



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Thursday, February 25, 2021
6:00 P.M.

****VIA ZOOM MEETING****

MINUTES

The Traffic Commission held its monthly meeting VIA ZOOM at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2021.

Present were Traffic Commissioners: Traffic Commissioner Mark Porcaro, DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley, Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Solomon, Ken Galligan, Stephan Hooke, Councilor Jack Lally and Councilor-At-Large Rita Mendes.

There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Commissioner Porcaro. Upon motion made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Councilor Lally, to waive the reading of the January 28, 2021 Minutes. Motion carried by a roll call 7-0 in the affirmative.

OLD BUSINESS

1. PEDESTRIAN LIGHT - 1380 MAIN STREET

Request of Ward 4 Councilor Susan Nicastro on behalf of residents of BHA's Campello Housing Authority complex for a pedestrian light and crosswalk to be installed in front of 1380 Main Street to better protect elderly and disabled residents who wish to cross the street. I make this second request in light of a tenant recently being struck by a vehicle while crossing South Main Street.

Discussion: Deputy Fire Chief Solomon recommended reaching out to CDM Smith for an engineering study for location. He has 3 quotes to do the project.

Ken Galligan reiterated that an engineering study is needed prior to moving forward.

VOTED: TO POSTPONE UNTIL THE MARCH 25, 2021 MEETING TO OBTAIN UPDATE ON ENGINEERING STUDY.

Upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Councilor Lally, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

2. 346 FOREST AVENUE

Request received from Latoya Scott who resides at 346 Forest Avenue who is requesting barriers on all 4 corners of the intersection of Forest Avenue and Ash Street and any other safety recommendations due to the numerous accidents and property damage sustained.

(Board members: attached is accident history spreadsheet).

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

346 Forest Avenue (this address is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Forest Avenue and Ash Street)

- 1. Increase the timing delay between the red traffic signals facing all four directions and the subsequent green traffic signals facing the cross traffic. For example, currently when the traffic signal controlling the east and west bound traffic on Forest Avenue turns red, the traffic signal controlling the north and south bound traffic on Ash Street almost immediately turns green and vice versa. It is recommended that a longer delay between the red traffic signals and the subsequent green traffic signals occur.**
- 2. Upgrade the overhead street lighting at the above intersection. Currently, there are two overhead street lights there, Poles #40 (southeast corner of the intersection) and #41 (northwest corner of the intersection) both have "LED 46" lights. It is recommended that brighter (perhaps "LED 138") lights be installed.**

Discussion: Deputy Fire Chief Solomon stated that he went out with the Signal Division the very next day after subcommittee to experiment with the red all clear signal. He started with a 1 second delay, then a 2 second delay which was a little better then he went to a 2.5 second delay which he felt was a good starting point.

VOTED: TO ACCEPT DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF SOLOMON'S RECOMMENDATION.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Solomon, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

3. IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE

Request received from Councilor-At-Large Rita Mendes and Ward 4 Councilor Susan Nicastro on behalf of Helena Andrade:

This past year, my family and I continue to search for answers regarding the unfortunate and tragic loss of our late beloved Aunt, Maria Graca. She was a mother, a wife, a daughter, an aunt, and a best friend to many, sadly a victim of vehicle homicide. The accident occurred on South main street directly across Vincent's Tropical Groceries. If you are familiar with the area, you'll recall that South Main street is a relatively long strip of busy, poorly lit commercial area with a mixture of residential roads. Your first traffic light starts at Maple Ave, later to be followed by the second set of lights on South street intersection. Roughly 1.4 miles apart. Sadly, Maria was not the only victim killed; there was Mr. Taveras, who was struck by a vehicle in the same manner and on the same street just months apart from each other. Please reference

[:https://www.enterpriseneews.com/news/20191210/brockton-woman-struck-by-police-cruiser-succumbs-to-injuries](https://www.enterpriseneews.com/news/20191210/brockton-woman-struck-by-police-cruiser-succumbs-to-injuries)

How many more deaths must one inflict or experience to see change?

