



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Thursday, August 22nd, 2024
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 22nd, 2024.

Present were Traffic Commission Members: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro, Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, Director Stephen Hooke, Councilor Lally, James Sweeney, Jamal Andrade and Synthia Olivier.

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 DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, to waive and approve the reading of the July 22nd, 2024 Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. MARKET STREET

Requested by: James Sweeney on behalf of Neusa Gomes

Request/Issue: We have a serious issue of cars driving up the one way on Market street. Drag racing is another issue especially with the two school. This happens multiple times a day. Signs are up but nothing seems to be working. We have neighbors that drive up the street with no care for safety. Along with that there are commercial trucks being parked on the streets blocking driveways and view of oncoming traffic backing from driveway. The dirt bikes and other off road vehicles are also an issue but I'm aware that's everywhere in the city.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Remove the NO LEFT TURN sign under the ONE WAY sign located on Market Street across from Keith Avenue and add a RIGHT TURN ONLY sign in its place.

B. Install two (2) DO NOT ENTER signs under the existing WRONG WAY signs posted near 114 and 115 Market Streets.

C. Traffic enforcement, when manpower permits.

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

VOTED: ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. 512 SUMMER STREET

Requested by: Nien Nguyen

Request/Issue: three (3) vehicles have hit my property in the last three (3) years. Requesting signage.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Install two (2) guardrail panels in front of 512 Summer Street (by the shrubs).

B. Install reflective chevrons pointing in opposite directions behind the guardrails.

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

VOTED: ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. 12 HAMPTON AVENUE

Requested by: Francisco Aquiar

Request/Issue: Because of some traffic, they don't want to go through the light between Linwood and Belmont Street. They go through Hampton Avenue with full speed to go to Magnolia Avenue and Belmont Street. I have kids playing outside and are on school vacation. Requesting a Slow Children sign, 25MPH sign or a speed bump.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Install a CAUTION PEDESTRIAN sign on Pole #4 (by 5 Hampden Avenue) for westbound traffic.

B. Install a CAUTION PEDESTRIAN sign near 30 Hampden Avenue (by the white fence) for eastbound traffic.

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

VOTED: ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

4. 144 FOSTER STREET

Requested by: Ariuna Jones

Request/Issue: Would like to take down the Autistic Child sign and replace with Children Go Slow or Slow Children sign to reduce the speeding on the street between 144/150 Foster Street.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Remove the two (2) AUTISTIC CHILD signs (upon verification that they are no longer needed) on Pole #15.**
- B. Install one (1) CAUTION PEDESTRIAN sign on Pole #15 for eastbound traffic.**

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

VOTED: ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

5. 409 WEST ELM STREET

Requested by: Camilla Hoffman

Request/Issue: I live on the corner of West Elm Street and Moraine Street. We have had at least one (1) accident per week. People drive too fast and reckless. I have had a car drive up on my lawn. I am afraid to let my children play outside. Requesting Traffic lights at this location between West Elm Street and Moraine Street.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Send a letter to the owner of 409 W. Elm Street requesting that the shrubs be trimmed back.**
- B. Send a letter to the owner of 417 W. Elm Street requesting that the shrubs be trimmed back.**
- C. Request an engineering study to look at W. Elm Street from West Street to Ash Street to see if any improvements can be made to prevent the speeding and crashes.**
- D. Traffic enforcement, when manpower permits.**

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

VOTED: ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

6. 95 TREMONT STREET

Requested by: London Wayne Hall

Request/Issue: Too many accidents and speeding down French Avenue over 20MPH. Requesting two (2) Stop signs at the corner of French Avenue coming from West Chestnut Street on both corners. **(Traffic Commission members please see attached photos)**

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Add red reflective striping to all existing STOP signs at the Tremont Street and French Avenue intersection.**

