



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Thursday, August 31st, 2023
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Traffic held its monthly meeting at the Arnone School Little Theater, 135 Belmont Street, Brockton, MA 02301, at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 31st, 2023.

Present were Traffic Commission Members: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro, Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, Director Stephan Hooke, Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, Councilor-at-Large David Teixeira and James Sweeney.

There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro at 6:00 p.m. Upon motion made by James Sweeney, seconded by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, to waive and approve the reading of the July 27th, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. WEST ELM STREET

Requested by: Cassie Sulbaran (557 West Elm Street

Issue/Request: To revisit this area for the installation of crosswalks.

(Traffic Commission members please see attached proposed crosswalk locations from Ms. Sulbaran).

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. add the "ladder" design to both crosswalks at W. Elm Street at Auna Drive; and

B. install two CROSSWALK signs with the corresponding diagonal down arrows, one on the Auna Drive street sign (for westbound traffic) and another in front of 444 W. Elm Street (for eastbound traffic).

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Upon duly motion made by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

2. WEST CHESTNUT STREET

Requested by: Christine Hill of 358 West Chestnut Street

Request/Issue: Continuing concerns regarding speeding.

(Traffic Commission members, please see attached Road Safety Audit from OCPC)

Discussion: Traffic Commission Captain Porcaro stated that this was before us a few months ago and Mary Waldron from OCPC was present. She distributed the OCPC Road Safety Audit for this area. He stated that he was going to go through the RSA, they made a dozen recommendations to improve this area from signs to rotaries and I went through the RSA today to see what we can do on our end. He further stated that he highlighted what he believes the Traffic Commission can do and everything else, like realigning Ettrick Street, installing a rotary, sidewalks, etc., it's beyond our capabilities. The RSA was passed around to all the Traffic Commission members to look at. Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro stated that he could send OCPC a letter indicating that this is what we can do on our end, we can install signs, trim tree branches, etc. everything else we will defer to the OCPC to push it forward with the Mayor's office. He also stated that we could send a letter to the Mayor's office saying we support the RSA and anything else you can do to further push this along would be helpful. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that we have looked at this intersection for the last couple of years, even with the prior city councilor and one thing that we felt could get done right away was a flashing beacon, like we did at West Chestnut and Linwood Street. Traffic Commissioner Porcaro stated that we could send a letter to the Mayor's office stating that we support this particular item and we are requesting the mayor's office to fund and install it.

VOTED: MOTION TO CONTINUE TO SEPTEMBER MEETING, CONTACT OCPC AS TO WHERE THIS INTERSECTION IS IN THEIR QUEUE AND TO GET A COST ESTIMATE FOR A FLASHING BEACON LIGHT.

Upon duly motion made by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, seconded by Director Stephan Hooke, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

3. INTERSECTION OF FULLER AND BARTLETT STREET

Requested by: Makonnen Johnson

Request/Issue: Blind intersection. High probability for motor vehicle accidents. Requesting 4 way Stop signs. **(Traffic Commission members see attached Crash History)**

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. install two STOP signs (with posts and red reflective striping) on Bartlett Street at the Fuller Street intersection (one sign for eastbound traffic and the other for westbound traffic); and
B. for line painting, add STOP bars and the word "STOP" on Bartlett Street to go with the two new signs.

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Upon duly motion made by James Sweeney, seconded by Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

4. N. QUINCY STREET

Requested by: Councilor Jack Lally

Request/Issue: Would like a new crosswalk installed on N. Quincy Street where it intersects with Maplewood Circle and Toby Road.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommend a crosswalk request engineering study.

Discussion: Councilor Lally was present and stated that he appreciates the Commission's support.

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AND SEND TO CDM SMITH FOR AN ENGINEERING STUDY.

