



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, June 6th, 2023
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Traffic held a Special Meeting at the Arnone School Little Theater, 135 Belmont Street, Brockton, MA 02301, at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6th, 2023.

Present were Traffic Commission Members: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro, Deputy Fire Chief Joseph DePasquale, DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, Stephan Hooke and Councilor Jeffrey Thompson

There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro at 6:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING SIDEWALK CLOSURE PLAN

Requested by: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro on behalf of Suffolk Construction

Issue/Request: to fence off the sidewalks during the construction of the Public Safety Building. (Traffic Commission members please see attached map)

Sidewalk closures as follows:

**Warren Avenue from Highland Street to West Elm Street;
West Elm Street from Warren Avenue to Goddard Road; and
Goddard Road from West Elm Street to Highland Street**

Discussion: Present were David Mollicone, Suffolk Construction and Joe Sullivan, CHA. The above-referenced sidewalk closures were discussed. Mr. Mollicone stated my first initial approach when we were bidding on the project was to take a lane of Warren Avenue. Since then, I've looked at it and I think that

we cannot do that and stay close to the curb. There are a couple of areas like Goddard Road, that we need the sidewalks there because it would be very unsafe and we need that buffer for excavation and it would be closer to the edge. We looked at it again and Highland Street, we don't need the sidewalk closure. All the fences would be enacted around the fire hydrants and we will have good signage that is clearly marked, multilingual and signage for everybody to see at all of the corners. We know that there are crosswalks there but if we need to do any temporary crosswalks, we will do those. There will also be gates, clearly marked, with good signage. The fence itself, we are going to drive the post and they are going to be right outside the curb line, on the pavement but tight to the curb. This way if we have to do new sidewalks, we are not fighting the fence lines. This fence is going to be up for a couple of years. We are installing top rails to make it more secure, we'll have scrim on the fence, we'll have all the signs that we need with gates clearly marked. It's a matter of public safety. Mr. Sullivan stated that they have had conversations with the Mayor relative to the sidewalk closures and his concerns, such as being relocated to the other side. The good news is that there are sidewalks adjacent on several other roads. Therefore, if we articulate and make sure the signage and verbiage is accurate, we put up the temporary walkways, making that separation of the population on the other sides of the street are only going to prevent any accidents from happening. He further stated that there have been changes to the bump outs, in order to make the fire hydrants accessible. We are going to make sure that the site is secure to ensure the general public does not have access to the site. Mr. Sullivan further stated that we may put up cameras and we generally light the projects pretty well, which would be facing towards the site to not be a nuisance for the neighborhood. DPW Commissioner asked what the situation will be in the wintertime, whereas, the fences are being located on the curb line? Mr. Mollicone stated that he has worked with Suffolk in the past and the offense lines have done this a number of times, they take preventive measures to assist the town to try and move the snow. They don't want their fence getting damaged either. We could possibly install some type of plate, especially along Warren Avenue, a foot or two up on the fence, wires and plywood, something on the outside to run against it and it won't catch anything. DPW Commissioner Hill further asked how this would affect the two-way project of which Mr. Mollicone stated that it shouldn't affect it at all. He further stated that they will need to have access for utility trucks to get to the site and he is stopping the fence in those locations so that there will be no rolling back of fences. There will be a 20 foot section, so the whole fence is coming down and we can put something back at night so that the site is always safe and secure. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro asked when they were looking to put the fence up and it was stated that the Mayor wishes that we put this fence up right away, we have already gotten three prices and we have someone in mind. We have scheduled someone for next week, it's going to happen relatively quickly. The signage can also be done right away. All signage

