

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 18, 2017.

Present at Meeting: Chief Melanson, Lt. Ryan, Traffic Officer Fill-In Passafiume, Sgt. Kory Vincent, Matt Walsh, Russ Arnold, Scott Zenke, Kat Howroyd, Jim Platosh, Carol Golas & Residents: Carlos Stetzelberg, Amanda Strauss

A. Old Business:

1. **0717-01 – RE-OPENED – Request a Stop Sign for River Road and Burlington Road Intersection** – (Mr. Konrad Krupa) – Sgt. Vincent handed out data collected for Burlington Road Eastbound, Burlington Road Westbound and River Road Southbound. The Eastbound Burlington Road traffic had a one-time occurrence maximum speed of 54 mph which occurred at 5pm. The average speed was 29.4 mph. It was reported that the traffic sign was off and motorists were naturally slowing down for the area of the road. Westbound Burlington Road traffic average speed was 32.6 mph and the maximum speed was 58 mph occurring at 7 or 8 am with an average speed of 35.5 mph. River Road Southbound averaged 25 mph and the 85 percentile was 29.96 mph with a maximum speed of 49 mph at 8am and 11pm and two cars out of 2,000 total cars had speeds of 46mph and 50 mph. Russ Arnold requested we put the traffic sign out to collect data for River Road Northbound which Sgt. Vincent will have the results for the next TRB meeting. Matt Walsh reported he measured the site distance and it's only a little over 200 feet and should be at least 300 feet to warrant a stop sign. Russ Arnold suggested he could do some preliminary engineering work to address the road before installing a Stop Sign. He will also look at the other stop signs on Burlington road and their relationship with the potential new sign. It was suggested to deploy the traffic signs for Northbound River Road and Doris Street to collect data for the next meeting. This Item is tabled for the February 2018 meeting in order to collect further data.
2. **0917-05 – Discuss Bus Stops Along Plainville Avenue (specifically stops at Snowberry Cobble)** – (Russ Arnold)- Russ Arnold reported he is still working with Dawn in the Board of Ed and the DOT to correct the issue of children having to cross a busy street like Plainville Avenue. It was reported that Dawn will be looking at re-routing the bus route to address the issue so children don't have to cross this busy street. Matt Walsh reported he received confirmation this morning from the DOT that they will put a "Bus Stop Ahead" warning sign on Plainville Avenue and it should be installed shortly. Item Closed.

B. New Business:

1. **1017-01 – Request a "Do Not Block Driveway" Sign for 54 Main Street - (Miss Porter's School-Chris Temple)** – Chris Temple pointed out a traffic issue on Rte. 10 with the traffic heading to Rte. 4 gets hung up and blocks the school entrance so cars cannot turn into the School's driveway. After some discussion it was decided to request the school to purchase a portable advisory sign "Do Not Block the Driveway" that they could put out for the one hour a day in the morning during peak rush hour of traffic. It was also noted that a new traffic pattern may help the situation once the construction in the area of Rte. 4 has been completed. Item Closed.
2. **1017-02 – Signage at Union School – (Scott Zenke)** – It was reported that coming from Rte. 4 at Elm street the No parking sign is hidden behind parked cars at the school. It was decided to have our Traffic Officer coordinate with the school for a better location of the sign and the Highway Department will also put in a stop bar. Item Closed.

3. **1017-03 – Speeding on Batterson Park Road** – (Carlos Stetzelberg) – Mr. Stetzelberg reported the speeding on Batterson Park Road is dangerous for walkers. He also would like to see a Stop Sign for Berkshire Drive. Mr. Stetzelberg also reported the Park has been vandalized and the No Parking Signs are broken and people park there anyway and leave litter in the park. Chief Melanson asked Mr. Stetzelberg to e-mail him with all of his requests/complaints so he can forward that onto the Town Manager who in turn will send a letter to Hartford as they own the Park. Chief Melanson said the Police Department will enforce the speeding and parking issue. Chief Melanson reported that we will also collect data with our traffic sign. Also the Engineering Department will look for a feasible way to slow traffic through design. Item open
4. **1017-04 – Route 4 Center of Town Construction Issues** – (Amanda Strauss) – Ms. Strauss reported it takes her well over a half hour just to get through the center of Town as cars in the right hand lane sneak into the lane to go straight and it backs up traffic. Ms. Strauss was reassured that the Police are ticketing vehicles that do this. She believes the traffic light at High street is contributing to this bad traffic situation. It was explained to Ms. Strauss that this is a temporary traffic situation until the construction is completed in June 2018. The construction is scheduled to go into Phase 4 of the project on Wednesday and once construction is completed, there will be two lanes going out of Town. Ms. Strauss also mentioned the Island area of Rte. 10 and 4 needs to be mowed and it was explained that because it falls within the construction zone, it cannot be mowed by our Highway Department and that it was the contractor's responsibility. Contractor to be notified. Item Closed.

Issues:

Chief Melanson brought up the idea of installing Rumble strips for Rte. 6. Russ Arnold said it was brought up a few years back as a pilot project but we did not want to be the first Town to install them and then find it hard to fix if it wasn't a viable solution. Pros and Cons were discussed but Chief Melanson asked if Russ can discuss the idea with the state to see if this is a feasible idea to help cut down on the fatalities that occur on this state road.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm. The next TRB meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the Administrative Wing Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted
Carol Golas, Confidential Secretary