

# TRAFFIC STUDY ADVISORY GROUP



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## MINUTES

### TRAFFIC STUDY ADVISORY GROUP PUBLIC MEETING

JUNE 1, 2022

10:00AM

43 South Washington Street, North Attleboro, MA

Lower-Level Conference Room

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DPW Director Mark Hollowell called the meeting to order at 10:05AM.

#### Staff Present:

DPW Director Mark Hollowell  
Fire Chief Chris Coleman  
Police Captain Jason Roy  
Assistant Town Manager Antonio Morabito  
Executive Assistant Kerrin Billingskoff

#### Residents Present:

Richard Drago- 89 Whalen Drive	Anne Bertelli- 34 Whalen Drive
Kevin O'Donnell- 294 South Washington	Beverly Pini- 261 South Washington
Ross Pini- 261 South Washington	Bob Lipari – South Washington
Amit Singh- South Washington St.	Warren Boehling- 302 South Washington
David Robinson- 6 Calvin Road	Debra Gould- 386 South Washington
Dennis Bisio- 211 South Washington	Herbert Hedberg- 167 South Washington
Cynthia Dowling- 14 Calvin Road	Michael Verpaelst- 171 Reservoir
Debra Verpaelst- 171 Reservoir	Richard Hart- 225 Reservoir
Janet Letourneau-294 Reservoir	Aaron Whirl-Resident
Patti Miller- 6 Hunting Street	Walt Miller- 6 Hunting Street
Sean Walsh-53 Armstrong Drive	

#### Documents Reviewed:

March 8, 2022 Minutes  
Agenda Items Packet -June 1, 2022

## I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of the March 8, 2022, Traffic Study Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Fire Chief Coleman moved to approve the Minutes of March 8, 2021.

Police Captain Roy seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3-0.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. PUBLIC HEARING**

Residents that have requested 25 mph on their streets at the following addresses:

Whalen Drive- 25 mph

South Washington Street - 25 mph

Armstrong Drive - 25 mph

Reservoir Street- 25 mph

##### **i. Whalen Drive**

Richard Drago of 89 Whalen Drive was in attendance and addressed the Advisory Group. He explained the speeding issues and safety concerns on his street. He had also stated that he attended the May 20, 2021, meeting and had requested reducing the speed limit from 30mph to 25mph on his street. The Group was in agreement with his request but needed to wait for confirmation that the Town had adopted "Acceptance of MA General Law Chapter 90, Section 17C" and the process for implementation had been put into place.

Mrs. Ann Bertelli was in attendance and expressed her concerns about all of the additional traffic in the neighborhood due to the new developments that were put in Attleboro behind this neighborhood, and the future neighborhood of an additional 60 houses to be constructed. She requested a Traffic Study to be done in the area.

Mr. Hollowell explained that this is the first time that he had heard about this traffic problem. He stated that he would get in touch with the Attleboro Planning Office and request the Traffic Study that had been conducted.

There was discussion amongst the Group. Whalen Drive is in a thickly settled residential neighborhood and none of the members had an issue reducing the speed limit from 30mph to 25mph. They all felt that this street met the criteria of lowering the speed limit to 25mph.

Chief Coleman made a motion to reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 25mph on Whalen Drive.

Captain Roy seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 3-0.**

**ii. South Washington Street**

In attendance to express their concerns were Kevin O'Donnell, Beverly Pini, Ross Pini, Bob Lipari, Amit Singh, Warren Boehling, Debra Gould, Herbert Hedberg, Walt Miller, Patti Miller, and Cynthia Dowling.

Issues discussed:

- Speeding
- Lowering the Speed Limit from 30mph to 25mph
- Increase Police Presence
- Increase Police Enforcement: Radar, speed traps, & speeding tickets
- Parking an empty patrol car on the street
- Petition collected from the neighborhood with 50 signatures in favor of lowering the speed limit to 25mph
- Residents looking for help from the Town to remedy their concerns
- Large truck traffic has increased
- Signs that have been added by the DPW were greatly appreciated.
- No Through Trucking Signs were requested
- No Hazardous Trucking Signs were requested
- J.P. Noonan trucks frequently drive down the street
- Making the street 25mph would keep it consistent with the Downtown being at 25mph as well
- Tailgating has become a problem
- Can cameras be added to the existing radar signs?
- Can the radar signs be more elaborate?
- Can speed bumps be added to the street?
- Can a crosswalk be added?
- Broken Water Gate Issue near 302 South Washington St.
- Increase of traffic
- Road used as a cut-through
- Public Records Request- By Debra Gould - How many tickets have been issued on South Washington Street in the last 6 months?

