



**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, May 26, 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 Planner Nancy Savoie. Also present: City Engineer Thomas Cullen, Timothy Collins, Engineering Division. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

**1- Minutes**

That the minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, April 28, 2009. MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:  
To APPROVE.

**2-New Business**

**2a. New Crosswalk locations.**

Tim Collins sent an e-mail, dated 5/7/09, to the Traffic Commission requesting approval for five new crosswalk locations in conjunction with a DPW roadway reconstruction project. He passed out a diagram with the five new locations indicated. The openings in the sidewalks are currently there but the actual crosswalks have not yet been painted. He advised that finish paving should be completed this week or into early next week with completion the following week.

Chief Leonard put together an Emergency Preamble to add the new locations to the "Rules and Regulations of the Traffic Commission of the City of Marlborough". The only location that was questioned was a "midblock" crosswalk on Goodale Road. Tom Cullen advised that the midblock crosswalk was the only place to put the crosswalk where it would work.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:  
To APPROVE the five new crosswalk locations.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:  
To APPROVE the Emergency Preamble.

**2b.** Request for “School Zone” at Richer School.

Chief Leonard advised that this was a verbal request made by the Principal of Richer School, Joanne Stockland. Richer School currently has a group involved in a “walking school bus” on Thursday mornings. The Chief was present last Thursday when the Principal commented on how many vehicles she sees speeding up Foley Road while the children are walking. She asked about a “school zone” being created at this location. Chief Leonard mentioned that this is the only elementary school without a designated “school zone”. Tim Collins advised that the School Zone is normally a function of frontage. A 300 foot section of the public way in front of the school is reduced to a speed limit of 20 mph. Richer School is different because it is at the end of a public way. Foley Road basically turns into the parking lot with a crosswalk separating the road from the parking lot. Chief Leonard advised that it does make sense to slow cars down as they approach the school. 300 feet of Foley Road and McGee Road could be slowed to 20mph if designated as a “School Zone”.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to refer to the Engineering Department to look into creating a “School Zone” on Foley Road and McGee Road.

To APPROVE.

**2c.** Communication from Beth Garafolo, re: advanced warning signage request for signals at Hildreth St. @ Church St.

The Mayor’s Office also forwarded a second e-mail from a constituent regarding accidents at this same location. Chief Leonard has looked at this location and does agree that if you were not familiar with the area the signal lights do come up on you quickly. It is hard to see the signal from a distance because of foliage in the area and a light pole. Tim Collins advised that he has gone out and done measurements at the intersection. In one direction, you do not see the signal light until you are 100 feet from it. In the other direction, you can see it from 250 feet. It is obscured by the bushes at #62 and the low tree canopy blocks the view of the red light. The best approach is from Route 20, where you can see the signal light from 500 feet. This is the only approach that has advance warning signs.

Ron LaFreniere advised that he has directed his department to remove foliage from this area but that he has not had a chance to check on the status yet. He agreed that advance warning signs from the East and West are critical.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to refer to the DPW to take care of the situation.

To APPROVE.

Also, the Chief advised that he will get back to the constituents and let them know that advance warning signs will be put in place once the tree canopy has been cut back further and there is more visibility.

**2d.** Hayden St. parking.

Chief Leonard received an e-mail from Officer Leahy regarding parking problems at this location during a lacrosse game. He mentioned that the buses could not get through due to the way that cars were parked on this one way street.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE. The Chief will get more information from Officer Leahy.

### **3-Old Business**

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

Chief Leonard advised that he needs to have a conversation with Barbara McGann. He asked if we have received any specific recommendations from AMSA. Tim Collins said that he has received a traffic report. He has not yet reviewed it in detail but that it does not seem to address safety concerns at all. Chief Leonard asked if we would entertain a "School Zone" at this location. Tom Cullen advised that he went to the school at the peak AM and PM hours and found there to be "0" walkers at this location. Chief Leonard also commented that they are no longer competing with business traffic as most, if not all, of the businesses have left this location. Tom stated that he did not observe a cueing back up during these peak times. Traffic enters the shared driveway and goes around to the right and follows around the back of the building to exit. There are three lanes, one for cars, one for buses, and one for through traffic. He mentioned that it takes approx. 2 ½ minutes for cars to come into the driveway and out again. The maximum number of cars that he observed waiting on Forest Street to turn into the parking lot was four. It was discussed that the cueing problem could potentially get much worse next year as enrollment increases. Current enrollment is 650; however, it appears that they are increasing to 800 in the fall.

Chief Leonard said that the idea is to not have students crossing Forest Street. AMSA was supposed to have an agreement with ForeKicks to handle the overflow. When the cue got long, cars were supposed to park at ForeKicks and walk to AMSA. If that is still the intent, sidewalks would need to be installed on Forest Street. Tom advised that as part of the Forest Street Project the City will be installing sidewalks on the south side up to the HP facility but not near ForeKicks. Tom commented that he saw a vehicle traveling on Forest Street at 70 mph during his study. Ron LaFreniere said that the Traffic Commission cannot comment on a "School Zone" until a complete review has been conducted by the school with specific recommendations being made.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE, but Chief Leonard will talk to Barbara McGann with regard to the safety issues and the increased enrollment for the fall.

**3e.** Signage diverting truck traffic onto Granger Blvd.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE.

**3f.** Advance warning signage from crosswalk on Chestnut @ Pleasant St.

Tim Collins is looking into this issue. He took pictures of the site from various angles and presented them at the meeting. The line painting on the crosswalks are so faded that you can barely see them when approaching from 150 feet away. Obviously, repainting the crosswalks will help. It was discussed that Advance Warning signage was not required on Chestnut Street as a "stop condition" already exists there, however, it would be a benefit to have this signage on Pleasant Street.

Ron LaFreniere advised that the DPW is on top of this issue and the crosswalks will be painted shortly. Advance warning signs will be installed on Pleasant Street by the next meeting. There is no need for a vote at this time as the issue is currently being handled by the DPW.

**3g.** Late Item - not on original agenda. E-mail from City Councilor Paul Ferro regarding the timing of signal lights on Route 85. He mentioned that cars traveling North or South at the posted speed limit hit alternating red and green lights rather than traveling straight through. Can a request be made to the MHD to address this issue?

Ron LaFreniere advised that Route 85 is not under the control of the MHD. It is under the control of the City. Also, as far as he knows, there has never been a study of this type. The traffic lights on Route 85 are not pre-timed lights. They are traffic activated, meaning that the vehicle itself trips the lights. A very sophisticated system would be required to do what Councilor Ferro has suggested. A large capital expenditure would be necessary to update the current traffic control system on this roadway.

Chief Leonard advised that he will reply to Councilor Ferro's e-mail.

**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 11:00 a.m.

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