

TRAFFIC STUDY ADVISORY GROUP



MINUTES

TRAFFIC STUDY ADVISORY GROUP PUBLIC MEETING

43 South Washington Street, North Attleboro, MA

Lower-Level Conference Room

OCTOBER 4, 2022

1:00PM

DPW Director Mark Hollowell called the meeting to order at 1:10PM.

Staff Present:

DPW Director Mark Hollowell
Fire Chief Chris Coleman
Police Captain Jason Roy
Assistant Town Manager Antonio Morabito
Executive Assistant Kerrin Billingskoff

Residents Present:

Kevin O'Donnell – 294 South Washington Street
Theresa Battaglia- 21 May Street
Mr. Pinni, Jr. – South Washington Street

Documents Reviewed:

September 19, 2022 Minutes
North Attleboro Traffic Calming Policy

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of the September 19, 2022, Traffic Study Advisory Group Meeting Minutes
Fire Chief Coleman moved to approve the Minutes of September 19, 2022.
Police Captain Roy seconded the motion.
Motion carried 3-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

a. Ratification of the North Attleboro Traffic Calming Policy

The North Attleboro Traffic Calming Policy had been ratified by the Town Manager. This Policy has now been adopted.

b. MGL Chapter 90, Section 17C- 25- miles-per-hour speed limit in thickly settled or business district in City or Town

The following residents have requested 25 mph speed limits on their street:

- i. 89 Whalen Drive- 25 mph
- ii. South Washington Street - 25 mph
- iii. 53 Armstrong Drive - 25 mph

These addresses will be reviewed based on the newly adopted Traffic Calming Policy, and feedback will be provided to each of the applicants. Radar boards will be installed on each of these streets and data will be collected. Next, based on the data, it will be determined if the street meets the requirements and will be eligible for having its speed limit reduced to 25mph.

Kevin O'Donnell was in attendance and addressed the Group. He explained that he is the advocate for the South Washington Street Residents and their request for the speed limit to be lowered from 30 mph to 25mph. There was discussion amongst the TSAG and Mr. O'Donnell. It was stated that there will be a continued presence of officers and traffic monitoring on South Washington Street. Captain Roy assured Mr. O'Donnell that there will be additional improved signage, increased police presence, and radar speed limit boards. Mr. Hollowell stated that future road improvement plans include a crosswalk on the street and fog lines will be increased.

Mr. Pinni was also in attendance. He reported that he has noticed an increased police presence on the street, and it really does make a difference to help to slow the traffic down. He thanked Captain Roy. Mr. Pinni also asked if it is possible that Historical Lights could be brought down South Washington Street.

c. Follow Up of Previous Issues:

- i. Intersection of Route 152 & Raymond Hall Drive & Fire Station- ANR /Resident requested a blinking light at the crosswalk

Action Taken- Rapid flashing beacons have been ordered and will be installed at the crosswalk when received. They should be received in about 4 weeks.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. South Washington Street-ANR- Crosswalks being requested

- i. Bucklin Street/South Washington Street
- ii. Calvin Road/South Washington Street

DPW Director Mark Hollowell explained that crosswalks on South Washington Street are in the long-term plan of road improvements. The long-term plan is about one year out. In the interim children waiting for the buses should wait on the safe side of the street until the bus appears and then safely cross the street and get onto the bus.

b. Barrows Street -ANR

- i. ANR- Traffic on Barrows Street when there are football games at Community Field. The conditions on the street are unsafe on the days of events.

There was discussion amongst the group regarding this street and surrounding street on the days of events at Community Field.

Discussions included:

- Safety concerns
- Being able to get fire apparatus down the street if there was ever an emergency
- Police presence may be required/ Police Details
- Blocking off the road
- Making Barrows Street One-Way
- No parking on both sides of Ralph Street
- No parking signs during games
- Sawhorses

It was recommended that the schools and Pop Warner both attend the Special Events Working Group to discuss events moving forward.

c. 22 Towne Street- ANR

- i. Resident is requesting Police presence for cars violating the speed limit and active ticketing of these individuals is greatly needed and would be very appreciated. Increase signage for the speed limits and digital signs etc.

Resident could not be in attendance for the meeting but submitted a letter to be read into the record by the Assistant Town manager.

Assistant Town Manager Tony Morabito read letter into the record:
Traffic Study Advisory Committee Meeting – October 4, 2022
Statement regarding excessive motor vehicle speeding on Towne
Street (approximately 3 min 15 sec)

Philip and Brenda Slaney are 25-year residents of 22 Towne Street in North Attleboro. Unfortunately, we are unable to attend the Traffic Study Advisory Committee meeting at the hour scheduled but would like to emphasize how seriously we take this issue. We want to express our appreciation for the ongoing work of the North Attleboro Police Department and the Department of Public Works.