Dennis Bisio was in attendance and addressed the Group. He stated that he is not in favor of lowering the speed limit to 25mph. He feels that 30mph is the correct speed for the road, people just need to abide by the speed limit.

Donna Robinson was also in attendance and addressed the Group. She stated that she agreed with all of the points that the other residents had made but did not agree with lowering the speed limit to 25mph, she is against it. She feels that 25mph is extremely slow for this street.

The Traffic Study Advisory Group commented in response:

- No Through Trucking has been approved by the State between the hours of 10:00PM and 6:00AM. DPW can have signs put back up.
- Hazmat signs can be added to the street by DPW.
- “Radar in Use” could be added to the signs.
- J.P. Noonan will be contacted by the Fire Chief and reminded of the By-Law about prohibiting travel on South Washington Street
- Speed bumps can not be installed, the street doesn’t meet the criteria. Only for 10-15mph streets.
- A crosswalk can be added to the street. The Gas Company is coming in and adding a gas line on South Washington next year and the DPW will be looking to do road improvements, including a crosswalk with flashers and a sidewalk at the end near Calvin Road at that time.
- Assistant Town Manager suggested a third party coming into the Town to do an additional Traffic Study on this road
- Cameras on radar signs are not legal in the State of MA
- Radar Boards have recorded the speeds for four different periods of time and Captain Roy read the Radar Sign Data into the Record:
  - April 19, 2021- April 29, 2021- Northbound Traffic on South Washington Street at Sutherland recorded 56,723 total vehicles - 33mph was the average speed for all of the vehicles recorded
  - May 11, 2021- May 19, 2021- Northbound traffic on South Washington Street at Sutherland recorded 45,083 total vehicles – 33mph was the average speed for all of the vehicles recorded
  - August 4, 2021- August 14, 2022- Vehicles traveling southbound on South Washington Street by Eddy Street recorded 57,308 total vehicles- 30mph was the average speed for all the vehicles recorded

- August 4, 2021- August 15, 2021 – Vehicles traveling northbound on South Washington Street by Sutherland Road recorded 56,427 total vehicles- 33mph was the average speed for all of the vehicles recorded

Captain Roy stated that the information collected for the average speed of traffic on the street doesn't warrant a reduction of the speed limit, nor does the street itself meet the criteria of having a speed limit of 25mph. It is not considered one of the most dangerous streets in North Attleboro. The road is very wide, straight, has no curves, and has sidewalks on both sides. Data was collected for a quarter of a million cars and the average speed was only 33mph. Based on the statistics and history of this street, a 25mph is not recommended. He also stated that Chief McQuade is not in favor of lowering the speed limit to 25mph on South Washington Street. Neither the Captain nor the Chief are in favor of lowering the speed limit on South Washington Street to 25mph because statistics have not proven that this road warrants a 25mph speed limit.

The Group came up with some concrete items to be implemented in response to the residents' comments:

1. All of the information and data from this meeting will be reviewed by Police Chief McQuade
2. All of the information and data from this meeting will be reviewed by Town Manager Borg
3. "No Through Trucking Signs between the hours of 10:00PM and 6:00AM" will be installed
4. "No Hazmat Vehicle Signs" will be moved.
5. Fire Chief Coleman will call J.P. Noonan and reiterate the Town By-Law prohibiting their trucks from traveling on this road
6. Issue of broken grate near 302 South Washington Street will be addressed by the DPW's Highway Department
7. Captain Roy stated that there will be more patrol cars on the street and enforcement will be increased
8. DPW has future plans for roadway improvement once the Gas Company has put the gas lines in:
  - Mill and overlay the roadway
  - Add a Crosswalk with rapid flashing beacons
  - Add additional sidewalk to the southern end of the street

Chief Coleman made a motion to table this request for lowering the speed limit to 25mph on South Washington Street so that the Town Manager and Police Chief can review all of the information.

iii. **Armstrong Drive**

Mr. Sean Walsh of 53 Armstrong was in attendance and addressed the Traffic Study Advisory Group. He expressed his concerns of the speeding issues in his neighborhood and requested that the speed limit on Armstrong Drive be reduced from 30mph to 25mph.

