

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Reports

Date: July 13, 2023

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

Recording Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/PCPotmKUQ1m4fGpoux7Jy4XjzvWmWVoZtJldmzS_BrrvqHEK37TI970uB8OMs4kl.hDvXEaczHmbp-Tx7

Attendees are highlighted in yellow:

Andrew Levine Chief of Staff Co Chair, Wayne Amaral DPW Co-Chair, Sgt John Gavin Police, Chief Stephen Bradbury Fire, Andy Port Planning Director, Jon Eric White, City Engineer, Richard Jones City Clerk
Cllrs Donahue, McCauley & Wallace
Tony Collins, Transportation Program Manager from MVPC.

New Business:

Union Street Speeding – Dir Amaral brought up by residents and would like to bring it to police attention. Street is only 16 ft wide. Andrew- any historic data. Sgt Gavin will check to see if there is any data. Andrew- will check on this and move it to old business.

Low Street at Perry Way – Parking Restriction Request. Dir Amaral brought this forward as concern about site lines as DPS staff are getting out of work at the same time the school is getting out. We have put cones out but would like to install “no parking” signs. This is more than 20 ft for corner. Cllr Wallace- Cllr McCauley can’t make it today but he would sponsor this. Cllr Donahue and Wallace would sponsor if he couldn’t. Cllr Wallace there isn’t a wheelchair ramp from sidewalk. Andrew-would like to find some money for wheelchair ramp and will speak to Cllr McCauley about this and have for Aug 14th council mtg. Dir Amaral put this on punch list as doing several at a time makes them much less expensive

Merrimac Street at Jefferson Street – Dir Amaral looked at this sat out at intersection and crash history – only 1. New fence on corner house no problem -grading an issue. Cllr Wallace- there have been several crashes there. Residents afraid to cross because of hill. Would like to find way to slow traffic. Anything to increase visibility. Jane Snow 9 Coffin St. Residents on both sides of Jefferson often park within 5 feet of Merrimac St. When this happens on both sides of street effect turning from Merrimac to Jefferson St. Enforcing no parking within 20 ft of an intersection may help. Cllr will dig up emails from residents and send. Andrew – solution tied to safety zone

High Street at Boardman Street – Parking Restriction Request and Pedestrian Safety. Andrew showed sketch with crosswalk. Dir Amaral- brought up by resident. Concern about crosswalk and vehicle sightline. Feel something should be done. Increase sightline to 120 ft. Tony Collins – support option of increasing sightline even it means losing a parking space. Cllr Donahue – would be glad to sponsor that. Dir Amaral – could mirror restriction on both sides if feel it is necessary. Jon Eric- what if we started by painting bump outs as a trial. Agree during a funeral people are upset and, in a hurry, so feel restriction on south side also a good idea. Tony Collins- agree possibly flex post along with painted bump out to help block people from parking there. Andrew- has some ideas and we can work on this. Possibly have some plans for it for next meeting. Dir Amaral- this is just a short-term fix – real fix would be curb extension which will be difficult because of elevation.

High Street from Allen to Marlboro Street – Traffic Calming Request and Pedestrian Safety – email rec’d from Jivonne Alley 35 High St Spoke about Crosswalk light, Stanchions & Radar Speed Signs. Dir Amaral- contractor has this on schedule (\$8,000) to put all new wiring and hopefully will be done in 2 wks. Andrew- will keep neighborhood informed. Cllr Donahue- have gotten quite a few emails on this corridor – Speeding, light working etc. Yes, finally did find out it is wiring, and fix is coming. Reports I get from residents on speeding different than what speed studies say. Andrew- residents did request speed radar sign. Kate Hubbard 26 Allen radar speed sign was in originally proposal – 2 yrs ago. Not a new request. No indication of speed limit there. Stripping and cobblestone was done. Stanchion

not there and light not working. I am Jennie's feet on the streets about this. Dir Amaral – state doesn't allow flashing yellow. Issue is that light is always sitting in green 90% of the time and drivers become used to green. This is a bad design. Prefer signs that are only activated when used. Can add this to our priority list. Cllr Wallace is trying to put together a list to prioritize them. Andrew we will look at radar sign. Dir Amaral- would have to do some research on this. What do we hope that sign will bring? Kate Hubbard stated it was part of original study as to what should happen. Andrew will follow up with Kate on this.

Bus Routes on Oakland Street and around AJH – resident voiced concern new stop is creating a lot of stop and go on High St. Cllr Wallace- contacted by several residents around Hosp and Oakland St. Question raised on why bus isn't going on main route. Andrew we can meet separately with you and bus company on this. Stacey McMillen Highland Ave- sent email. Since change we have people walking up and down our street which doesn't have a sidewalk looking for bus stop. Area map shows bus stop on private property. Have about 40 students also using this area – no longer have crossing guard. Not sure why bus stop for hospital on road instead of hospital parking lot. Would like conversation with the representatives. Andrew – we can do that. Have had several already. A lot of consideration but they have been excellent at listening. Cllr Wallace- could also put in Public Safety Committee if you would like. Jon Eric – we did paint on Toppan's no parking 20 ft before sidewalk, but it does need more attention. Dir Amaral- put on list to look at it. Painting isn't enforceable but signage is. Alicia Lympus. Have a lot of young families on Oakland. Cars are flying down Oakland St. If there is a meeting would like Oakland St. to be included as well. Joanne Okeeffe- we are seeing 20+ buses on Oakland St daily with only a few people on them. Would like a discussion on frequency. Andrew- we do want to get this right. Will meet with them and discuss.

Sidewalk and safety concerns on Spring Street, Independent Street, and Otis Place brought forth by Cllr Donahue from residents. Spring St ask is for residential parking only. Also issue with cars parking on sidewalks. These folks need to be ticketed as they send pedestrians into street. Would like Spring St to be patrolled. Independent St- a lot going on – had a sight visit. Sidewalk stops and in some places is overgrown. Has a lot of cut thru folks to Tannery. Otis place would like a site visit. Would like to follow up on these at our next meeting.

Speeding and Pedestrian safety concerns on Federal Street

Updates from MVPC – Tony just endorsed unified planning program starting Oct 1st. Safe Streets for all action plan. These areas of safety concern are the type we would like to hear about and work on. Looking to create greater connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Public Comment:

Steve Harrold 46 Toppan Lane -speaking for myself and neighbors. Topic of heavy truck exclusion. Toppan is great street to go from High to Low. Am seeing a lot of tractor trailer trucks coming from Hale. Concern about this along with heavy school traffic. If there is an exclusion for truck can this be done. Dir Amaral- there is option but would have to do a study \$5-6,000 and apply to state. They are not well received by state and have not be granted the ones we have submitted. We are familiar with them without any luck.

Cllr Donahue- Know Toppan Lane very well and interesting there is no sidewalk. Isn't this area prime for safe routes to schools so I really want to pitch for that.

Steve Harrold- thank you for that councilor. This area very congested in morning. Feel it would be great for someone to look at it. Cllr Wallace- echo what they are saying. I know we have a million project but feel this is prime for safe routes to schools. Dir Amaral- next safe routes need focus on side streets like Toppan, Johnson etc.

Old Business:

Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion and Truck Braking

Motion to approve the May minutes. Passed

Motion to adjourn 5:15 pm