In all due respect to my late Aunt, and many other victims whose lives were taken from them due to unfortunate accidents that could have been avoided. I would like an opportunity to review and discuss the city's engineering and infrastructure plans. We have a chance to enhance our community's safety and preventing others from being victims of death.

Below I've outline potential improvements that can increase and protects our community by the following:

- *Adding a sidewalk will decrease the potential of a vehicle homicide and increase safety: There is no adequate sidewalks*
- *Adding a cross walk. It's a busy road with a lot of shops and people walking around, including children. There is no adequate crosswalks*
- *Adding additional lighting to increase the visibility of traffic and residents. There is no adequate street lighting*
- *Adding traffic lights to keep people from speeding. It would decrease speeding. There is most certainly no Traffic Lights to break up the long road.*

How do I go about proposing Change to this neighborhood? What are the next steps? Maybe the answer is not just one infrastructural implantation but a combination of such.

I'm open to ideas and welcome your feedback. I hope we can partner to discuss ways to increase public safety and decrease deaths.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Send a letter to Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) requesting a study (Road Safety Audit) on the need for a traffic signal at Main Street and Forest Avenue.**
- 2. Install pedestrian crosswalks located in the area of Main Street and Florence Street (across Main Street) and Main Street and Hancock Street (again, across Main Street). Crosswalks pending an engineering study.**
- 3. Install a new overhead street light on Pole #47 (located across from 740 Main Street).**
- 4. Install a new overhead street light on Pole #VZ39 (located at Main Street and Williams Place).**
- 5. Install two (2) 30 mph speed limit signs, one (1) sign**

immediately north and one (1) sign immediately south of Vicente's Market on Main Street.

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Councilor-At-Large Mendes, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

4. ELVERA'S CAFÉ - 132 MAIN STREET

Request received from Councilor Jeff Thompson on behalf of Sandra Martin, owner of Elvera's Cafe, 132 Main Street, to install a 15 minute parking sign in front of her coffee shop for her patrons.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. This issue does not involve the question of whether a vehicle can properly park there without any detriment to the flow of traffic, but rather it involves the question of amount of time allotted to vehicles that actually park there. No action will be taken by the Traffic Commission. Issue will be referred to the Parking Authority for follow-up.**

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO REFER TO BROCKTON PARKING AUTHORITY.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Solomon, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

5. SOUTHWORTH STREET & WEST CHESTNUT STREET

Request received from Councilor Dennis Eaniri on behalf of a constituent to discuss the safety issues at this location. The guardrail that was there was knocked down for the 3rd time in 2 years. Councilor Eaniri would like to also discuss the possibility of placing boulders or concrete barriers there.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

1. **Install a reflective arrow board in front of 364 W. Chestnut Street (pointing to the left or easterly for the eastbound lane traffic).**
2. **Install a reflective arrow board in front of 380 W. Chestnut Street, which is the Sinai Haitian Seventh-Day Adventist Church (pointing to the right or westerly for the westbound lane traffic).**
3. **Repaint the white stutter lines in the eastbound travel lane of W. Chestnut Street at Southworth Street with thicker lines so as to "hold" the eastbound traffic in the travel lane better.**
4. **Install an overhead flashing amber traffic signal.**
5. **Replace the guardrail located in the westbound travel lane of this intersection closest to 364 W. Chestnut Street.**

Discussion: Ken Galligan stated that item #4 is similar to the traffic signal at West Chestnut Street and Linwood and Market Street and Hardy Avenue. Mr. Galligan asked DPW Commissioner Rowley if DPW got involved with the other signals and was told no. DPW Commissioner Rowley stated that this item would have to go to CDM Smith for an engineering study.

Also, DPW Commissioner Rowley informed the board that he did increase the lighting in the area. Two lights on West Chestnut Street were increased to 135 and one on Southworth Street was increased to 185. He stated the if complaints are received because the lighting is too bright, he will bill the Traffic Commission if his department has to change any.

Deputy Fire Chief Solomon will look into #4 for pricing.