Upon duly motion made by Director Stephan Hooke, seconded by Councilor-at-Large David Teixeira, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

5. SAWTELL AVENUE

Requested by: Jason Andrade

Request/Issue: Way too much unsafe speeding up and down Sawtell Avenue and this puts children and families at risk considering this is a school pick up street. Cars outside my house have been hit twice in the last five years due to speeders. Requesting a Solar Powered Speed Radar at the intersection of

Sawtell and Banks, Camden or Albert Streets as well as a speed bump and additional traffic enforcement.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. mount a 30 MPH sign on Pole #16 (Sawtell Ave. at Albert St.) for northbound traffic; and

B. install a solar-powered speed sign with a 30 MPH sign in front of 128 Sawtell Avenue for southbound traffic.

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Upon duly motion made by Councilor Thompson, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

6. **ASH STREET**

Requested by: Jeanne Katz (Hopgood)

Request/Issue: multiple accidents and speeding cars. Requesting a 4 way stop at the intersection of Ash and Boylston Streets.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. install BLIND INTERSECTION AHEAD signs on Pole #47 for northbound traffic and another sign in front of 375 Ash Street for southbound traffic;

B. install 30 MPH signs on Poles # 45 and 50 for northbound traffic.

C. install 30 MPH signs along the 300-block of Ash Street and the unknown numbered utility pole on Ash Street at Madison Street for southbound traffic.

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Upon duly motion made by Councilor Thompson, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

7. **NORTH MAIN STREET**

Requested by: Councilor Shirley Asack, Ward 7

Issue/Request: establishing a Truck Exclusion Zone for certain side streets along N. Main Street. **(Traffic Commissions members see attached MASSDOT Truck Exclusion Zone information, Ordinance Section 14-17 and Traffic Commission regulation 5-5-1 relative to overnight commercial vehicle parking)**

Discussion: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro explained to the commission that it was brought to his attention that there were truck signs at this location, we researched our records and couldn't find where the signs were approved, so I reach out to Mass DOT and they also had no record of those signs and told the city you have to take them down, therefore, the signs were taken down. The neighbors noticed the signs missing and reached out to Councilor Asack and at last month's meeting I explained to her that the signs had to be taken down per the order of the state. He further stated that Councilor Asack would like the signs to go back up and the state did offer that if we want to put the signs back up they will assist us in establishing a truck exclusion zone, based on their regulations. He further stated that its' not a guarantee that they will approve it but they will assist us in reviewing whether or not it can be done.

VOTED: TO REACH OUT TO MASS DOT FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN MAKING THIS LOCATION A TRUCK EXCLUSION ZONE.

Upon duly motion made by James Sweeney, seconded by Councilor-at-Large David Teixeira, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

8. **INTERSECTION OF MAIN & NILSSON STREET**

Requested by: Gloria Anderson-Armstrong

Request/Issue: There are frequent traffic accidents at this intersection and you can't come out of the parking lot safely or cross the street at the corner. Requesting a traffic light be installed at this intersection.

ADDITIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. install a STOP AHEAD sign on Nilsson Street near Denton Street for eastbound traffic;

B. remount the current STOP sign in the northwest corner on the Nilsson Street/Main Street intersection with a new post and red reflective striping;

C. for line painting, add the "ladder" design to all crosswalks at this intersection;

D. install a STOP AHEAD sign on Pole #3 on E. Nilsson Street for westbound traffic;

E. resecure the existing STOP AHEAD sign on Pole #3 on E. Nilsson Street for eastbound traffic;

F. add a STOP sign with a post and red reflective striping on E. Nilsson at Main Street (southeast corner); and

G. lower the existing NO PARKING sign on E. Nilsson Street (westbound lane) so that it does not obscure the current STOP sign at Main Street (northeast corner).

VOTED: TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Upon duly motion made by James Sweeney, seconded by Director Stephan Hooke, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

9. **COPELAND STREET AT HAYWARD AVENUE**

Requested by: Ward 4 Councilor Susan Nicastro on behalf of Adewumi Oluwatoyin.

