

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2024**

The Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met at 9:00 am on April 16, 2024
in the Second Floor Conference Room, 41 Green Street.

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

Absent: Harold Palmer, Terry Crotty, Matt Cashman, Fred Reagan

Guests: Resident Jonathan Smith, Resident Lisa Beaudoin

1. Introductions

2. Regular Discussion Items

a. *Approval of Minutes – March 19, 2024.*

The meeting minutes of March 19, 2024 were approved.

b. *Overview of City-Wide Crash Data*

March crash data was submitted in advance of the meeting and reviewed.

There were 93 reportable crashes in March 2024. This compares with 80 and 100 reportable crashes in March 2023 and 2022, respectively. 19 crashes resulted in injuries. There were two fatality involved accidents that are still under investigation. There were 2 reported crashes involving a pedestrian and 1 involving a bicyclist.

Thomas shared that fatalities are at an all-time high and that there has been 8 since July 1, 2023.

Hill observed that the March pedestrian/bike accident report does not reflect the March summary. There were 2 pedestrian and 1 bicyclist involved accidents. Thomas will update the summary.

Hill mentioned she has been tracking accident data at the intersection of Bog/Carter Hill/River/Horse Hill since it was converted to a 4-way stop intersection. She requested additional data from Thomas to confirm the type of accidents that are occurring there.

Thomas also noted the high number of accidents on Pleasant Street. Hill questioned how many of them were at the signalized intersection with State Street. Hill and Thomas to follow up.

c. *City Council Meeting Update*
No update.

d. *Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) Update*
No update.

3. Ongoing Discussion and Action Items

a. None.

4. New Discussion and Action Items

a. *Resident request for “Deer Crossing” sign on Shaker Road.*

Hill shared that there is one deer crossing sign located within the entire City. It is located on Fisk Hill Road and likely very old as it has text instead of the symbol. The Committee does not recommend adding a deer crossing sign on Shaker Road unless for some reason there is a large number of accidents with deer in that location. Thomas will provide a report of deer related accidents.

b. *Resident concerns regarding intersections along Liberty Street, in particular, the intersections at Valley and Forest Streets.*

Resident Jonathan Smith explained his concerns in regards to speed on Liberty Street and pedestrian safety at the intersection of Valley Street. He mentioned that there have been dogs hit and a recent door cam video of a vehicle crashing into someone’s front yard. He explained that southbound traffic on Liberty street drives around the corner quickly, and there is not a good line of sight where Valley Street meets Liberty Street due to the geometry and grades at the intersection.

Hill shared that Liberty Street is on the list for collecting speed data this summer.

Major will look into the possibility of placing an intersection ahead sign in the southbound direction.

Smith understands that there may not be an immediate solution, and mentioned that he may return at a later date to discuss his safety concerns at the intersection of Washington Street at Centre Street.

Hill shared that improvements to that intersection are currently budgeted in an out year under CIP #520.

c. *Resident concerns about pedestrian safety on N Main Street, from Centre Street to at least Ferry Street.*

Lisa Beaudoin arrived at 9:40 am and presented her concerns to the Committee. She mentioned that her son lives on Court Street and she recently moved there as well. She was recently informed by multiple people that they almost hit her son crossing N Main Street at Court Street. She is hoping that data can be collected, in addition to directed patrols on N Main Street. She asked for speed limit signs to be placed on N Main Street for both north and southbound traffic. She also requested a pedestrian crossing sign be placed on N Main Street near the Court Street crossing.

Major shared that the repainting of the crosswalks is at the top of this list, and the crosswalk WEEBLES were placed this week now that the road has been swept.

Beaudoin inquired about adding a pedestrian bump out.

Hill shared that this section N Main Street has recently been discussed at committee meetings regarding pedestrian and vehicular safety. Hill shared that the improvements are usually paired, if budgeted, with other roadway improvements and that the road is being resurfaced in a couple of years.

Hill expressed that she will reach out to NHDOT to see if they have speed data, as this corridor may be difficult to deploy the City's radar recorder.

Major shared that he believes that the N Main Street paving is scheduled for FY 2026.

Beaudoin asked when would be a good time to put together a narrative or attend City Council meetings to begin advocating for Council to provide funding for the necessary improvements.

Bezanson shared that by the end of the 2024 calendar year the Departments should have a good idea of what improvements, if any, are being proposed for N Main Street with the resurfacing.

Beaudoin asked if it is possible to reduce from a 4 lane to a 2 lane cross section.

Bezanson responded that a comprehensive traffic study would need to be completed.

Hill summarized that installing speed signs and possibly providing consistent pedestrian crossing signage along the corridor could be improvements made

in the near term, in advance of any improvements which may occur as part of the resurfacing project.

d. *Resident concerns in regards to traffic on Newton Street and Pembroke Road related to Keach Park activity.*

Thomas provided an overview of the residents' concerns as he had attended the neighborhood meeting on this topic. He recalled that this neighborhood used to have speed bumps, which were petitioned to be removed by the residents, due to noise and vehicles driving around them. He is curious if a speed table should be considered. He mentioned there is a portable speed table option which he could look into.

Hill mentioned that if a portable speed table was purchased it could be piloted at this location but also used at other location throughout the City.

Hill also mentioned that there were conversations about sidewalks and parallel parking being added to the west side of Newton Ave. She noted that Newton Street is not in the pedestrian master plan for a future sidewalk.

Major thinks that this should be part of a park master plan.

Bass added that the park should have a master plan and should be considered before anything is constructed. If additional parking is required, he would prefer to have the Community Center parking lot extended instead of developing the corner lot into parking.

e. *Resident request for stop sign or mirror at intersection of Kensington Road at Thayer Pond Road.*

Hill shared a summary of her findings after performing a site visit. It does not appear that the fence obstructs sight line of Thayer Pond Road. She did mention that there is a shrub which partially blocks the view.

Hill will reach out to the resident on the corner about trimming the bush and she will reach out to the resident who submitted the concern about inching forward after stopping to get a better line of sight.

5. Other Business

Thomas shared that he was reached out to about a potential grant opportunity for solar powered speed feedback signs with a 75/25 cost share.

Hill recommended that before placing any type of sign like that, that a clear policy of where these signs would be installed would be important.

Hill also asked if it will be possible to utilize any grants to obtain new ways to collect speed data, possibly TomTom/big data like the State. Thomas and Hill to work together to determine if they can obtain a data subscription or new radar recorders.

Major was curious if a municipal contract with the State would allow the City to access the data. Hill to follow up with the State.

Next Meeting: May 21, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.