There was discussion amongst the Group. Armstrong Drive is in a thickly settled residential neighborhood and none of the members had an issue reducing the speed limit from 30mph to 25mph. They all felt that this street met the criteria of lowering the speed limit to 25mph.

Chief Coleman made a motion to reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 25mph on Armstrong Drive.

Captain Roy seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 3-0.**

iv. **Reservoir Street**

Michael and Debra Verpaelst, and Richard Hart were all in attendance, and addressed the Group. They expressed their concerns of speeding on Reservoir Street and requested that the speed limit be lowered from 30mph to 25mph. They stated that the road is very narrow, curvy, and very dangerous for both cars and pedestrians. It is almost impossible to walk or even get your mail on Reservoir Street without getting hit by a car. They even suggested putting in sidewalks, cutting down some of the large trees on the bends of the road, and adding additional signage. They were looking for a solution to slow down the speed of the cars. They thanked Mr. Hollowell for all of his help over the years.

DPW Director Mark Hollowell suggested adding additional cautionary signs on the "S" Curve, fog lines on the road, and cutting back some of the brush on the narrow areas of the road.

Captain Jason Roy read the Radar Sign Data for Reservoir Street into the Record. This data was collected May 12-May 24 and recorded a total of 19,395 vehicles and the average speed of all of the vehicles was 32mph. The 85% percentile speed (the

speed at or below which 85 percent of all vehicles are observed to travel under free-flowing conditions past a monitored point): 37mph. Captain Roy stated that NAPD is not in favor of reducing the speed limit to 25mph on this road. It does not meet the criteria for a 25mph speed limit.

Chief Coleman made a motion to deny reducing the speed limit on Reservoir Street from 30mph to 25mph. The Department of Public Works will add additional cautionary signs, add fog lines to the road if the road allows, and cut back some brush on portions of the road.

Captain Roy seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 3-0.**

**b. Old Post Road- ANR**

**i. Speeding Issues-**

NAPD set up Stationary Radar at various locations along Old Post Road.

Captain Roy read the Radar Sign Data for Old Post Road into the record. This data was collected May 18-May 26 and recorded a total of 23,523 vehicles and the average speed of all of the vehicles was 36mph. The 85% percentile speed (the speed at or below which 85 percent of all vehicles are observed to travel under free-flowing conditions past a monitored point): 39mph.

**c. 171 Reservoir-ANR**

**i. Speeding Issues-**

NAPD installed a Radar Board on Reservoir Street

This item was addressed above in the Public Hearing.

**d. 100 Broad Street- ANR**

- i. Resident requesting a "No Parking" Sign in front of 100 Broad St.**  
One of the officers went over to Broad St. The side including #100 is apparently signed for "No Parking", but only at two locations and they are 100 to 200 feet apart. Additional signage should remedy this issue.

Captain Roy stated that additional signs will be added.

**e. 19 Church Street- ANR**

- i. Requesting a "No Parking" Sign in front of 19 Church St.**

There was discussion amongst the Group, and it was determined that this location does not warrant a “no parking sign”.

Chief Coleman made a motion to deny adding a “no parking sign” in front of 19 Church Street.

Captain Roy seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 3-0.**

- f. Intersection of Route 152 & Raymond Hall Drive & Fire Station- ANR
  - i. Resident requesting a Blinking Light at the crosswalk

There was discussion amongst the Group, and it was decided that a blinking yellow light is needed at the crosswalk. Mr. Hollowell reported that the Town received a grant for \$37,000.00 for the School and Police Departments for safety measures such as this.

Chief Coleman made a motion to have a blinking yellow light installed at the crosswalk in front of the Fire Station.

Captain Roy seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Discussion of the process to be implemented for the Town’s Procedure of executing “The Town’s Acceptance of MA General Law Chapter 90, Section 17C” for certain streets in Town when requested by a resident. Changing the speed limit to 25 mph

- i. Towns’ Procedure has been determined at the March 8, 2022 Meeting  
The Town’s Procedures have been approved.

- b. 11 Curran Road

- i. Traffic Study was conducted. Area doesn’t warrant a 3-way stop sign. Please see Traffic Study Attached for further action.

Mr. Hollowell reported that a Traffic Study was completed at 11 Curran Road and the resident was happy with the results of the study. After review by the Police Department, the recommendations will be followed.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Chief Coleman made a motion to adjourn.

Captain Roy seconded the motion.

**Motion passed 3-0. UNANIMOUS**

Meeting adjourned at 12:52PM