

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE Thursday, October 12, 2023, 4pm – 5pm

****REMOTE via ZOOM****

Zoom Link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82370334648>.

Recording Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/RkTL_joFr5GCOo-IrrMSX_8sCwPBNKy_l2p_0aeVGgpk-Lu-bEXP9ljcf6Sdnz2z.3WzDmn6V9C3igggj

AGENDA

- **New Business**

- School Traffic Safety Concerns – Brought by Newburyport School Committee - Juliet Walker from school committee, shared that SC has received a number of concerns for students crossing main streets. Main issue lack of consistent crossing guards in these areas. School is responsible for this and feel they are not equipped to do it. Value existing crossing guards. Don't want crossing guards to do traffic control. Import we have the right people and a lot of people. Need to look at a short term or long-term solution. Traffic speeding and cars not yielding for crosswalks is one of the issues. Beacons are great. Reason some parents do not want their children walk to school alone is because of lack of ability to cross streets safely. Variety of ways to be solved. Enforcement is one. Raise visibility of crosswalks – post in middle of road. Also, could use raised crosswalks. Might need to be some education on use of lights. Broken cross light on Low street. Many residents don't remove snow on sidewalks around schools. Highland Ave, North Atkinson also key locations of concern. Looking for collaborative solutions. Dir Amaral- having some wiring issues with light. Working on lights one light at a time. \$30,000 fix at each one. Regarding Molin School path. Have no solution for that other than closing path which don't feel folks will want. High and Toppan- put median back in forcing cars to take sharp turn. Wayne would need councilor to help sponsor an ordinance to increase no parking area from 30 ft to 45 ft. Cllr McCauley offered to sponsor this. Everything else is enforcement issues. Sgt. Tierney- trying to man all of the intersection at school time is impossible. Staff aware of school time and calls come in and they have to go. Concern about education, the safety rules and what they need to comply with. A lot of our focus is on traffic safety but we are being pulled all over the city. Ms. Walker we don't feel it should totally fall to enforcement. Have example of other communities where crossing guards are not part of SC budget but cities. Feel we can partner with city but feels city should be in charge. Would like crossing guards to be moved out of school budget as schools not best for training and getting crossing guards. Currently no training for crossing guards. Andrew- we are now fully staffed for crossing guards. Question of training may change position.
- Cllr Donahue- with all the new pen heads is APS being added? Dir Amaral not funded now. Would like to look into a grant to get more done. Cllr Donahue maybe APS could be sponsored by disabilities commission. Would like to see them included as sound not only helps person crossing but cars can hear audio as well. As far as education would it be beneficial do a school by school presentation. Feel would be a good place to start. Sgt Tierney- when I was school resource officer, we did annual update and training for the crossing guard. Andrew will keep this in committee.
- School crossing at Low and Murphy Streets –brought in by Cllr McCauley- they have a crosswalk at Murphy on Low St. Has been painted and sign place in road. Issue speed and number of cars in area at school time. Estimated about 600 cars. Jennifer Hatch Low St. thanked Cllr McCauley for his responsiveness. We walk to Bresnahan for Pre K each

day. No sidewalk on our side of street. Cars speed by. Feel it should be safe for kids to walk to school. Dir Amaral – Low St will be having a corridor study. Murphy St a very long crosswalk. We are looking at these crosswalks. Backed by Administration and council.

- Wrong way traffic up Green Street – Joan Sullivan- principle of Immaculate Conception. Have had 3 encounters since start of school where cars and a truck came up Green St the wrong way. We had an off-campus event. Bus driver turned right and went up Green the wrong way – was an outsourced driver so not aware. No signage to let folks know they are going the wrong way. Urge you to do something for the safety of all. Dir Amaral – right in front of Appleton Eye is a sign and another by Harris St. Could do Washington St. We will look at height of signs. Cllr Donahue- does GPS not indicate this – just curious. Andrew – does show it on google put will check into that. Clerk Jones- sees same thing at city hall. Feel issues start below school. Sgt Tierney- just to echo others. Everyday occurrence folks not realizing and turning left out of Green St. Lot. Cllr Donahue- any tickets issued for wrong way. Sgt Tierney- when stop folks we educate them that it is one way street. Suggestion anytime you can get a license plate we can reach out to them. Jane Snow- just an FYI Green St was a two-way street for years. I am sure many longtime residents have made that mistake of turning left out of habit.
- Extending one-way traffic on Fruit and Fair Streets
- Auburn Street Speeding
- Sidewalk and safety concerns on Spring Street, Independent Street, and Otis Place
- Electronic speed sign on Hale Street between Malcolm Hoyt and Low Street
- Speeding and Pedestrian safety concerns on Federal Street
- Crosswalk at Temple and Fair Streets Cllr Donahue- site lines are not good. Trees need to be trimmed and a raised crosswalk might be appropriate. Crosswalk on all sides and cars are not stopping at intersection. Very congested area. Dir Amaral- have looked at this multiple times. Will be replacing stop sign with a much larger stop sign. Fair St. see 90% of volume. Feel they are not stopping because they do not see sign it is because it has little traffic and so they roll right thru. Cllr Donahue- feel it is a tight area and there is concern.
- Liberty Street Crosswalk
- 20 Feet from Corner No Parking Policy
- Approve previous meeting minutes – minutes from last meeting. Motion to approve Roll call Passed
- Updates from MVPC
- **Public Comment**
- **Old Business**
 - **Tony Collins**-been out doing surveys on trail. Continue to work on safe streets. Andrew will share link to vision zero plan- addresses areas of concern if they make it on final sheet.
 - **Meeting adjourned 5:07pm**

• Colby Farm Lane at Low Street and North Atkinson Street

• **Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of this meeting.**

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Andrew Levine =, Chief of Staff, Co-Chair

Wayne Amaral, DPS Director, Co-Chair

Jim McCauley, City Councilor *Christine Wallace*, City Councilor *Jennie Donahue*, City Councilor

Mark Murray, City Marshal Sgt. *Megan Tierney for Police*

Richard Jones, City Clerk

Steve Bradbury, Fire Chief

Andy Port, Planning Director

Tony Collins, Transportation Planner for MVPC