- B. Add a second set of STOP signs, with sign posts and red reflective striping, on Tremont Street at the French Avenue intersection, to double-up on the STOP signs for east and westbound traffic.**
- C. Add STOP (pavement line painting stencil) for the existing STOP bars.**
- D. Increase the street light brightness for the light at the southeast corner of the Tremont Street and French Avenue intersection from its current 35 LED to something brighter.**
- E. Install a NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER sign with sign post by the guy wire to Pole #1.**

Discussion: Linda Gomes was present and stated that this has been an issue with the sign because the person, Mr. Hall who lives there has a sign that goes all the way down the street. I live on the opposite side and I have a driveway in the back of my house, a little small driveway. There is a No Parking sign there already so that you don't block the driveway. But my issue is that I don't understand how is he able to have that sign from where it is now all the way down the end of the street where the stop sign is. It's a very lengthy area so no cars can park there, so what's happening because they can't park there everyone is parking on my side of the street. I don't feel that it make any sense that he has all of that area. Also a few years ago he had big red stones there and that was a complaint and they came and took the stones up and told him that he couldn't have those stones there. That was right in front of his house. During the winter everyone is parking on this side so there's a chance of people just sliding and parking and there is going to be a big problem. I just think that he shouldn't have the leeway to have it from that spot all the way down to where it is. It's quite a ways down, if you saw where that sign is. He put his own signs up and people in the neighborhood took his signs down because he put the signs there because he was having all kinds of issues and arguing with everyone on the street about how they can't park in front of his house. This is a public street, people should be able to park there just like they can park on my side. When the police came a few times they told him that he could not park there and can't have a sign like that and he was arguing with them. They took a couple of signs and put them in the trunk of their cars and he kept getting signs and putting them up. The kids and people in the neighborhood kept taking them down and they would tell him that he doesn't own the street. It was causing too much havoc. So I think that if he's able to have that sign then I think that's it's only fair because I own my house then I should be able to have a sign on the other side and then now where would people park? It's going to create a real problem and it's a problem for me and I've known it for years. There's apartment buildings all over the street and where are people suppose to park? He has one car and he has a driveway. He just doesn't want anyone parking in front of his house. I think it's totally uncalled for and I think the sign should come down. DPW Commissioner Hill stated that he recalled the presentation that was made and it involved accidents. Signs were going up out of concern for the children. Gomes states that the issue with stop signs and all that, was something that I brought to his attention because of the street. The way that there is a hill up on Tremont Street and they are coming down, so we decided we were going to have a talk about the stop sign and all of that. But the accidents were in front of my house. There were two accidents and he had the

photos of the two accidents. My second thing was to ask for a barrier as my house is right there on the corner because they come around the corner and that's where the two accidents were. Ms. Gomes stated that he told me that he didn't see or hear it and there was someone laying on my lawn. So I was asking for a barrier because they do come fast and they could hit my house. DPW Commissioner Hill asked if they come around the corner and take a right heading towards West Chestnut Street. Ms. Gomes states yes and that she is right across the street from London Hall. James Sweeney brought up that he believed this falls within half a mile of the train station, which is only going to get tighter. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that I believe the reason we put the sign up was because there was a problem there with somebody that had a very large box truck. It was parking on the dirt sidewalk right up against his sidewalk. Ms. Gomes stated at the time he might've been talking about the people right next door to him who were getting furniture delivered and it was a big box truck and that happened twice because they had a lot. They were delivering the furniture and couldn't maneuver themselves enough to get into the driveway. DPW Commissioner stated that 1. I think that if you're requesting a guardrail in front of your house that that request would have to come back to us because it didn't make the agenda and then I would say for the subcommittee recommendations, maybe we pull the accident history for the intersection and then put these on hold until we do a little more research. Traffic Commissioner Porcaro stated that he believes there is a misconception about the signs here because about a year or two ago Mr. Hall came here to the traffic commission requesting the sign and we went there and investigated it. We installed the sign, it's a city installed sign on that telephone pole, It's pole # 1. Those signs that you were seeing were official city signs and kids were taking them down. No one can take those signs down, those are city signs and it's a crime to touch those signs. He further stated that we put those signs up four times at an expense to the city and the taxpayers. Traffic Commissioner Porcaro further stated that those signs were put up under proper lawful authority, a request was brought to us, we investigated it and we took a vote to put those signs up. Those signs were properly installed. I don't want to just vote to take them down. I would like to have Mr. Hall come back and I'd like to have you come back next month as well as the ward councilor because Mr. Hall had gotten the ward councilor involved and then we can come to a final decision on that sign. Ms. Gomes asked what are the city signs suppose to look like? Traffic Commissioner Porcaro stated that they sign that you see right now is an official city sign. Councilor Lally stated that you are probably seeing a little bit of both so the traffic commission has put up multiple signs, they go away and the traffic commission puts them back up. He's probably attempting to fill the gaps by putting up his own signs between his requests to replace the signs that were taken down. Councilor Lally further stated that I would say that you would need to submit a request to the traffic commission independently for a guardrail. But for right now, I am going to make a motion to accept subcommittee Items A,B,C and D and recommend that we postpone Item # E, which is the signage until we have a accident history for the intersection.