is coordinated with the police department, depending on where you want the location and direction, the gate signage would be on the gates themselves. Sidewalk closures would be mounted on the fence or fixed somehow on a sign, not on anything that would be blown over and all the signage would be permanent until the duration of the project. It was further stated that if any section of the fence becomes problematic at any point we can be flexible, we have people on site that can handle it right away. As much as this is a permanent thing for two years, we realize that there are going to be some tweaks along the way. We are here to do this project; however, we are here to be as safe as possible and not be a disruption to the neighborhood. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that they should have a Knox box in each area where a truck could go in and where can the trucks go in, only on Highland Street? It was stated that they could actually go on and off Goddard Road, where a gate will be. Eventually trucks will be entering off of Warren Avenue and there will be a gate there too. The gate off of Highland Street right now is really to get us started and it's on an angle and it's about a 50 foot buffer so that we don't have trucks cued on the street. We want them to be able to pull up and sit in front of the gate off of the street. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that his suggestion is that any gate where a truck can go in should have a Knox box. He further stated whether it's a pedestrian gate or a truck gate they should either be numbered or lettered. Something like Gate A. It was stated that they are all lettered A-D. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that if somebody needs to be dispatched up there, they can ask the person which gate it is closest too, if there is any disturbance up there. There was a discussion with Suffolk Construction and the Traffic Commission relative to the gates and the lettering. Suffolk Construction showed the Commission exactly where each gate is being located and the lettering. Suffolk Construction noted that they did tell Chief Perez and Chief Nardelli that we are providing documentation of the layout and signage for dispatch as well. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that there are three lanes on Warren Avenue and that people are going to be driving right up close to that fence. On the corner of West Elm Street and Warren Avenue, if you are going south on Warren Avenue and you take a right onto West Elm Street you're going to be in the right lane, so you will be right up against that fence. Would it make sense to, if there is nothing going on there for a couple of months, that that fence be pulled back, instead of being 90 degrees, it could be pulled back, because someone is going to wipe it out. Suffolk Construction noted that they could take a look at it and make the adjustments. They further stated that they have scrim on the fences, however, they purposely do not put it on the corners so that there are no blind spots for those people making traffic turns. Retired Fire Chief Galligan further asked about the snow removal and asked if the contractor would be willing to run a frontend loader up the street to clear it out of which Suffolk Construction stated that they are sure that they could work that out. Retired Fire Chief Galligan also asked about the rubbish that's going to be blowing up against the fence of which Suffolk Construction noted that they have

laborer's that clean that up daily. Retired Fire Chief Galligan also stated that he agrees about the lighting being put up around the perimeter of the project site. Deputy Chief DePasquale mentioned that Highland and Warren Avenue is a high frequency accident spot, two people making a left at the same time and the storage of trailers. It was discussed that those are just storage areas and that may or may not go up right and that they are potentially looking to rent a little spot for the storage trailers. Deputy Fire Chief DePasquale further stated that there is also a traffic control box at this corner and asked whether or not that interferes with that entrance at all and Suffolk Construction stated that it should not. Deputy Fire Chief DePasquale also mentioned that there is also a box on West Elm Street and asked if that would be inside the fence of which it was discussed that it will not be inside of the fence, it will be on the outside. Deputy Fire Chief DePasquale further stated that there is one on Goddard Road and that adjustments would need to be done there as well to make sure it's outside of the fence. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro asked DPW Commissioner Hill if he knew of any gas companies, etc. projects that may be going on during this time frame of which DPW Commissioner Hill stated , not that he's aware of, they do have 40 services left on that stretch of road. There was also discussion between the Traffic Commission and Suffolk Construction as to whether or not they wanted to use the city owned lot on Goddard Road at the corner of Ellsworth and it was stated that if they needed it that they would most certainly discuss it with the city first. DPW Commissioner Hill stated that if this gets approved he would like to meet with Suffolk Construction at the site to review the markings, etc. It was also stated that it's a 6 feet fence, so it won't be blowing or anything. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that if this fence gets hit, it has to be fixed right away, it can't be left there for multiple hours of which Suffolk Construction stated it would be fixed right away.

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE SIDEWALK CLOSURES AS DISCUSSED.

Motion was made by Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief DePasquale to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Yaffe

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Secretary to the Traffic Commission