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND HAVE DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF SOLOMON OBTAIN PRICING FOR ITEM #4.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by DPW Commissioner Rowley, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

6. HILLBERG AVENUE

Request received from Councilor Dennis Eaniri requesting four (4) 30 MPH signs placed on Hillberg Avenue, from Warren Avenue to Longwood Avenue (going East to West. Hillberg Avenue was newly repaved last spring/summer 2020. We now have a speeding problem. I have received several calls from residents of the street as well as those who travel the street, including myself. Please send this item to sub-committee for review, and I will be present at that meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Replace any missing "No Parking" signs.**
- 2. Install four (4) 30 mph speed limit signs (two (2) eastbound lane, and two (2) westbound lane).**
- 3. Look into compiling a list of 25 mph speed limit streets and explore adding Hillberg Avenue to such a list.**
- 4. Increase police traffic enforcement.**

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Solomon, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

7. OAK STREET

Request received from Kathleen Downes who resides on Oak Street and requests that the speed limit be enforced. She has noticed an increase in heavy truck traffic with the trucks barreling through at 50 mph all day and night.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Install several 30 mph signs along the length of Oak Street (both lanes).**
- 2. Increase police traffic enforcement.**

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Fire Chief Solomon, seconded by Councilor-At-Large Mendes, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

8. PEARL STREET

Email request forwarded from Councilor Dennis Eaniri from Maryann Calnan as follows:

I am a resident of Ward 3D for 26 years and I think that Brockton is a great city. My concerns at this time are:

There needs to be a change in the traffic lights in the following areas:

1. Corner of Pearl and Torrey St -- arrows would be very helpful because making left turns at the corners, it is very difficult to see what is coming from Rte 138 up to the intersection. Too many drivers honk if you don't move ahead quickly, but it is difficult to see, some people do not use their directionals, and at certain times of day, sun glare is a dangerous factor.

2. The large intersection where Cumberland Farms is located on Belmont and Pearl is better than in years past, but there is still a strong need for better arrow lights for each direction. You know that there are too many accidents there. Numerous times I have witnessed cars and trucks blowing/speeding through yellow lights and even red lights because it is such a wide area and they hope to get through..... very scary.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Pearl Street and Torrey Street intersection: This will require a reconstruction of the intersection. This will have to be professionally studied.**
- 2. Pearl Street and Belmont Street intersection: *Traffic Commission letter to MassDOT expressing our concerns (the intersection belongs to MassDOT). (*Board members: Letter was sent to MassDOT requesting their assistance/guidance with left**

arrows at the Pearl Street intersection).

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Upon motion duly made by DPW Commissioner Rowley, seconded by Councilor Lally, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

9. DORIS AVENUE & KENELWORTH AVENUE

Request received from Ethan Lawless who resides at 20 Doris Avenue and is requesting a guardrail with arrows and a curve sign. He states this is a dangerous curve with multiple property damage (2 fire hydrants, telephone pole and cars running up to lawn 4 times).

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Install a "Curve Ahead" sign in front of and between (fenceline) of 46 and 52 Kennelworth Avenue (northbound lane).**
- 2. Install four (4) reflective chevrons (pointing left or westerly) between the property line of 38 Kennelworth Avenue and 20 Doris Avenue (northbound lane).**

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor-At-Large Mendes, seconded by Councilor Lally, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

10. CHARITY GUILD - 501 MAIN STREET

Request of Ward 4 Councilor Susan Nicastro on behalf of The Charity Guild, 501 Main Street, to increase the size of the parking area on the Dover Street side of Building to make it easier for trucks of the Greater Boston Food Bank and others to deliver food and supplies.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Reposition the current eastern-most "No Parking Loading Zone" sign twenty-eight (28) feet to the east.**

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by DPW Commissioner Rowley, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

11. SIGN REQUEST - CHILDREN AT PLAY

Request received from Emanuel Pires who resides at 51 Ardsley Street and is requesting a Children at Play sign because of excessive speeding. Stop signs not labeled on floor, kids cross street to play in front yards and ride bikes.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Paint a Stop Line where the current Stop Sign is on Marsden Street at the intersection of Ardsley Street.**
- 2. Install "Go Slow" sign at Pole #1-1 located in front of 21 Ardsley Street (northbound traffic).**
- 3. Install "Go Slow" sign near the intersection of Ardsley Street and Marsden Street (southbound traffic).**

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Councilor-At-Large Mendes, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

NEW BUSINESS

6. APOLLO FURNITURE 747 NORTH MAIN ST

Request received from Councilor Shirley Asack asking the Traffic Commission to see if the city can work with National Grid as their pole is on city property in the middle of the entrance to their drive way is causing accidents.

