warnings issued.
 - vii. Hill agreed to follow up with Councilor Todd and the resident.
- b. Update on Bog/Carter Hill/Horse Hill/River Road intersection study.
 - i. Hill provided a summary of the engineering study, stating that although the intersection doesn't quite meet the accident rate and volume criteria for a four-way stop, there are other concerning issues at the intersection including sight distance and vehicle conflicts.
 - ii. Committee members voted and the results were split, with many members on the fence.
 - iii. It was discussed that Hill would finalize the engineering study and present the findings to City Council.

4. New Discussion and Action Items

- a. Discussion surrounding back to school traffic patterns.
 - i. Crotty discussed that the schools will be re-opening under a hybrid model on October 5th for transition grades including kindergarten, 6th and 9th grades, with a full opening on October 13th. The full opening will have a staggered schedule with some students going in on Mondays and Thursdays and others on Tuesdays and Fridays, no in-person classes on Wednesday.
 - ii. He mentioned that they anticipate that about 25% of students will elect to stay 100% remote. It was discussed that the hybrid approach and percentage electing to stay home, will likely help alleviate initial traffic concerns.
 - iii. He asked for the Police Department's assistance at AM and PM drop off and pick up times with patrolling the roadway with past traffic related problems, including near the high school, Abbot-Downing, Christa McAuliffe, and Broken Ground.
- b. Request from resident in regards to speeding concerns on Mountain Road.
 - i. Thomas discussed that directed patrols are ongoing along Mountain Road. He mentioned that from August 1, 2020 to Sept. 22, 2020, 15 directed patrols were completed that resulted in 28 warnings issued and 6 summonses issued.
 - ii. It was discussed that police presence is the best mitigation for speed concerns along Mountain Road at this time.
 - iii. Hill agreed to respond to the resident.

- c. Request from resident for additional signage at the intersection of Carter Hill Road and Lake View Drive.
 - i. *The resident requested additional signage at the intersection to better direct drivers of which roadway is which, since the intersection is skewed, the existing signage is hard to see.*
 - ii. *The resident mentioned that motorists are constantly turning around in his driveway because they end up driving up the wrong road.*
 - iii. *Major agreed to look at the intersection and add additional signage.*
 - iv. *Hill to forward resident request to Major in Request Tracker for him to respond.*
- d. Request from resident for additional signage on sharp corner near 277 East Side Drive.
 - i. *Hill agreed to look into the curvature of the roadway to see if it warrants a lower speed warning sign.*
 - ii. *Thomas confirmed that there were two accidents in the area, from Jan 1, 2020 to Sept. 22, 2020. One of those accidents was caused due to the operator being intoxicated and arrested for DWI. The other appears that ice/snow played a factor in the accident.*

5. Tabled items were not discussed:

- a. Discuss 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. Discuss 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.*
- f. Discuss status of temporary median island test at CVS/Burger King driveway and resident concerns regarding Burns Ave turn-around traffic. – *Item tabled until Engineering can send out letter to businesses.*