Request/Issue: Resident is looking for a crosswalk on Copeland Street close to Hayward Avenue, of other such relief as the Traffic Commission may deem appropriate, to enable safe crossing of the street. (Traffic Commission Members please see previous engineering study together with the updated recommendations from CDM, Smith.)

Discussion: Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro stated that this originally started as crosswalk request at Copeland Street at Hayward Avenue, the engineer went out there and said that it wasn't feasible. At the Councilor's and the residents request they asked if it was possible to put a crosswalk somewhere in this area. He further stated that he reached out to CDM Smith Engineering and asked that they go back out there to look at the area again between Copeland Street and Country Club Lane and Hayward Avenue. Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro read into the record the updated recommendations provided by CDM Smith Engineering. Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro stated that the way he reads the updated recommendations is that a crosswalk is doable on Copeland Street somewhere between Oakside Avenue and Hubbard Avenue and if we want to put it in there we are going to have to install a sidewalk on the east side of Copeland Street because there is no sidewalk there now and make sure that all sidewalks have the appropriate handicap ramps.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

Upon duly motion made by James Sweeney, seconded by Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

NEW BUSINESS

10. **N. QUINCY STREET AND HOVENDEN AVENUE**

Requested by: Councilor John Lally

Request/Issue: Would like Solar Powered Speed signs on both N .Quincy Street and Hovenden Avenue.

Discussion: Councilor Lally was present and stated that N. Quincy Street is probably the street in my ward with the most traffic. He also stated that there are a lot of speeders on N. Quincy Street, Court Street, Winter Street, East Ashland Street, Howard and Lisa Drive and I just have to get as much enforcement and signage as I possibly can. N. Quincy Street, where the roundabout is all the way to Massasoit, there is nothing physically stopping you from speeding. He stated that we need speed signs for a reminder and because these systems have the ability to keep account of cars and the speed of which they are going which helps the police department determine where to send any kind of enforcement measures.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

Upon duly motion made by Councilor-at-Large David Teixeira, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

11. **KENT STREET AT BOURNE STREET**

Requested by: Councilor John Lally

Request/Issue: Would like a stop sign for eastbound traffic on Kent Street at Bourne Street. The stop sign is for cars leaving Kent Street and entering traffic on Bourne Street.

Discussion: Councilor Lally was present and stated that Bourne Street is a dead end street with 12 houses on it. It will be going to planning and zoning for a cul-de-sac that would expand the street by six or seven houses but also to permanently cap its expansion growth. It empties out onto Bourne Street, about three houses away from where Bourne Street meets Winter Street. It's a very busy corner. There isn't anything that tells you to stop at the end of Kent Street, there is no sign. He further stated that he is bringing this to the commission for a formal creation of a stop sign and a stop line to remind people who are exiting the road and entering onto another that they have to stop.

VOTED: MOTION TO APPROVE THE PLACEMENT OF A STOP SIGN ON KENT STREET AT BOURNE STREET.

Upon duly motion made by James Sweeney, seconded by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

12. **INTERSECTION OF N. CARY STREET AND TOBY ROAD**

Requested by: Councilor John Lally

Request/Issue: To bump out N. Cary Street to create a sharper turn (90°) in an effort to deter speeding and reckless driving.

