

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 17, 2023**

The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met at 9:00 am on September 19, 2023
in Second Floor Conference Room, 41 Green Street.

Attendees: Michael Bezanson, Karen Hill, Alec Bass, Jim Major, Harold Palmer (late),
John Thomas

Absent: Terry Crotty, Matt Cashman, Fred Reagan

Guests: Councilor Stacey Brown, Peter Wilson, Carol Brooks

1. Introductions

2. Regular Discussion Items

a. *Approval of Minutes – September 19, 2023*

The meeting minutes of September 19, 2023 were approved.

b. *Overview of City-Wide Crash Data*

September crash data was submitted in advance of the meeting. Crash data for September 2023 was reviewed.

There were 88 reportable crashes in September 2023. This compares with 108 and 75 reportable crashes in September 2022 and 2021, respectively. 17 crashes resulted in injuries. There was one fatality that is still under investigation. There were 3 reported crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists in September.

A request has been made by the federal courthouse to add pedestrian signage, or a pedestrian WEEBLE in the area of South Street and Pleasant Street at two crosswalks.

Hill provided an update of recent improvements on the South Street corridor. Three new bump outs were added as part of the CIP 78 road paving project. South at Wall Street was not considered for a bump out due to geometry of intersection and that there is only parking on one side of the road. This crossing is not known to have had signage previously. Due to the intersection and turning movements the Committee does not believe this is a great location for a WEEBLE as it would likely be struck often. There was discussion on adding W11-2 pedestrian crossing signage, Engineering will follow up.

Thomas confirmed a typo on previous years in the accident summary. There was a brief discussion on E-bikes and seeing an increase in accidents with them. It was mentioned that some can go up to 45 mph. Thomas mentioned that the Legislature will likely discuss in the future. Hill will track accident trends.

c. *City Council Meeting Update*

No update.

d. *Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) Update*

None.

3. **Ongoing Discussion and Action Items**

a. *None.*

4. **New Discussion and Action Items**

a. *Resident request through SeeClickFix for temporary traffic calming measures at the McKee Square intersection.*

Hill discussed that the intersection is being studied for a full reconfiguration which will help with the overall safety for pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles. She showed imagery of existing signage for bicycles to use full lane and designation of a bicycle route. The Committee did not identify any interim measures to assist, other than to recommend the resident use the entire lane as designated by existing signage.

b. *Resident request through SeeClickFix in regards to speed concerns on Stone Street.*

Hill indicated that Stone Street is already fairly narrow and posted at 25 mph. Hill will reach out and let the resident know that the City will set up a traffic counter when able.

c. *City Council referral to TPAC to examine the safety of the Auburn Street intersection with Liberty Street.*

This item was referred to TPAC but Hill placed it on the TOC agenda to discuss ahead of the TPAC meeting to review the speed and visibility concerns.

Carol Brooks (resident) attended the meeting and thanked GSD for clearing the vegetation so quickly. She expressed that there is still some vegetation which obstructs views. She mentioned that due to the tree canopy, it is very difficult to see southbound traffic on Liberty Street when stopped at the Auburn Street approach. There is no indicator/warning that there is a street

intersection prior to the roundabout. She believes a warning sign in advance of the roundabout sign could assist in alerting Liberty Street traffic of the intersection. Councilor Brown echoed these concerns.

Thomas confirmed that the Liberty Street traffic has the Right-of-Way. Hill also discussed that it is standard at many downtown intersections that a vehicle stops at a stop line prior to a crosswalk and once confirming no pedestrian conflicts, may need to inch up across the crosswalk to see oncoming traffic.

Since there is no accident history at the intersection, the Committee thinks it is best to monitor the intersection now that the overgrowth has been cleared.

- d. *City Council referral in regards to speed concerns on Stickney Hill Road.* Peter Wilson (Resident of 77 Stickney Hill Road) attended the meeting to address a concern about speed and line of site issues, which have intensified since the road has been paved. He indicated that there is a heavy amount of bicycle, pedestrian and other recreation activity in the area due to connections to other bike trails and the private school in the area. The road is posted at 35 MPH. Wilson does not believe that reducing the speed limit will make a meaningful impact, but is requesting increased police presence as well as identifying this area as a bike route. He invited the police department to use his driveway for patrols.

Thomas suggested that this site may benefit from some increased enforcement, although he does not believe it is a suitable location for the speed trailer.

Hill indicated that Engineering is considering asking the State if they can obtain pre and post speed data which could assist in analyzing the area.

Councilor Brown shared that there are signs on Silk Farm Road indicating a bike route. The Committee believes that this is a state-maintained bike trail. She believes this area is in the City bike/ped master plan. She mentioned that the Strava program may assist in determining usage.

5. Other Business

Next Meeting: November 21, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.