



**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION
140 MAIN STREET
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01752**

Traffic Commission

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission was held on Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 10:05 a.m. in City Council Committee Room, City Hall. Members present: Chairman Police Chief Mark Leonard, Vice Chairman – DPW Commissioner Ronald LaFreniere, Fire Chief David Adams, City Clerk Lisa M. Thomas, City Planner Nancy Savoie. Also present: City Engineer Thomas Cullen, Timothy Collins, Engineering Division, City Councilor Edward Clancy and City Parking Clerk Christine Rebeiro-Hunter, Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, August 25, 2009.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
To APPROVE.

2-New Business

Not on Original Agenda – Parking Issues

City Parking Clerk, Christine Hunter-Rebeiro brought up several issues:

- 1) Crosswalk at Florence Street in front of Post Office needs to be repainted.
- 2) Area in front of Senior Center designated as bus stop – looks like a parking spot – cars parking there.
- 3) Electric Co. trucks are parking on the sidewalk at Florence Street.

Ron LaFreniere advised that the DPW would look into the first two items. Chief Leonard advised that no one should be parking on the sidewalk and that these trucks, and any others, should be ticketed accordingly.

2a. Request from William White and Patricia Michaelian, re: commercial vehicle exclusion – Stevens St. & Union St.

Chief Leonard advised that any truck exclusion would need Mass. Highway Dept. approval. Tim Collins mentioned that this request has been made in the past (March '06) and was denied. MHD indicated that they would only possibly consider a nighttime

exclusion. Councilor Clancy disagrees with MHD. He hears complaints on this issue all the time. Part of the problem is that trucks use this route during school hours. Daytime is actually more dangerous than at night. Ron LaFreniere suggested that Engineering could contact MHD and discuss possible signage posting a truck route down Rte. 20 and Rte. 85 (though not a specific truck exclusion). Chief Leonard indicated that there is a sign for a truck route down by Monnicks – maybe there could be one further up on Rte. 20. Ed Clancy felt that many of the trucks are from Price Chopper again. (This was an issue in the past and was addressed at the time.) The Chief wants to try to determine if there are any other particular trucks causing the problem. If so, a specific request can be made to the company involved.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to follow up with Mr. White (on specific trucks in question) and Price Chopper.

Additional Agenda Item - Neil Street resident present who brought up two issues.

- 1) Pedestrian Crossing at Howe Street – impossible to cross here.
- 2) Lambert St. & Neil St. – problem with cars coming down the street and then having to turn around because they can't get through. Sign for "Not a Through Way" – people don't seem to see it.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW to take a look at these 2 issues.

2b. Crosswalk regulations associated with Union Street reconstruction.

Tim Collins advised that the crosswalks are in place (as per his memo to Chief Leonard, dated 8/27/09). The Chief has prepared the required Emergency Preambles and Regulations for a vote.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the **Emergency Preamble** for **Kelber Drive**.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the **Regulation** for the crosswalk on **Kelber Drive**.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the **Emergency Preamble** for **Bellevue Avenue**.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the **Regulation** for the crosswalk on **Bellevue Avenue**.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the **Emergency Preamble** for **Union Street**.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the **Regulation** for the crosswalk on **Union Street**.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the **Emergency Preamble** for **Marlborough Hospital (East Driveway) and Marlborough Hospital (West Driveway)**.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the **Regulation** for the crosswalk on **Marlborough Hospital (East Driveway) and Marlborough Hospital (West Driveway)**.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the **Emergency Preamble** to add the Linear Feet to the existing crosswalk regulation on **Hudson Street**.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the **Regulation** to add the Linear Feet to the existing crosswalk regulation on **Hudson Street**.

2c. Communication from Councilor Seymour, re: traffic concerns on Hudson Street.

Tom Cullen and Tim Collins went out and viewed the site in question. They presented four photos with different views of the intersection of Hudson & Union Sts. Ron LaFreniere did note that the visibility is not that great at the vertical curve. In viewing the photos it was noted that the current signs are incorrect. The pedestrian with the line should be placed at the crosswalk and the pedestrian without the line should be the advance warning sign. The proper signs should be relocated to alert Motorists to the crosswalk. It was agreed that enforcement is really the only other thing that can be done at this point.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the Police Department for enforcement and to the DPW to correct the signage.

2d. Request from Robert Fillias, re: crosswalk on Broadmeadow Rd.

Chief Leonard has spoken with Mr. Fillias. He lives in the Willows. His concern is with the bus stop at that location. The stop is on the opposite side of the street and the children are crossing without a crosswalk. Both the Chief and Ron LaFreniere agreed that there cannot be a crosswalk at this location because there is no sidewalk on the opposite side. There is no point A to point B. The Chief has advised that the children can wait on the other side and then cross when the bus stops for them. It is more of an enforcement issue.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the Police Department for enforcement and to PLACE ON FILE.