We have seen consistently excessive speeding on Towne Street in the last few years. This is not unique to our road or even our town, but it has come to our doorstep so we're reaching out for help.

Towne Street is one of the older, historical streets in North Attleboro having only limited sections with sidewalks and it has a 25-mph speed limit. There are no sidewalks near our house at 22 Towne St where the road bends and climbs a hill approaching a blind drive.

In the last few years, there have been two separate single car accidents in our front yard. The most recent one was on 8/21/2022 which resulted in damage to our car which was parked well into our driveway and moved a large rock (of approximately several hundred pounds) from next to our driveway, onto our driveway, on top of which the car in the accident came to rest.

It has become increasingly difficult to safely pull out of our driveway due to the speeding cars coming up the road and around the bend that are nearly on top of our car by the time we've entered the roadway.

What is being done? What else can be done?

1. Traffic law enforcement
2. Signage
3. Speed humps
4. Sidewalks

Enforcement

We have been assured there is sufficient traffic law enforcement throughout the town. Could we please see any documentation regarding speeding stops including warnings and citations issued? It is our understanding an open records request was made to see

recent traffic stops. Could we have this information published on the police department website on an ongoing basis? (The Attleboro police department publishes their logs via their website. From 9/18/2002-9/24/2022 there were 120 motor vehicle stops, 33 citations issued, 17 verbal warnings, and location of these stops, etc.) This transparency would deflect these types of criticisms and would also bolster the argument that enforcement is ongoing and effective.

Signage

Existing signage is ineffective. Signs, including a blind drive sign, are hidden by plant growth. We believe an electronic speed limit sign with display of the passing car's speed would be helpful. Positive feedback including the display of a smile symbol when the driver is below the limit can gamify positive change.

Speed Humps

Speed humps are an effective tool to force speeding traffic to slow down. We understand police presence can't be in effect 24x7 on a given stretch of road, but a structural change such as a speed hump can be. We propose posting a sign on either end of Towne Street warning of the speed humps and implementing several such structures, especially in sections where there is no sidewalk.

Sidewalks

Last, but certainly not least, sidewalks should be installed as there is frequent pedestrian traffic on this stretch of road. At a minimum, they should be on one side of the road in this densely populated residential area, especially on the narrow, bending section on a hill. The curb and dedicated space would go a long way to protecting pedestrians from the speeding cars operated by distracted drivers. Young children, in particular, in this neighborhood must walk to Falls School, and should be allowed to be as safe as possible from dangerous traffic.

We understand there are financial considerations for building both speed humps and sidewalks. Are there other considerations in addition that would prevent building speed humps or sidewalks? We'd like to be informed what the costs would be for each proposed solution so we can work with you to allocate the funds from the town budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important issue.

There was discussion amongst the group regarding Towne Street. They will submit a Public Records Request with the Town Clerk at the request of Mrs. Slaney. Discussion included:

- Speeding Issues- None reported prior to incident on this street
- Signage- DPW will look into increasing signage
- Speed Humps- Street doesn't meet criteria
- Sidewalks – Could be requested by Betterment
- Increased Police Presence
- Temporary Radar signs
- Make Blind Drive sign more visible- trim shrubs
- Fog Lines- Will look into

Chief Coleman made a motion to follow the recommendations of Mr. Hollowell and send a formal letter back to Mrs. Slaney.

Captain Roy seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3-0.

d. 21 May Street- ANR

- Resident is requesting that the traffic light on May Street at the intersection of May and Mendon Road be changed to a blinking red light instead of a blinking yellow light.

Mrs. Theresa Battaglia was in attendance and addressed the Group. She expressed her concern about the speeding issues on May Street. She also thanked Captain Roy for the Police presence on the street and reported how much it helps to slow the traffic down. She was looking for some type of mitigation to slow the traffic down.

Mr. Hollowell reported that they will paint the striping with larger white fog lines, and this should slow the traffic down. They will also add additional 30mph signs on the street.

Captain Roy stated that they will continue to increase police presence.

e. 147 Draper Ave. Requesting a Handicap Sign

- Resident of 160 Draper Ave. has a handicapped child, and he would like to request a handicap sign so that people are aware and will proceed with extra caution.

Chief Coleman made a motion to install a handicap sign at 160 Draper Ave.

Captain Roy seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3-0.

V. COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None at this time.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Chief Coleman made a motion to adjourn.

Captain Roy seconded the motion.

Motion passed 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 2:10PM