

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2023**

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

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

Absent: Terry Crotty, Matt Cashman, Fred Reagan

Guests:

1. Introductions

2. Regular Discussion Items

a. *Approval of Minutes – October 17, 2023*

The meeting minutes of October 17, 2023 were approved.

b. *Overview of City-Wide Crash Data*

October and November crash data were submitted in advance of the meeting and reviewed.

There were 95 reportable crashes in October 2023. This compares with 128 and 107 reportable crashes in October 2022 and 2021, respectively. 12 crashes resulted in injuries. There were two fatality involved accidents that are still under investigation. There were 5 reported crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists in October.

There were 90 reportable crashes in November 2023. This compares with 95 and 107 reportable crashes in November 2022 and 2021, respectively. 24 crashes resulted in injuries. There were no fatalities. There was 1 reported crash involving a pedestrian in November.

Thomas summarized that numbers were down, however there were two fatalities in November, one vehicular fatality at the intersection of Allison and Dakin and one pedestrian fatality on Airport Road.

Hill inquired about the accident data at Hoit and Whitney. It appears that the number of incidents may have increased, but so has the number of vehicles due to the new development.

There was also discussion of Hoit at Mountain Road since there were two reported accidents at the intersection in November. Hill shared that this intersection may be studied through the NHDOT RSA process. TPAC discussed blinking stop signs, but yet to be determined which intersection they will be placed at. This intersection is a candidate, as well as S Curtisville at Portsmouth Street.

c. *City Council Meeting Update*

Hill mentioned that consent reports were accepted by Council at their December 11, 2023 meeting on the Stickney Hill Road referral and the Auburn/Liberty Street intersection referral.

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

Hill mentioned that TPAC discussed N Main Street improvements between Storrs and Bouton due to it being on the paving schedule for FY26. The scope of the project is being discussed by Staff and Hill will provide an update once determined.

3. Ongoing Discussion and Action Items

a. *Follow up on resident request through SeeClickFix in regards to speed concerns on S Main Street near Rockingham Street.*

Hill shared a summary of speed and traffic data that was collected in November. The counter was placed at #359, average speeds were 35 mph, 85th percentile speeds were 39 mph. There were two high speeds collected in the 7 days that were between 60-70 mph.

Thomas asked for the speed data and he will increase police enforcement of the area using the highway safety grant.

4. New Discussion and Action Items

a. *Resident request through SeeClickFix in regards to speed concerns on Elm Street.*

Hill summarized the request provided with the agenda. The resident requested a slow down or stop sign ahead sign. Staff was not exactly sure what the request is asking for. Thomas reviewed the crash data and there appears to be no reported accidents at the Elm Street/Horse Hill intersection. Hill indicated that a site visit confirmed that there is a stop ahead sign on Elm Street approaching Horse Hill. Hill will follow up with the resident.

b. *Resident request through SeeClickFix in regards to parking and striping on Washington Street between White and Centre.*

Hill summarized the area identified in the request and explained that parking was previously restricted to one side of the roadway but the centerline was never shifted. Hill will confirm the width of road and discussed that this could be considered with the CIP 520 intersection improvement project if it moves forward.

- c. *Referral from Councilor Todd in regards to a resident's speed concerns on Abbott Road.*

Hill shared the location of the concern and noted that a speed counter can be placed in the Spring of 2024. Thomas indicated that the speed trailer is put away for the winter, but he can work to designate some directed patrols in the area to increase enforcement before Spring.

- d. *Resident request through SeeClickFix to consider making Merrimack Street one-way between Centre Street to Pleasant Street, due to parking and narrowness.*

Hill discussed that this area was within the scope of the Parking Committee's narrow streets review that occurred around 2017/2018. At that time, staff did recommend restricting parking on one side of the road, due to difficulty plowing, but after neighborhood testimony, the Committee decided to leave Merrimack Street as is.

TOC recommends informing the resident of the narrow street outcome and suggest that if they want to continue, they could look to review with the Parking Committee. TOC feels that removing parking on one side would be the ideal solution opposed to making the roadway one-way.

- e. *Resident request through SeeClickFix for additional lighting at the South Street crosswalk to Abbot-Downing Elementary School.*

Hill reviewed a map of the area and mentioned that Engineering is getting an increased number of recent requests to light crosswalks and intersections. This area has a couple of street lights at intersections and driveways, but not at the crosswalks, due to the locations of the utility poles.

TOC recommends replacing the pedestrian crossing signs with new reflective neon green pentagon school crossing signs to add to the conspicuity of the crossing.

- f. *Resident request through SeeClickFix for additional striping on Liberty Street near the parking area to White Park.*

Hill provided a summary of the area of concern. The existing roadway was widened to formalize a former gravel parking shoulder for park users, it has no history of being striped. The Committee discussed that Liberty Street is

consistently not striped further to the north beyond Franklin Street as well. Hill will look into accident history in the area, there has only been 1 accident at the intersection of Forrest Street and Liberty Street this year. The Committee agreed that no action is needed at this time.

g. *Federal Courthouse request for additional crosswalk warning signs on South Street and Pleasant Street.*

With members of the public, Mike Goff (here as a citizen) and Kevin Davis (Here as a private citizen) present for this item it was addressed as the first item of business at the meeting. No other members of public were present.

Hill summarized the recent pedestrian fatality in the area at the crosswalk of South and Wall Street and this crossing did not receive a pedestrian bump out in the recent road resurfacing project.

Davis explained that many employees of the building park on the street and neighboring parking lots and utilize this crosswalk, as well as a nearby bus stop location. This crosswalk is the only unsigned crosswalk on South Street South of Pleasant. Goff added that it appears that every crosswalk along South Street is also faded. Major did confirm that due to staffing shortages this area, among others were not re-painted this year but the work is scheduled for 2024.

After a site review with Bezanson, Hill recommended installing pedestrian crossing signs with arrow plaques at this crossing, as well as the two crosswalks on Pleasant Street between State Street and Spring Street, one at Riverbend and one at Federal Street. The Committee agreed, Major will have the signs installed as soon as supplies are available and weather permits.

i. *Resident Request to examine pedestrian safety within the Civic District.*
This item was continued to the next meeting.

5. Other Business

Next Meeting: January 16, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 am.