2e. Communication from Gary Brown, re: Solar Stop Signs.

Gary Brown, a Marlborough Resident, has contacted Chief Leonard several times and dropped off literature at the Station regarding signs that he had seen used in Oregon. The Chief initially did not think that the signs would meet MUTCD requirements but the literature indicates that they do. The signs are very expensive and the Chief is not aware of any intersection in Marlborough with such a high accident count that would justify the expense. Ron LaFreniere indicated that he is not familiar with these signs but that the high reflectivity on our signs goes a long way to having the signs stand out. He has also seen reflector strips used on the actual poles. Engineering commented on the maintenance cost of such a sign.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Nancy Savoie, the City Planner, for any further consideration.

2f. Stop sign request – Park Street @ Newton Street.

Engineering presented a photo of the site and advised that motorists need to pull out into the intersection to get a clear view of traffic on Newton Street. The Chief commented that he is not aware of any accident history here but that geometrically it may meet warrant conditions for a stop sign. Engineering agreed that it may be possible to install a stop sign due to the restricted view. The underlying issue may be the fact that parked cars on Newton Street block the view from Park Street.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the MPD for enforcement with the parking issue and to look into any accident history at the site.

2g. Advance pedestrian crossing signage, South St. near Charles St.

Chief Leonard received a phone call regarding this issue. The concern was with speeding and children waiting for the school bus. The Chief believes there is an older “Advance Warning Sign” in one direction. This appears to be mainly a speed enforcement issue. The MPD has had directed patrols in this area in the AM.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING for review.

2h. Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.

Lisa Thomas prepared a time estimate at this point of 141 total hours broken down as follows: She estimated that 4-8 hours would be required for training – she would provide the training. There are approx. 83 pages to format (at one hour per page) + approx. 40 new Regs. not yet in the electronic file (at ½ hour per page) for a total of 103 hours. A second person (Designated Liaison) would be required to periodically review the project at specific intervals – 30 hours.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to determine with the Mayor what type of funding would be available for this project.

3-Old Business

3d. Communication from Barbara McGann, re: Request for school zone on Forest St. near AMSA Charter School.

Since the last meeting, Chief Leonard, Fire Chief Adams and Mayor Stevens have been out to AMSA several times to evaluate the bus/carpool drop off/pick up situation. Suggestions were made to help alleviate the backup of cars queuing onto Forest Street and the safety of children getting onto buses. Chief Leonard advised that they now have a staggered dismissal time where children leaving by bus are dismissed first. There is also a temporary agreement in place with Four Kicks (for this school year) that AMSA may use a portion of their parking lot for the carpool pick up. Cars park at Four Kicks and the students are walked over. This removes approx. 40 cars from the queue. The school is also in the process of hiring a Crossing Guard. The process should now be

running much more smoothly with the staggered release and new carpool routine. The Chief does agree that some type of advance warning signage would be appropriate i.e. School Ahead or Buses Approaching (although not a specific School Zone). The school is in an industrial area and motorists may not be aware that it is ahead. Ron LaFreniere's concern is with the sight distance coming over the hill on Forest Street. Cars could come over the hill and then have to stop unexpectedly for a queue. Suggested signage would be to the effect – "Through Traffic Keep Right" and "School Ahead".

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to look into signage and possible pavement markings.

3e. Communication from Kenneth Almeida, re: Four way stop request – Porter Rd. @ Pippen Rd.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE for now as traffic counts have not been completed.

3f. Communication from Jim Joubert, re: Stop signs on Bigelow St.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE for now as traffic counts have not been completed.

3g. Regulation for right on red restriction – Brown St. to Main St.

Engineering advised that all five approaches now have the "No Right Turn on Red" restriction. Chief Leonard presented the new Regulation for a vote.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the Regulation adding Brown Street to the section concerning "Right Turns on Red".

3h. Regulation for crosswalks and stop signs on Nickerson Rd.

Chief Leonard has drawn up the proper Rules and Regulations and presented them for a vote.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the **Emergency Preamble** adding the Crosswalks on **Nickerson Road**.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the **new Regulation** adding the Crosswalks on **Nickerson Road**.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the **Emergency Preamble** adding the Stop Locations on **Nickerson Road (2 directions) and Reilly Way**.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the **new Regulation** adding the Stop Locations on **Nickerson Road (2 directions) and Reilly Way**.

3a. Long term oversized vehicle ordinance.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE.

3b. Municipal off street parking regulation.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
To TABLE.

3c. High School parking regulations.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
To TABLE

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen L. Lambert - Records Clerk, MPD