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS A,B,C & D AND TO CONTINUE ITEM E TO NEXT MONTHS MEETING, REQUEST CRASH HISTORY AND INVITE LONDON HALL AND WARD COUNCILOR BACK TO THE SEPTEMBER MEETING.

7. WOODARD AVENUE

Requested by: George Couture

Request/Issue: Thornton Avenue on the Woodard Avenue end does not have a stop sign and cars do not stop to take the turn. They seldom even slow down. There have been multiple near misses with both pedestrians and other drivers. Requesting a Stop Sign at the south end of Thornton Avenue.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Install a STOP sign, with sign post and red reflective striping on Thornton Avenue at Woodard Avenue for southbound traffic.

B. Add a STOP line and STOP (pavement line painting stencil) for this new STOP sign.

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

VOTED: ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

8. 41 RUSSELL ROAD

Requested by: Patricia Phillips Adams

Request/Issue: I have a brain injured child and I would like to have a handicap spot in front of my home.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Need more information. The requester must appear at a meeting. Take no action until the requester appears and explains.

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

VOTED: CONTINUE TO SEPTEMBER MEETING AND REQUEST THE REQUESTOR TO APPEAR.

9. CARL AVENUE

Requested by: Nadine Reed

Request/Issue: I am requesting speed humps be installed on Carl Avenue, as individuals using the street far exceed the 30 MPH speed limit. Most people drive extremely fast and endanger the lives of residents, especially young children.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Remove the 30 MPH sign by Pole #3 (in front of 26 Carl Avenue).**
- B. Install one oversized 30 MPH sign with sign post and reflective striping by the property boundary line of 17 and 25 Carl Avenue for southbound traffic.**
- C. Relocate the 30 MPH sign from Pole #31 to Pole #30 (by 312 Carl Avenue) for northbound traffic.**
- D. Install a 30 MPH sign on Pole #24 (by 248 Carl Avenue) for northbound traffic.**
- E. Install a 30 MPH sign, with sign post and reflective striping, on the west side of the street opposite 194 Carl Avenue for southbound traffic.**

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

VOTED: ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

10. 145 LINWOOD STREET

Requested by: Milouse Senecharles

Request/Issue: Requesting that the city either install guardrails at 145 Linwood Street or place speed bumps along the road to avoid additional accidents from occurring. 4 accidents have occurred so far and there needs to be a solution to avoid more accidents.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Install reflective chevron signs (pointing left/east) on Poles # 14S and 15S (between 139 and 145 Linwood Street) for southbound traffic and to put two (2) more chevron signs northbound past the curve.**

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

VOTED: ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AS AMENDED.

11. NEW HEIGHTS CHARTER SCHOOL

Requested by: Timothy Chin, Chief Operations Officer, New Heights Charter School.

