

# TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

## MEETING NOTES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

7:00PM-9:05PM

**Attendees: Rick and Mary Hebbard; Members: John Scruton, Ed Wentworth, Dennis Munson, Glenn Grasso, Jason Hindle, Chair, Dave White, Marn Speidel, Bruce Woodruff, Jeremiah Rood, Foster's**

### I OLD BUSINESS:

(1). Kirkland St. Speed update/school Issue. Speidel noted Police conducted traffic counts from September 14-21, 2006 just west of Academy Street. The average daily volume was between 509 and 702 during the count period. Average speed was 16 MPH, the 85% speed was 24 MPH. The street is 500 feet long. Woodruff wanted to know why the volumes were up. Scruton noted the counts and volumes were not so important as plain safety. Grasso stated the data for counts and volumes prove there is no issue on this street. Woodruff noted that the sidewalk is a safe place to walk, separate from the traveled way. Scruton asked is the issue a parked car one? Chair answered that it is a perception of a future speeding problem. Hebbard stated that in Portsmouth they lower and post the speed limit to under 30 MPH. Why is it they can do that there within the urban compact area? Is it RSA 236:7? Speidel noted it was worth looking at language of the RSA again; it may be all streets. Grasso asked if there was really a demonstrable problem. No motions made. No recommendations made.

(2). Crosswalk Review & Rizzo Resin Crosswalk recommendations. Woodruff read from Rizzo Report, noted that report is an official addendum of the City Master Plan. He handed out Rizzo Report Figure 3-31, Crosswalk Improvements. Chair noted that Rizzo is the Master Plan, not just recommendations to not be heeded. Grasso asked about the cost efficiency of the City purchasing a striping machine. Rumble strips have been used to get motorists attention for pedestrian crossings in other cities. Chair noted that the City Manager will look into cost to paint or repaint crosswalks multiple times a year. Scruton recommends that pedestrian safety refuge raised islands be installed in the middle only. He talked about his ideas for crosswalk surface materials such as cobblestones, granite and precast sections. Chair noted that there is a need for a Council workshop to review costs of stamped asphalt vs. impregnated colored resins and to make that comparison of costs vs. safety benefits. He stated he will talk to the Mayor about this. Discussion resumed on the striping multiple times issue. Cost comparisons should look at cost of machine, paint, labor vs. contractor costs of painting multiple times each year. Chair asked if there was a consensus on the striping

machine. Cost is a concern. More discussion ensued regarding the City being able to stripe on demand if it had a machine. White stated all crosswalks have not been painted yet.

(3). Rizzo Report-Parking Shuffling issue code update-referred back to TAC from the Council. Speidel and Woodruff reviewed the Rizzo recommendations (in two places in the text). Speidel gave an update on the problems his parking enforcement officers have. Woodruff suggested formulating a plan that would nudge long-term employee downtown parkers towards parking in the proper places such as mill lots with the shuttle. Chair stated that this Rizzo recommendation may be short term, but he feels it is needed. A Council workshop would be beneficial.

### **III NEW BUSINESS**

(1). Parking Concern/Change all day parking to 2 hr. on Broadway. Speidel presented the issue to the TAC. Woodruff reviewed the GIS map of the area. Discussion on whether neighbors had notice of this issue. Item table until neighbors can be notified of future meeting about this issue around 50 Broadway.

(2). Shawnee Ln./Mohawk St. stop sign/yield sign request. After a discussion on the issue and whether there should be yield or stop signs, a **motion was made by Grasso to recommend five stop signs at the marked location on the plan and add a stop sign at Mohawk at Shawnee. Motion approved by vote of 4-1 (Scruton opposed).**

(3). Crosswalk request at Washington St. and Morrison Ln. After explanation of the issue and request by staff, the TAC discussed and then recommended that this does not need further study.

(4). Crosswalk Team recommendations-crosswalk(s) Locust Street. After explanation of the requests for at least one crosswalk on Locust to serve St Mary's kindergarten and the day care businesses, staff presented the engineering study reports for each. Reports indicated that no crosswalk be installed for safety and volume reasons. TAC recommends no crosswalks at any of these locations. Study reports are made a part of this record. Grasso stated some of this issue is an educational one. An outreach statement should be worked on that talks about crossing the street safely without the false security of the crosswalk paint.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

(1) Chair asked that staff put together a process of reviewing all crosswalks in the City. There needs to be a comprehensive listing of crosswalks to go to the TAC and Council for their consideration with recommendations for either removal, upgrading/improving or status quo. It should be done in three parts; school route crosswalks, downtown high volume crosswalks and all others. White asked what we are trying to accomplish here with crosswalks in each area? Is our policy clear? Chair stated we should start with the school route ones, look at policy, and conformity recommendations. Finally we should do cost estimate comparison regarding the striping augmentation in house vs. contractor once or twice a year. He hopes to have a draft proposal to the Council by February or March 2007. On-going issue by the City.

**ADJOURN**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:05PM. Next meeting will be last Monday in October.**

**Submitted,  
Bruce Woodruff, City Planner**