

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 10, 2023, 4pm – 5pm

****REMOTE via ZOOM**** ZoomLink- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82370334648>

Recording link: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/IBNFb6LbuVAvjI7R26JbICaVH5LOkf7xbmrkk-Frf8BnOwb0RyhuKrSx_KT6PB3--cO6khDTWy9HTooNx

AGENDA

- **New Business**

- Ashland Street Speeding Cllr Wallace- residents spoke with her about getting street done, speeding and addressing accesses to street at both High & Merrimac. Petition submitted Matt Hutton. 18 Ashland- amazed at how fast folks traveling on street. Feels it is consistent. Did buy speed gun and was shocked by some of the speeds folks used on the street. Would like to see street bumped up on the list for mitigation. Andrew- have been looking at speed calming for streets. Amy Patterson 19 Ashland – brought issue up many times but has never really addressed. Have business top and bottom of street. Bottom of street difficult to take left hand turn. Greg Carol 11 Ashland echo what has been said. Feel this is accident waiting to happen. Hope city can help us. Cllr Wallace-History -Top of street did add a sign. Bottom of street has had some issues. Tried to work with DPS when sidewalk was added but felt it was placed in kind. Before was a parking restriction of only 2 hrs. Maybe Dir Amaral can look at the Issues on both ends-High & Merrimac. Traffic getting worse. Andy L contacted police to see if any traffic studies had been done on street and there wasn't. Cllr Donahue - Can we request a traffic study. Andy L will follow up with Lt Siemasko. Dir. Amaral don't have idea right now. Best way to have traffic calming is to park on street. Clerk Jones- lived on street and it has always been an issue. Lt Siemasko-right now doing a study on Low St. Where on street would be best and time a day. Matt Hutton- between 9-5 very consistent. Tracked people doing 50. Lt. Siemasko speed limit throughout city is 25mph. Cllr Donahue- if there is a sidewalk that was there but faded shouldn't we look at it. Dir Wayne- will look into it.
- Colby Farm Lane/North Atkinson Street at Low Street – Got a number of complaints. Dir Amaral- have no solution right now. Large intersection, need design looking at about \$50,000 for design and \$100,000 for work. Curve gives East bound traffic a blind spot. Could use major work. Would need an outside consultant. Have sat out there and looked at issues. Cllr McCarthy we are looking for some short-term solutions. School starts in a month. From safety standpoint we need to think a little differently. Need a crossing guard and police presence. Been a growing issue for 2 yrs. Actually, had car go thru fence and 6 documented near misses in crosswalk. Need these while we wait for long term plan. Andrew L asked Lt Siemasko Lt yes, we can certainly send patrols out there. Cllr McCauley will work with police to have police there at certain times. Will work with administration for a permanent crossing guard. Feel neighbors have noticed police presence. Kiley Kimball 8 Colby Farm Lane. Echo what Cllr McCauley has said. He came out yesterday and spoke with all the families. Very dangerous for our kids to get to school. Son will be attending Middle School and wants to walk. Even adults walking their dogs have trouble getting across intersection. About 33 kids need to cross there so would like to have a permanent crossing guard and in the future a crossing light. Cllr McCauley- there is no crosswalk on right side of road. Must cross here or down at Murphy. Low St has become preferred way folks working at Hosp take. Matt Kimball 8 Colby Farm Rd. ride my bike to train station each day. Cars race thru even when light is flashing. Feels not safe for anyone younger than a High School student to cross there.

Cllr Donahue- Am aware that this is a safety concern. Have we looked at Safe Routes to School for possible funding for the needs here. There should absolutely be a crossing guard and police presence there. Dir Port- involved in permitting process for the 2 developments. There was a fair amount of discussion at time of development as city has sites out there. Planning board did have concerns about connectivity of project. Could not wrap sidewalk around by Low St as it would be on private property. Feel we should not pass projects until board has had time to check for connectivity. Need to make sure when private developer is presenting a project like this that we do check for the connectivity. Glenn Kilatis supports all of what he neighbors have said. My understanding from developer is that he donated a \$40-\$60,000 to city. Would like to know if that is still available to use for this intersection. Dir Port there was a \$60,000 donation. Believe funds are still there and it was for Parks facility down the street. Matt- most people that use the playground are from the development. Residents have been told they own it but do not know what our legal responsibility is. Dir Port- developer set it up so it was to pass on to homeowner association. Andrew L -we heard today that the crosswalk light in front of playground is not working.

- Sidewalk and safety concerns on Spring Street, Independent Street, and Otis Place
- Speeding and Pedestrian safety concerns on Federal Street
- Liberty Street Crosswalk
- 20 Feet from Corner No Parking Policy
- Approve previous meeting minutes
- Updates from MVPC
- **Public Comment**
- **Old Business**
 - High Street (east end) from Allen to Marlboro Street – Traffic Calming Request and Pedestrian Safety – Update from Dir Amaral did re-cabling to keep light from constantly flashing. Also, some tree pruning. Having a vendor giving us a price on 12 inch LED light with larger signal plates. Also looking at larger signs. Will get back to you when we get some prices. Kate- Allen St. Dir Amaral you stated you are looking to budgeting it when I thought it was already funded. Can't we change light to just a crossing light. Dir Amaral- Federal law states if it looks like a traffic signal it has to be a traffic signal. Kate- maybe in future years we could get a better light. Did you find previous plan? Dir Amaral haven't followed up on that yet. Chivon Alley 35 High St. felt plan was approved by city in 2021. Cllr Donahue- historically a bad area. Much higher foot traffic now than before. Plan on traffic calming was a good faith effort but isn't really working out. Suggest in next budget cycle we request the light. A signal that has audio would also help to alert drivers. We will look in light options and signs. W
 - Union Street Speeding
 - Merrimac Street at Jefferson Street
 - High Street at Boardman Street – Parking Restriction Request and Pedestrian Safety
- **Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of this meeting.**

Tony Collins – MVPC Update Next MPO mtg Aug 23rd will be releasing our Metropolitan Transportation Plan for Public and cover plans to 2050 all the project we want to program into our transportation for the region City has. Rte 1 by Merrimac St is a project on the TIP.

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 (Lt. Richard Siemasko in Attendance)

Richard Jones, City Clerk

Steve Bradbury, Fire Chief

Andy Port, Planning Director

Jon-Eric White, City Engineer

Tony Collins, Transportation Planner for MVPC

Yellow highlighted names were in attendance at meeting.