

**CITY OF CONCORD  
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2022**

The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met at 9:00 am on October 18, 2022 in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street.

*Attendees:* Karen Hill, Heather Shank, Terry Crotty, and Kevin Demers.

*Absent:* John Thomas, Jim Major, Matt Cashman, and Fred Reagan.

*Guests:* Councilor Rice-Hawkins, Resident at #40 Shawmut Street.

**1. Introductions**

**2. Regular Discussion Items**

**a. *Approval of Minutes – September 20, 2022***

The meeting minutes of September 20, 2022 were approved.

*Motion:* Demers. *Second:* Crotty. *Unanimous.*

**b. *Overview of City-Wide Crash Data***

August and September crash data was submitted in advance of the meeting. It was discussed that accidents seem to be hovering around 100, which is the average.

Crash data for August 2022 was reviewed. There were 105 reportable crashes in August 2022. This compares with 92 and 87 reportable crashes in August 2021 and 2020, respectively. 20 crashes resulted in a total of 22 people injured. There were no fatalities. There were 2 reported crashes involving pedestrians or bicyclists in August, a report summarizing the accidents was included in the agenda package.

Crash data for September 2022 was reviewed. There were 100 reportable crashes in September 2022. This compares with 108 and 75 reportable crashes in September 2021 and 2020, respectively. 14 crashes resulted in a total of 18 people injured. There was one fatality involved accident. John Thomas was not present to speak on location of this fatality. There were 2 reported crashes involving pedestrians or bicyclists in September, a report summarizing the accidents was included in the agenda package.

Hill will follow up with Thomas on the 3 accidents at the intersection of N Main and Pleasant Street in September.

- c. *City Council Meeting Update*  
Hill discussed that at a series of TPAC meetings in August and September the Committee solicited public input and discussed all aspects of the project. After lengthy discussions and weighing all public input received, TPAC submitted a recommendation report to the City Council for its consideration at their October 11th meeting.
- d. *Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) Update*  
See above. Hill discussed that there have been ongoing discussions on the NHDOT I-93 Bow-Concord project. Video recordings and minutes are available online. The TPAC recommendation report was circulated in the agenda packet.

### 3. **Ongoing Discussion and Action Items**

- a. *Resident request through SeeClickFix for additional signage on East Side Drive near #277.*

At the June 2022 TOC meeting, it was discussed that there had been 25 accidents in 5 years along the curve between #277-285. Hill has since collected speed data near #288 during the week of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, which was distributed in advance of the meeting. The average speed traveling north/westbound was 31 mph and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 34 mph. The average speed traveling south/eastbound was 34 mph and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 38 mph (*\*The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is defined as the speed at or below which 85 percent of all vehicles are observed to travel*).

Hill confirmed that GSD had recently cleared brush at the corner and nearby intersections. Hill mentioned that there are curve warning signs for the northwest direction, but none in the southeast direction. Demers showed a prior street view image of a W1-3 reverse turn warning sign just after the culvert/guardrail in the southeast direction that is no longer there. The Committee discussed the necessity of additional signage due to the number of accidents occurring on this curve. Hill will look into MUTCD requirements given the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is 38 mph in the southeast direction. Hill made a motion that the sign be re-installed and the Committee continue to monitor accidents on this corner. Second: Shank. Unanimous.

- b. *Referral from Council in regards to speeding concerns on Shawmut Street along with a request for sidewalk.*

Hill collected speed data near #63 during the week of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, which was distributed in advance of the meeting. She also mentioned that speed data was collected near #23 in October 2020.

<b>2020</b>	<b>Average Seed (MPH)</b>	<b>85<sup>th</sup> Percentile (MPH)</b>
WB	29	33
EB	32	36
<b>2022</b>		
WB	34	38
EB	36	39

Kathy, a resident at 40 Shawmut street for 3 years now, attended the meeting and discussed her concerns with vehicle speed along Shawmut Street. She walks her dogs twice a day. She expressed concerns that the posted speed is 30 mph and she believes vehicles travel 20 mph over that. She also mentioned concerns with sidewalk condition and low curb reveal near the roundabout.

Demers agreed to look at the curbing and sidewalk in the area. Hill discussed that the sidewalk extension from Randolph to Appleton is currently ranked #50 of 117 in the recommended sidewalk priority list. Shank mentioned that she would speak with the tree committee to see if there are any areas on private properties that would benefit from the addition of street trees to help with traffic calming. Hill agreed to reach out to John Thomas to request the speed trailed be placed on Shawmut Street in the short term and enforcement be increased.

**c.** *Update/discussion on proposed improvements at the intersection of Lilac Street and Borough Road.*

Hill discussed that a neighborhood meeting was held in Penacook at 6 pm on October 6<sup>th</sup>. 12 residents attended of the 60 that were noticed. Concerns were raised with proposed intersection improvements and existing speed and sight distance concerns on Borough Road. Hill discussed the prior speed data that was collected near #37 in August 2020. The average speed traveling eastbound was 32 mph and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 37 mph. The average speed traveling westbound was 33 mph and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 38 mph. Hill also performed a sight distance analysis and field verification. The posted speed on Borough Road is 30 mph and 25 mph on Lilac Street. Hill field verified 200-feet of stopping sight distance exists as well as 335-feet of intersection sight distance. With existing overgrowth, the existing sight distance is approximately 350 feet. Hill shared photos. Hill discussed that there have been 3 accidents at the intersection in the last 5 years. Hill recommended that in response to the residents' concerns, that overgrowth be trimmed along the corner and chevron signage be added to the proposed intersection improvement plan. She noted that a similar intersection was re-aligned in 2015 at Borough/River/Washington. This intersection has similar geometry and curvature and there have been no reported accidents since the realignment. Given the above analysis, TOC recommends moving forward with improvements. Hill will draft a report to Council.

**4. New Discussion and Action Items****a. *Resident concerns through SeeClickFix in regards to speed and safety of pedestrians on Portsmouth Street.***

Hill discussed that a sidewalk along this section of Portsmouth Street, from East Side Drive to Eastman Street, is currently ranked #29 of 117 in the recommended sidewalk priority list. Hill shared speed data that was collected near #8 in 2013. The average speed eastbound/westbound was 19 mph. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 25 mph. It was discussed that this area is more populated with homes closer together and to the roadway. It was recommended that Hill collect speed data in the area of the trail heads. Hill will research potential MUTCD compliant recreational signage that may be appropriate for this area. Shank will discuss at RPAC, she mentioned the potential for a community project to paint the roadway in this area to highlight that it is a pedestrian area. Hill agreed to collect speed data in the Spring in the area of the conservation entrances and trailheads.

**b. *Resident request through SeeClickFix for speed reduction on Broad Cove Drive.***

Hill discussed that the speed limit is 35 mph per RSA 265:60. She mentioned that the City has no prior speed data on record. Shank made a motion for Hill to collect speed data in the Spring and for Demers to check for missing speed limit sign. Second: Crotty. Unanimous.

**c. *Resident request through SeeClickFix for additional speed limit sign on Cherry Street.***

Hill discussed that a 25 mph speed limit sign exists entering Cherry Street from Airport Road and shared a map of other speed limit signs throughout the neighborhood. The Committee discussed that Cherry Street is a dead-end, residential road and agreed that an additional sign will likely not change the behavior of the inconsiderate drivers in the neighborhood. Demers made a motion to not install the additional speed limit sign. Second: Hill. Unanimous.

*Motion: Demers. Second: Hill. Unanimous.*

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.