

# TRAFFIC AND SIDEWALK COMMITTEE (T&SC) MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 7:00PM

Weston Police Training Room

180 Boston Post Road By-Pass

## Committee Members Attending:

Jay Doyle (Chair), Tom Benson, Andrew Chase, Richard Gula

## Ex Officio Members Attending:

Steve Fogg (Town Engineer), Captain Tom Kelly (Weston Police Dept.)

## Public Attending:

Mark Gravallesse, Bridget Myers, Jessica Lizza (HSH Representatives),  
Steve Keefe - 53 Page Road; Mike Page - 50 Page Road.

### *1. Introductions*

### *2. Approval of minutes from previous meeting/posting of old minutes/assign someone to take minutes*

- The January minutes were approved, unanimously.
- Andrew Chase volunteered to take minutes for tonight's meeting.
- Weston Media Center recorded the meeting.

### *3. Public Comments / Letters from Residents*

- Residents from Page road Steve Keefe and Mike Page requested signs to restrict parking for residents only on Page road. Problems persist from nonresidents parking poorly and leaving trash behind is an ongoing issue. Could be up to 20 cars daily and has been going on for 2 to 2.5 months. Steve K. feels the reason people park on Page road because they can't park at Drabbington Way because of the restriction which currently exist on Drabbington. Committee chair Jay Doyle explained about the process to mitigate the parking situation starts with signage and would proceed similar to how the process went on Drabbington Way He asked about the width and confirmed that that the trailhead to the area was there and that it's mark as a trail. The suggestion was made for members of the Committee to visit Page road and see the situation and do some research in the field to learn about the parking issue. The committee will revisit during the March meeting after their visit. Steve K. explained the problem is both residents and professional dog walkers who make multiple visits on a daily basis. Steve Fogg made the suggestion on how the process to install signs works and the Board of Selectmen will need to signs off on any signage. Steve K. feels no parking signs would resolve all issues.
- Letters from residents about Highland street sidewalk – clarifying that there is some neighborhood support – no real change about the project. Support from the neighbors needs be stronger and for a consensus about the sidewalk location, which side or the street the sidewalk would be located on, would really be helpful for the committee to move forward with anything more.
- Letters from a resident about a proposal connecting roads near the border of Weston and Lincoln but these roads are actually in Lincoln. Steve Fogg responded to the email suggesting the resident contact Lincoln about potential road connections.

### *4. Updates on Walkway/Sidewalk projects*

#### *a. Merriam Street*

- Designers are moving along with both southern and northern sections of the plans. They are working on alignments issues, easements issues and road widening or adjustments that are needed. A site walk was been done with Eversource because some electric poles need to be moved. Culvert is under design and working to get the plans finalized for construction this year.

#### *b. Ash Street*

- The funding application has been given to CPC. Plans have also been passed through Conservation Committee with acceptance. Some design issues are being reviewed and parts of the project. Plans are currently “out to bid” and the town could possibly receive a solid bid for the project soon.

#### *c. Other*

- Warren Ave., Steve Fogg explained the sidewalk issue came up at a recent Selectman’s meeting. A suggestion was made at the Selectmen’s meeting that a questionnaire to the residents could get a better sense of their support for or against the project.

### *5. TIP project design status*

#### *a. Route 30 (HSH)*

- Some background was provided about the status of Rte. 30 improvements. A presentation by HSH representatives was very informative with updates about where the project is and what is planned. The project is about 3.7 miles and is broken into 3 segments. Natick to Wellesley St. and Wellesley St. to Oak St and then from Oak street just short of the town line with Newton, around Cutters Bluff. Things that were considered were the speed of cars, the volume of cars, a side walk adjacent to the road or walkpath which stretches the length of the project and a bike line and the width of the bike lane. Three cross sections were presented for the roadway with many pros and cons for each in multiple locations. The length of the project dictates the possibility of using more than one cross section idea. The committee discussed the different options and gives the project the ability to be flexible throughout. Alternative three might work best from the Natick line east to a certain undeterminable location and either alternative one or two could work for the remainder of the project and the sidewalk/walkpath could be on either side of the road. Pictures of existing walkways were presented and what it might look like in the future were provided. The cross sections from HSH were helpful but more research needs to be done before making a selection.
- HSH then discussed potential signals and related warrants based on traffic volumes and speed. The list of signal suggestions are by signal location or intersection. The area around Winter street might get “tightened up” to provide for a better intersection. The Ash street intersection including the fire station existing signal will need to be revisited and included in the discussion should be the existing sidewalk, and crosswalk and changes should include the fire dept. The area at Oak street would get reconfigured to increase safety and reduce speed. The existing right turn lane east bound would stay but be adjusted and lined up. This part of Rte. 30 has ledge and would need to be blasted to free up the space to install the sidewalk. A suggestion was made to add a left turn lane, westbound to improve traffic flow going

westbound. Oak street is not currently signalized but could be a good candidate for a signal but will need serious review.

- Next steps for the project would involve more discussions between Town representatives and MassDOT. Then involvement from the Board of Selectmen to work toward the 25% completion plan which is scheduled for June 2019. The timeline beyond that was presented and more discussions are needed.
- Jay Doyle and the other committee members in attendance believe the project is headed in the right direction but the many details need to be worked through.
- The committee and HSH also revisit the Rte. 30, Wellesley Street intersection about changing the lane configurations. A resident suggested a change to the left turn/through lane into a left turn only lane and the right turn only lane be converted to a through and right turn lane. The reconfiguring of lanes would call for major land changes to the northeast corner of the intersection, heading north on Wellesley street. HSH explained changes will minimally improve the wait time during busy times. Additional suggestions about retiming might not produce the desired outcome and could cause other unintended issues. HSH does not support making the changes to the intersection. HSH said MassDOT would **NOT** be in favor of any changes to the existing conditions.

#### *b. Route 20 @ Wellesley St (VHB)*

- Steve F. had a meeting with VHB the week prior to the 02.20 meeting. A good detailed drawing was presented by VHB about the Rte. 20 intersection. There is some widening of 20 both east & westbound. The committee reviewed the turn arrows (on the street) and bike path area (limited), raising some need to further discuss the configuration. At the end of Wellesley St., the area where a vehicle would enter/exit Winsor way was discussed, maybe installing a do not block the box, hash markings on the pavement, would help allow for residents to pass through. The new signal could cause some limited access to & from driveways close to the intersection, east if the signal. An overall project update was provided in a detailed letter and a few items to be followed up on
- For the next meeting, invite abutters and discuss the plans. Timing might work best in the April meeting.

### *6. Updates: Projects/Designs/Studies/Issues*

#### *a. Love Lane / Chestnut Street traffic mitigation*

- Quick continued discussion on the cut through traffic issues on Love lane and Chestnut streets, to be continued. Discussed further the “no left turn” signs to mitigate the cutting through on those street. The committee should consider the issues on both Love lane and Chestnut street, as one issue and how best to resolve.

#### *b. RFP(s) for traffic consulting (Highland ped xing; Wellesley St/Chestnut; Merriam/North Ave.)*

- HSH and VHB gave proposals which were positive, about the need for an on call service for the committee. The committee and Steve F. agreed to sign up both firms and give each “a shot” on a task by task basis to provide the needed support based on town of Weston scope of work. Motion: “The committee moves to support DPW

moving ahead with bringing on HSH and VHB to be separate on call consultants to the Traffic and Sidewalk Committee”

*c. Route 30 @ Wellesley St. signal modification*

- Discussed above in Rt. 30 discussion above

*d. DPW – Police - School Dept. requests*

- None noted

Next meeting scheduled for March 13, 2019. – Meeting adjourned.