

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee
October 26, 2009
Minutes

Present: Bill Ruoff – Chairman
Chief Fred Douglas
Dana MacAllister
Richard Tortorelli

Absent: Gil Archambault
Bill Parker
Dave Wheeler
Gary Daniels, Board of Selectmen representative

Kathryn Parenti, Recording Secretary

1. *Roll Call vote required by the BOS.*

OTHER BUSINESS:

5. *Approval of minutes from March 30, 2009.*

Approval of minutes was tabled until November 23, 2009 as there was not a quorum present but they were acceptable.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. *Discussion: Revisiting suggestion to add turn lane for Armory and Emerson Roads at the Route 13 South intersection (Forwarded from the BOS)*

B. Ruoff began the discussion by referring to B. Parker's emailed suggestion to table this item until he could collect data regarding this site as well as the site mentioned in agenda item 4- the addition of a left turn lane on Clinton Street onto Nashua Street. The group in attendance felt the email was sufficient to use as a motion to table this item until the next TSC meeting.

R. Tortorelli seconded the motion; all were in favor.

3. *Discussion – absence of stop sign at Melendy Road crossover to Osgood Road.*

B. Ruoff noted G. Daniels had brought this item to his attention. He noted Carl Somero had gone out and looked to see if there was indeed a stop sign at this intersection. He didn't think there was a stop sign present at the crossover from Armory Road to Osgood Road.

R. Tortorelli didn't believe there was a stop sign there but did agree there should be one there since cars travel at high rates of speed down Osgood Road.

F. Douglas noted this discussion had come before the Committee before, when the stop sign on Mason Road at Whitten Road was brought up. During those discussions, someone made the comment to look at this area as well but he was not sure of the outcome. He hated to see a false sense of security at this location but he was not sure if there would be any harm in putting a stop sign up. He said there was talk at one time about redoing the entire intersection. There should be a sign there if there is not.

D. MacAllister agreed; he had almost been hit there and he does stop there anyway, even though there is no stop sign there.

B. Ruoff noted he will have a stop sign installed tomorrow and wanted this item to be left on the agenda for the next meeting as there may or may not be an ordinance for it.

4. Discussion – addition of left turn lane on Clinton Street onto Nashua Street.

B. Ruoff, referring to B. Parker's email, agreed with his opinion that before the discussion goes too far, to look into traffic studies previously done in the area. He stated a citizen had brought this to G. Daniels who felt it should go to the TSC. There is concern regarding the safety of turning left onto Nashua Street. He noted he has never had an issue turning left at this location.

F. Douglas noted this intersection can be congested at times due to the three (3) points of flow of traffic in that area. The traffic is one lane turning left onto Clinton Street, traffic going straight on Nashua Street and traffic coming into town so turning left would force the driver to cross three (3) directional paths of traffic. He is inclined to saying there should be no left turn there before anything else. That may make things worse, though, by directing more traffic down the already congested South Street. He said he would do a five (5) year analysis on traffic accidents at that location; it wouldn't show near-misses, though.

B. Ruoff recommended the Committee table this item until the next meeting; all agreed. He also recommended K. Parenti forward B. Parker's traffic information to all the members before the next meeting.

2. Discussion: Revisiting suggestion to add turn lane for Armory and Emerson Roads at the Route 13 South intersection (Forwarded from the BOS)

B. Ruoff stated everyone agrees this location needs to be looked at. He felt caution should be used when using the word "failed" to describe that intersection. He read the information from the original discussion two (2) years ago which stated the intersection has failed. He doesn't believe it is failed but it does need improvement. The purpose of tabling this item is to get B. Parker's traffic study as soon as possible and fast track this item for the next meeting. If they have enough information, they can get NRPC and the state involved. He spoke with the state today about this item and they are very ready to look into it. He had forgotten there were traffic studies done for the new subdivisions in the area and for a new business that was looking to expand into the area. He asked who would be available for the subcommittee that will work on this item before the next TSC meeting in November. D. MacAllister, R. Tortorelli, F. Douglas and B. Ruoff said they were all on board to work with B. Parker on this.

F. Douglas suggested B. Ruoff speak with Bob Courage, former DPW director, to get additional information. He wasn't sure why the right hand turn lane was not put in.

B. Ruoff stated any accident information would be helpful too.

R. Tortorelli stated there have been many accidents at that location over the years.

F. Douglas replied there were fewer accidents since the intersection was reconfigured.

B. Ruoff said, after talking with the state, they have to show a need for this project and then take the cost into consideration. He believes there is a need for a right hand turn on Emerson Road but is there a need for two (2) or four (4) of them. The traffic count is high and will only get heavier as the dome gets busier. It is better to do it now before serious problems arise.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.