Request/Issue: To create a School Zone for New Heights Charter School.
(Traffic Commission members please see attached CDM Smith study)

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

Discussion: Timothy Chin and Dr. Nicole Jones were both present. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that when he read the report it definitely reaffirms

everything that we had talked about and that there's definitely a need there for a crosswalk. Traffic Commissioner Porcaro stated that the ward councilor had emailed him this morning because she saw it on the agenda and she wanted to know, if the recommendation was approved, who would pay for this and I told the councilor we pay for the engineering study because it provides us guidance on our vote but beyond that we send a letter to the Mayor's office and DPW informing them of our decision. We attach a copy of the engineering report and ask them to fund the project. The Traffic Commission doesn't actually install the crosswalk or sidewalk. DPW Commissioner Hill stated that this street is state controlled and any improvements would have to go through the MassDOT's process. For the construction side of it, constructing the sidewalk, rebuilding the ramps so that everything is ADA complaint. Traffic Commissioner Porcaro stated that if I recall, CDM Smith, Lisa Sherman stated that she would assist the city in talking with MassDOT in trying to get this done. She would be the liaison between the city and the state with this project. DPW Commissioner Hill stated that it may be part of the Safe Street grant we just put in. Dr. Jones stated that this street is very busy especially in the mornings and afternoons when we dismiss so for the kids to get safely across the street is extremely important. Earlier in the school year we did have a student that was hit. Retired Fire Chief Galligan asked Dr. Jones if they encourage the kids to use the crosswalk at Sargent's way and Mr. Chin stated yes but that's also where a pedestrian was hit.

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF CDM, SMITH AND TO SEND A LETTER TO MAYOR AND DPW STATING THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION AND REQUEST THAT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE AND DPW MOVE FORWARD WITH SECURING THE FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE RECOMMENDATIONS. ALSO TO SEND LETTER TO SENATOR BRADY.

NEW BUSINESS

12. 684 PLAIN STREET

Requested by: Deborah DeLima

Request/Issue: I would like to request a sign indicating that there is an autistic child because I have a 5 year old autistic son and car pass at a high speed on my street. I believe having a sign near my house will help people pay more attention. **(medical documentation received)**

Discussion: Ms. DeLima was present and stated that she would like a sign because a lot of cars speed. She is concerned because when she has to take out a car seat her son will run off and there also has been an accident in front of her house.

Upon duly motion made by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, seconded by Director Hooke, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: APPROVE SIGN AND SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE TO DETERMINE LOCATION.

13. 39 ANNE MARIE DRIVE

Requested by: Freddie Milligan

Request/Issue: People from other towns close to Brockton consistently not only cut through but speed through without any concern for residents walking so we need these signs asap. Along with police handing out tickets consistently. Requesting speed limit.

Discussion: Freddie and Faith Milligan were present. Mr. Milligan stated that the street is odd because they use it as a cut through. One problem he had is they turn off N. Quincy Street back to Anne Marie Drive. Would like to see nice huge "Slow Down" signs and he stated that they speed down the street as well. He would like speed limit signs too. He stated you can't even play basketball because they constantly have to stop. James Sweeney stated that he wonders if GPS is pulling people through this neighborhood. Councilor Lally stated that usually we have this in front of the traffic commission at least once a year. I don't think it's so much of a GPS issue as it's a people who are more familiar with the area, who make a habit of just trying to cut the light and that people that are more comfortable with something tend to do it a little sloppier and quicker. North Quincy Street is missing a sign. He had also already discussed with Chief Perez regarding putting out speed traps. Mrs. Milligan asked where signs would be placed and Councilor Lally stated that we would make the recommendations, whether it's more signage, new signage and enforcement. Mrs. Milligan stated that there have been a few near misses because they just come flying down the street. She also stated that she would like the commission to take into consideration that most people walk in this area, they are walking dogs, babies and elderly are walking.

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

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE

14. MAPLE AVENUE

Requested by: Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan

Request/Issue: To allow general thru traffic on Maple Avenue from Crescent Street to Main Street westerly.

