



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Police Department community room, 46 Chestnut Street
Meeting Date: **Monday, December 20, 2021**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members present: Maurice Olivier (Chair), Marn Speidel (Police), David White (Community Services), Chris Parker (Planning), Michael Williams (COAST), Susan Tremblay, Peter Schmidt (Alternate). Elizabeth Goldman (Clerk) arrived at 6:07 PM.

Members Not Present (excused): Dennis Munson (Vice Chair), Dustin Gray (Alternate), Dennis Ciotti (City Council Rep)

Members Not Present (un-excused): None

1. Roll Call

Olivier called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. Alternate Peter Schmidt was designated as a voting member for this meeting with the absence of other regular members. Goldman arrived at 6:07 PM; was not present for item 2A but was present for all other matters.

2. Old Business

A. Review/Approval of Minutes from September 27, 2021

Motion: Parker moved, Williams seconded, **to approve.** No amendments were suggested.

Vote: Motion passed (7-0).

3. New Business

A. Stop sign request – Coolidge Avenue at Pearl Street

Speidel gave overview of citizen's correspondence expressing concerns with recent near-miss incidents involving vehicles navigating this intersection. Speidel handed out schematic to give committee an overview of the neighborhood. White noted that there is also no stop sign on Pearl Street at Park Street. Speidel stated that this concern was also raised by the citizen in her voice mail message, which indicated that she could not attend tonight due to a travel conflict. Discussion ensued.

Motion: Parker moved, White seconded, to add two intersections to the schedule of stop intersection in Chapter 141: Coolidge Ave at Pearl Street, and Pearl Street at Park Street.

Vote: Motion passed (8-0).

B. Stop sign request – Mount Vernon Street at Abbott Street

Speidel gave overview of citizen's concern and handed out schematic of the neighborhood to the committee.

Jake Forester, resident of Mount Vernon Street, expressed concern with the volume and speed of traffic avoiding Central Avenue.

George Snow, resident of Mount Vernon Street, expressed concern with tendency of near-miss incidents at the intersection. Also noted that children typically cross diagonally here due to sidewalk connections. Stated that pedestrians from the area of the hospital often pass through here, and many times cars on Mount Vernon stop anyway which seems to indicate that the right-of-way rule is unclear. Stated that other Mount Vernon Street intersections (Ash and Hough) are all-way stops.



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Parker expressed support for the conversion of this intersection from two-way to all-way stop, noting that while this isn't something that staff normally supports, the proximity to the Horne Street School is a factor.

Speidel gave overview of certain warrant requirements for MUTCD, noting that crash history shows two collisions at this intersection over a ten-year period susceptible to correction with an all-way stop.

Motion: Parker moved, White seconded, to amend Chapter 141 to make the intersection of Mount Vernon, Abbott and Roosevelt Streets an all-way stop.

Vote: Motion passed (8-0). Speidel thanked residents for their input and informed them of the ensuing process to get this adopted into City Code.

C. Speed awareness sign fixed locations – final prioritization of FY2022 signs

Speidel stated there are two signs budgeted for purchase in FY2022, to add to the three that were installed in FY2021. Speidel reminded the committee that three existing signs are on Old Rochester, Sixth, and Stark. Gave overview of rationale in selecting the initial locations, and stated the goal of having signs to display for inbound traffic on arterial or collector roadways with high volume of traffic entering from other jurisdictions, with additional information from police enforcement data indicating speeding problem. Speidel stated that the police department had reviewed previous input locations from the TAC, as well as resident input directly to staff or through elected officials, and had narrowed it down to three potential locations for the next 2 signs: Piscataqua Road, Portland Avenue, and Tolend Road.

Motion: Parker moved, Tremblay seconded, to endorse Piscataqua Road and Tolend Road for the next two sign locations. Additional discussion ensued. Speidel noted that of the three locations, Portland Avenue is on city route service for USPS whereas the others are rural routes, meaning that residents must collect mail from roadside boxes.

Vote: Motion passed (8-0).

D. Speed awareness signs – discussion on resident proposal for private funding

Speidel gave overview of correspondence with resident in the area of Sixth Street and Quail Drive, who requested an additional speed awareness sign to be installed northbound on Sixth Street, and the proposal to have residents opt to privately fund the sign. Speidel noted issues such as appropriate placement in the right-of-way and inclusion on the City's inventory, to be balanced with residents' desire to address their own concerns. Parker expressed reservations with setting such a precedent. Williams stated that he would support the proposal to allow residents to fund their own sign, provided it meets certain criteria: 1) City must generally agree that it is a legitimate safety improvement, 2) there is no undue ongoing burden ascribed to the City for adopting the sign, 3) City must maintain the infrastructure. Schmidt gave an example from his early time on the City Council of infrared cameras applicable in firefighting operation, where the City opted to purchase one unit within its budget limitation and the Rotary Club then came forward to fund a second unit.



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Additional discussion ensued. Speidel noted that the requesting resident had stated they were still working to garner neighborhood support of the project which would be more likely to come after the new year. Consensus was to table the issue for the time being and add it to a future agenda if confirmed by the neighborhood group. Speidel asked committee members to continue considering the implications in the meantime.

E. Staff update on 2015 Downtown Dover Pedestrian and Vehicular Access and Streetscape plan

Parker updated the committee on the progress of implementing the Cecil Group's 2015 downtown study, noting that 3 firms were invited to bid on the design phase of the project after being prescreened following RFP. Two of the firms submitted a bid, which are under review by City staff. Goal is to award the bid in early 2022, followed by a year-long design process with the TAC serving as the host for any public meetings.

4. Citizens Forum

Kean McDermott, 128 Back River Road, stated that resident self-funding of roadside signs raises an interesting question of responsibility. Asked generally how we use data, and who gets to decide on priorities. With respect to the speed awareness signs, stated he supports the endorsement of Piscataqua Road location as a regular bicyclist in this area.

5. Member Comments

Goldman raises three general issues of concern. 1) With new skatepark on Portland Avenue as an attraction to the east, how to get kids safely there as pedestrians. 2) Review of the traffic study for the proposed McIntosh College redevelopment project. 3) Potential widening of roadway at the Bellamy River crossing, Parker responded that the traffic study is being peer reviewed, after which the Planning Board will review the McIntosh project at its January 11 meeting. Parker also stated that a proposal to widen Route 108 is not actively being pursued.

6. Confirm Next Meeting Date

A meeting date of February 28, 2022 was identified.

7. Adjournment

Motion: Parker moved, White seconded, **to adjourn** at 7:00 PM. All in favor (8-0).