Discussion: Councilor Shirley Asack explained that the utility pole is on city property and is a public safety issue because of accidents with people and delivery

trucks entering and exiting the driveway to the furniture store. She said that she did research and spoke to DPW Commissioner Rowley and was told that the pole is pre-existing, that the pole has been there for over 40 years.

Councilor Asack asked if the subcommittee could take a look because it is a public safety issue. She continued by saying that the property owner did speak with National Grid who said that they would move the pole but at a substantial cost to the property owner.

Ken Galligan asked Councilor Asack if this request was in the area of the City Council where they grant pole locations to the Edison Company and has the council who grants these permits done anything with the Edison Company?

Councilor Asack responded by saying that she hasn't brought this before the council yet, perhaps that's the next step. The only times they've dealt with utility poles is when they come before council seeking permission to move or install a pole. She stated that she is starting with the Traffic Commission because of the public safety issue and it's on city property. She said that she will the City Clerk.

DPW Commissioner Rowley explained that the pole was placed there many years ago then they expanded the parking lot and National Grid will move the pole at the expense of the owner. The question is, who is going to pay for it? Councilor Asack stated that National Grid quoted \$6,000.00 for moving the pole.

Ken Galligan then stated that the poles are usually placed at the end of the property line so they must've purchased the abutting lot to expand.

Councilor Lally made a motion to send this to subcommittee to keep the matter moving and by the next meeting on 3/25, perhaps more information will be available or some sort of resolution working with the Traffic Commission and City Council.

DPW Commissioner Rowley informed Commissioner Porcaro that he would send him the contact information of the National Grid representative and perhaps he could meet the subcommittee at the site when they're there for review.

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Councilor-At-Large Mendes, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

13. CROSS STREET

Request received from Councilor Shirley Asack on Behalf of residents on Cross Street to have the commission enforce speed limit and possibly install signs. In the meantime, I would like to request patrols on Cross Street.

Discussion: Councilor Asack stated that Cross Street has been on the Traffic agenda in the past. There is a problem with speeding ever since the road was repaved. She continued that it's always been a speedway even with potholes but it's worse now. She requested enforcement or a digital speed limit sign. She has experienced the speeding issue first hand when a couple of weeks ago someone sped past her on the right.

Ms. Chandra Davis who resides on Cross Street spoke to say that the speeding is excessive that they speed so fast her front windows rattle. She stated that a child was hit and was out of school for an entire year because of a car speeding down the street. Her fear is that someone will get killed. There are a lot of pedestrians and joggers. Neighbors she has spoken to fear crossing the street because cars appear out of nowhere.

Councilor Lally made a motion to refer to subcommittee and informed Ms. Davis that he would contact Councilor Asack when the subcommittee is on their way to review this matter. He stated that typically they meet at 9:30 a.m. and set out on the route. He will call Councilor Asack when they're 15-20 minutes out from arriving.

On the motion, Ken Galligan asked both Councilor Asack and Ms. Davis if there was any specific time of day when the speeding is the worst and was told all the time but mostly early afternoon. Mr. Galligan asked to amend the recommendation to include enforcement. Commissioner Porcaro stated that he would assign enforcement tomorrow that this should not have to go to subcommittee for approval.

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE AND ASSING ENFORCEMENT.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by DPW Commissioner Rowley, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Milligan

Secretary, Traffic Commission

***THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021.
DEADLINE TO ADD ITEMS TO THIS MEETING AGENDA IS FRIDAY,
MARCH 12, 2021.**