Discussion: Councilor Lally was present and stated that recently we had discussed and went out and reviewed this particular intersection on N. Cary Street and Toby Road and that one problem you have is you have people coming off of N. Quincy Street, coming up N. Cary at high rates of speed. He further stated that there's a corner that's a little difficult to gauge, where a lot of them are speeding recklessly around the corner, taking it too wide, taking it too narrow. Those two schools of thoughts wind up leading in the middle often and end up in disastrous consequences. This is why we had voted to install a new guardrail at this location. Councilor Lally also stated that one of the other things that came up as a suggestion, which I believe holds a lot of merit, is to make a structural physical change to the actual corner, the actual intersection, by making it a 90 degree turn and a little sharper hopefully encouraging people to slow down. Councilor Lally also stated that it's a tight corner, but there's sort of a curve to it and that sort of encourages some speeding. Changing the whole language of the intersection to 90 degrees will hopefully promote some more cautious driving on the corner. The resident from 9 Toby Road was also present and stated that the problem we have is we've got people coming around N. Cary Street and they are suppose to be going 30 MPH but they are going 40-45 MPH. He further stated that there is already a bump out at the end of the street that makes it a 90, but the bump out has to be turned. He also stated that they also set semitrailers on the street and it's suppose to be no trucks. We also have cars going the wrong way, we have a lot of stuff happening on this little one way. The resident also asked the commission about lower the speed limit on the street. Councilor Lally stated we have a tough corner and a lot of times you can fix tough corners with one or two things, enforcements or a physical change to the intersection to directly adjust the flow of traffic and the speed of the traffic.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

Upon duly motion made by Director Stephan Hooke, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

13. **QUINCY STREET AT THE SHAW SCHOOL**

Requested by: Councilor Thompson on behalf of a constituent

Request/Issue: The school parking lot is being used as overflow parking for residents and others, creating dangerous traffic conditions on Quincy Street. Requesting No Parking signs at the Shaw School.

Discussion: Councilor Thompson was present and stated a constituent that lives in the area and I drive by there pretty much every day, complained about residents in the area using the parking lot at the Shaw School as overflow parking and there is no on street parking in this area. He further stated that he drove by there and there is some no parking signs and police take notice signs in the parking lot. I am not sure what further could be done to prevent any parking because the people that are parking there are then walking across the street because most of the residences are on the opposite side of Quincy Street and

creating traffic conditions. He asked if this is public parking lot and would the residents have the right to park over there, it is a school but I don't know if it is not lawful for a resident to park there? Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that he doesn't think this has to do with the Traffic Commission and that it's the School Department and if the School Department has no problem with them parking there then I don't see a problem with it because the cars are off the street. Retired Fire Chief Galligan further stated that this should go to the School Department to see if they have an issue with the parking.

VOTED: TO TAKE NO ACTION AT THIS TIME.

Upon duly motion made by Councilor Thompson, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

14. **HOLBROOK AVENUE**

Requested by: Councilor Asack on behalf of Leighton Beaumont (19 Holbrook Avenue)

Issue/Request: A stop sign to control speeding on Holbrook Avenue.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

Upon duly motion made by James Sweeney, seconded by Councilor Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

15. **WEST CHESTNUT STREET AT ALEXANDRA'S WAY**

Requested by: Councilor-at-Large Winthrop Farwell

Request/Issue: Requesting a modified traffic signal at this location as residents have reached out regarding the heavy traffic on West Chestnut Street during peak hours.

Discussion: Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro stated that Councilor-at-Large Farwell emailed him earlier. Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro stated that the residents that live on Alexandra's Way and Rachel's Way when they are trying to get out onto West Chestnut Street they're having trouble. Therefore, they are requesting that this sort of modified traffic signal that always flashes yellow but as the residents are leaving Alexandra's Way it would turn to red on West Chestnut Street so that they can just pull right out.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

Upon duly motion made by James Sweeney seconded by Director Stephan Hooke, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

16. **ROUTE 27- PLEASANT STREET**

Requested by: Willie Roberts

Request/Issue: Pleasant Street vehicles are traveling sometimes in excess of 45-50 MPH which is causing pedestrian to be at risk. Requesting speed limits signs be placed anywhere between the Irving Gas Station on the corner of Pleasant Street & Route 27 and Christy's Drive.

Discussion: Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that he drives this street every day and when you cross over 24 heading east by the time you go by Gerry's Farm you're going 50 MPH because you are going down the hill. He further stated that it may make sense to put up two signs at Christy's Drive and Pleasant Street, like we did on Pearl Street to say pedestrians, at least to give them a heads up. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated no one goes 30 MPH on this street.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

Upon duly motion made by James Sweeney seconded by Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

17. **LINWOOD STREET AND WEST CHESTNUT STREET**

Requested by: Silvano DaSilva (Rose of Sharon Landscaping) and Rodrigo Dos Anjos

(Garden in Angels Landscaping)

Request/Issue: There have been multiple accidents at this intersection and trying to come out of Linwood Street to go in any direction is dangerous. Requesting a stop light at this location.