Discussion: Retired Fire Chief Galligan was present and stated that apparently years ago when the buses were there they didn't want cars coming down Maple Avenue from Crescent Street. That little piece was reserved for the buses. Originally, Maple Avenue used to come down suddenly from Crescent Street, took a hard right and came out on Main Street. So the Do Not Enter signs that were put up for the buses years ago are still there. My opinion is if I came down Maple Avenue, I would have to turn around and go back out to Crescent Street down to Montello Street to White Avenue. My recommendation is that we take

those signs down and allow the cars to come down southerly on Maple Avenue at the lights at Main Street in Maple Avenue.

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

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE

15. SPRING STREET

Requested by: Leon Sealy

Request/Issue: Cars love to speed down my street. My nephew was hit by a car last night (7/28/2024) and was flipped in the air. There are a lot of kids that are at the laundromat. Also, my wife had a home daycare. It's for safety of everyone buy mainly the children in the area.

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

VOTED: TO CONTINUE TO SEPTEMBER MEETING AND REQUEST THE REQUESTOR TO APPEAR.

16. CLARENCE STREET

Requested by: Aunnakalia Boyce

Request/Issue: I have an autistic nonverbal son and people tend to speed up the street even though it is a one way street. I am hoping this sign will make people more aware and more cautious of their choices. My child has wandered down the street in the past. Requesting a Caution Autistic Child sign.

Upon duly motion made by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, seconded by Councilor Lally, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO CONTINUE TO SEPTEMBER MEETING AND REQUEST THE REQUESTOR TO APPEAR.

17. NORTH CARY AND EAST ASHLAND STREETS

Requested by: Councilor John Lally

Request: Installation of a left and right direction chevron sign at the Northwest island at the corner of N. Cary and East Ashland for southbound traffic on N. Cary Street.

Discussion: Councilor Lally was present and stated that while we were out on subcommittee in August we were meet by some of the fire department signal team and apparently someone going southbound on North Carey Street carrying some momentum from the hill failed to notice the island's presence and went clean through the box that controls the intersection. We stopped to check it out and

determined that it would be prudent to install some kind of, in addition to whatever other measures are being done, to install some kind of chevrons at the northern end of the island to remind southbound traffic that they can turn right and get onto East Ashland Street or they can continue south but that they cannot go over the island.

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE REQUEST AND DURING LINE PAINTING, PAINT AROUND THE ISLAND ON NORTH CARY ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE INTERSECTION AND ADD REFLECTIVE PILONS.

18. CHESTNUT WOODS

Requested by: Pat Jacobsen, Trustee, Chestnut Woods Homeowners Association
Issue/Request: Would like a crosswalk installed on W. Chestnut Street near Chestnut Woods.

Discussion: Pat Jacobson was present and stated she is the Trustee of Chestnut Woods, a development over 55 and there are 27 units and of course it's a very busy street. There's a lot of people walking. When we had our annual meeting there were several requests to look into a crosswalk. It's between Ash Street and Southworth Street and it's a busy stretch of road. DPW Commissioner Hill asked if there were sidewalks and Ms. Jacobsen stated that sidewalks go up West Chestnut and take a little bit of a curve on either side and it goes around the corner. There are no sidewalks on our side of the street. They are on the opposite side of the street.

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

VOTED: TO SEND FOR AN ENGINEERING STUDY

19. HILLBERG AVENUE

Requested by: Cheryl Scalar

Issue/Request: Concerned about flow of traffic, speed and the trash, especially where the road narrows between Longwood and Echo.

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

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE

20. 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: Councilor Lally nominated DPW Commissioner Hill as the Vice Chair, it was seconded by James Sweeney and all members voted in the affirmative.

VOTED: TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEMBERS APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT OF DPW COMMISSIONER PATRICK HILL AS THE VICE CHAIR FOR 1 YEAR.

Motion was made by DPW Commissioner Hill, seconded by Councilor Lally, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 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 26TH, 2024 AND ALL REQUESTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2024.