

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2021**

The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met at 9:00 am on May 18, 2021.

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: David Cedarholm, Sam Durfee, Karen Hill, Todd Welch, Jim Major, Rick Wollert, John Thomas

Absent: Matt Cashman, Terry Crotty, Fred Reagan

Guests: Doug Ross, Charity Ross

1. Introductions

2. Regular Discussion Items

a. Approval of Minutes – April 20, 2021

The meeting minutes of April 20, 2021 were approved as amended. *Motion:* Durfee. *Second:* Wollert. Members in favor: Durfee, Major, Wollert, Cedarholm, Hill, Thomas. *Unanimous.*

b. Overview of City-Wide Crash Data

Thomas discussed that 92 accidents were recorded in the month of April, looks like things are returning to normal after COVID reductions. Thomas also informed the committee that there was only one pedestrian accident and that there is no evidence that the pedestrian was actually hit. Thomas did not have further information about the increase in accidents along Pleasant Street during the month of March. He agreed to follow-up. Hill inquired about the accidents at the signalized intersection of Centre and N State Streets, since there were 3 in the month of January and 2 in April. Thomas agreed to follow up.

- c. *City Council Meeting Update*
Cedarholm reported that the recommendation to install a 4-way stop at the intersection of Bog, Horse Hill, River, and Carter Hill Roads was approved unanimously by City Council.
He also mentioned that additional funding was approved for the replacement of the N. Pembroke Road Bridge and that project will be moving forward to construction.
- d. *Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) Update*
Hill reported that TPAC did not meet last month.

3. **Ongoing Discussion and Action Items**

- a. *Discuss request for crosswalk at South Street and Mooreland Ave.*
Hill reported that Engineering collected speeds and volumes data at the intersection from 4/27 to 5/6. Hill and Cedarholm also performed 9 pedestrian activity observations during peak AM and PM hours in the months of April and May.

Hill went over the speed/volume summary that was distributed to the committee. Hill shared that 85% of the time, vehicles are traveling 39 mph or lower. She asked Thomas about enforcement for vehicles traveling at these speeds. Thomas discussed that a lot goes into whether officers write tickets or issue warnings, including driving history, roadway conditions, etc. He stated that on a roadway like South Street with traffic, pedestrians, bicyclists, and schools, vehicles should not be traveling 40 MPH.

Guest, Doug Ross, voiced his concerns and advocated for a crosswalk to be installed because the neighborhood does not receive bus service from the School District. He mentioned that this is the only crossing in the School Walking Zone that does not have a marked crosswalk. He counted 24 school aged children that live in the neighborhood. He also mentioned many other crosswalks throughout the City that do not cross to sidewalk on side roads.

Guest, Charity Ross discussed her concerns with the alternative crossing option at Iron Works Road, stating that children would need to cross Iron Works and walk along the side of the road without a sidewalk, where vehicles are traveling at high speeds. She advocated that the South Street crossing is the safer option. She also mentioned that pedestrians do cross at this location at nighttime and lighting should be addressed. She added that not only do children walk to and from school from this neighborhood, they cross South Street to use the sidewalk to get to friend's houses and the nearby park. Madison to Iron Works, no SW on Iron Works.

Ross stated that safety should be the biggest factor. She also discussed concerns that the data may still be skewed due to COVID, people working from home and some children still remote learning, that the results may not be a true reflection of conditions in prior years and in the future.

Cedarholm shared a map and potential location for a crosswalk installation. He discussed the challenges associated with placing the crosswalk on the north side of Mooreland and the south side.

Cedarholm then took a straw poll amongst committee members. Wollert would support implementing concept Cedarholm shared. Major would support striping a crosswalk but wasn't in favor of constructing a concrete pad, if there was proper access to the sidewalk. Thomas would be in favor as long as Engineering finds it will improve safety and won't provide a false sense of security. Durfee would support and recommended a WEEBLE and suggested no ramp was needed. Cedarholm is on the fence, he mentioned that signage would be needed. Crotty emailed his support prior to the meeting since he was not able to attend.

Hill posted a link to FHWA study in the chat.

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/04100/04100.pdf>

Thomas informed the committee that there is an active criminal case and investigation open for the illegally painted crosswalk because it cost the City money to remove it.

b. *Discuss speed and volume data collected on South Street.*
Discussed with item 3a.

c. *Discuss speed and volume data collected on River Road.*
Hill shared a summary of the speed and volume data that was collected in front of #10 River Road. The speed limit on River Road is 30 mph. This is the one straight stretch of the roadway from Borough Road to Bog Road. Occasional high-speed vehicles observed during commute hours on weekdays and lunch hour on weekends, also very late at night. 85% of the time, vehicles in both directions are traveling 40 mph or lower. Highest speeds were recorded on Tuesday at 4 pm. Thomas added that the Police Department will perform directed patrols in the area which is for 4 hours/day for 3 days.

d. *Discuss implementing 4-way stop at the intersection of Bog/River/Horse Hill/Carter Hill Roads.*
Hill stated that she is developing a signing plan and would like to place message boards out there prior to sign installation. Hill will work with Major and provide the

plan and General Services will need to Dig Safe the locations. He agreed to install stop ahead signage and all way plaques as well as message boards.

4. New Discussion and Action Items

- a. *None.*

Adjourn

Motion: Durfee. *Unanimous.* Meeting adjourned at 10:06 am.