Discussion: Present was Rodrigo Dos Anjos and he stated that he has been living in Brockton for almost 20 years and my landscaping company operates out of Walnut Street in West Bridgewater for 6 years and since we renovated the place there is a lot more traffic, most of my clients are landscapers. They come in with a truck and a trailer. When I leave my company and I go to Belmont Street, I always take a right to go to Emory, go around so I don't have to go across or take a left because sometimes during the day it's impossible, especially because Linwood Street doesn't line up, when you face Linwood Street it's off a little bit. He further stated that he's seen a lot of people get into accidents. He stated that he would like a set of lights at this intersection to avoid accidents. James Sweeney asked if we know whether or not the planning council has this location in rotation, obviously he's not the first person speaking about this intersection and he agrees it's extremely dangerous. It may be beneficial if we had it in a plan somewhere. Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro stated that we were at this intersection earlier this year for the truck sign issue, we can send it to subcommittee, go look at it and say send it to a engineering study or we could

reach out to Mary Waldron to see if OCPC has already studied this area. If so, great, if not we can refer it to CDM Smith Engineering to see if signaling this location is proper. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that it was made worse when they put the lights at Linwood and Belmont Street and everyone is using Linwood Street now, of which they never did and when you come down Linwood Street it's very hard to see to the left, it's a blind intersection to the left.

VOTED: TO AUTHORIZE THE TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER TO CONTACT OCPC FOR A STATUS OF WHERE THIS LOCATION IS IN THEIR QUEUE AND TO POSSIBLY SEND TO CDM SMITH ENGINEERING.

Upon duly motion made by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

18. **LEGION PARKWAY**

Requested by: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro on behalf of Brockton Parking Authority.

Request/Issue: To formally make the hash marked area between BNHC and Panda Express No Parking, including a sign.

Discussion: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that the Brockton Parking Authority Director reached out to him relative to the hashmarks and no parking at this location. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan suggested that this go to subcommittee to take a look at the exact location.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

Upon duly motion made by Councilor Thompson, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

19. **VICE CHAIR TO THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

The Traffic Commission Bylaws state "At the regular meeting in August of every year, the members of the Commission shall elect from among themselves, a vice-chairman who shall have all authority to conduct meetings in the absence of the chairman. A vote should be taking tonight.

Discussion: The Traffic Commission members discussed the Vice-Chair position and all voted in favor of continuing to have DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill as the Vice-Chair.

VOTED: TO MAKE DPW COMMISSIONER PATRICK HILL THE VICE CHAIR OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION UNTIL AUGUST 2024.

Upon duly motion made by Director Stephan Hooke, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

EMERGENCY ITEM- LATE FILE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON

52 PORTLAND STREET- AUTISTIC CHILD SIGN

Discussion: The resident is concerned that his autistic brother could get hurt on the street and would like an Autistic Child sign placed at 52 Portland Street. It was discussed that the resident must present a doctor's note to the Traffic Commission and that once presented the Traffic Commission would install said Autistic Sign at 52 Portland Street.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW, APPROVE AN AUTISTIC CHILD SIGN AT 52 PORTLAND STREET UPON RECEIPT OF MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION AND TO CHECK THE SPEED LIMIT SIGNS ON PORTLAND STREET.

Upon duly motion made by Director Stephan Hooke, seconded by Councilor Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

Motion was made by Councilor Thompson, seconded by Councilor James Sweeney, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Yaffe

Michelle Yaffe

Secretary to the Traffic Commission

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEXT TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2023 AND THE LAST DAY TO SUBMIT ANY REQUESTS IS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2023.