



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Hall Auditorium
Meeting Date: **Monday, May 19, 2008**
Meeting Time: **7:00 pm**

DRAFT VERSION

Meeting called to order by the Chair, Glenn Grasso at 7:04 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

Members present: Glenn Grasso (Chair), Peter Schmidt (COAST), Marn Speidel (Police), Dave White (Community Services), Councilor Karen Weston, John Scruton, Ed Wentworth. Bruce Woodruff (Planning) arrived at 7:19 PM.

Member(s) absent: Dennis Munson

In the absence of Dennis Munson, Clerk, the Chair sought a volunteer to keep the minutes of the meeting. Marn Speidel was appointed to keep the minutes.

2. CITIZEN'S FORUM

Resident Linda Merullo of Longhill Road Extension addressed the committee regarding the proposed E-911 name change for her street. Discussion was deferred to the agenda item for this topic.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Traffic Calming Committee:

John Scruton informed the committee that he has spoken to Doug Steele, Community Services Director, to request a list of proposed road projects that have not yet been engineered. He advised that he is still waiting for that list of streets to be forwarded to Bruce Woodruff. No further discussion.

Downtown Parking Facility Ad-Hoc Steering Committee:

Peter Schmidt gave his report later in the meeting. The committee is considering three separate alternatives for how to fund a parking facility. It has eliminated the first option and has moved on to the second. The committee is doing its due diligence in vetting all three options.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Review/Approval of April 28, 2008 Minutes

Dave White proposed amendments to Page 4, to clarify that he had voted against the proposed Atlantic Avenue truck restriction, that he had voted against the proposal to fast track this ordinance to the Council, and that he had voted against the formation of the Traffic Calming Subcommittee. Marn Speidel clarified his abstention from the truck restriction ordinance.



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Motion to accept April 28 Minutes as amended: made by Wentworth, seconded by Weston. Motion passed 7-0 (Woodruff not yet present).

B. Truck Route Issue Update

Marn Speidel updated the committee on the status of the Atlantic/Rogers/Cochecho truck restriction ordinance, which has been submitted to the Council. It is scheduled for public hearing on June 11, 2008.

Bruce Woodruff updated the committee on the status of the proposed global truck restriction for the city. John Scruton suggested that an information card or brochure be created and issued to truckers, explaining what they can and cannot do under the ordinance. Grasso and Woodruff concurred that this was a good idea. Grasso asked for a timeline of when the draft could move forward to the City Attorney. Woodruff advised that it could be submitted shortly.

C. E-911 Street Renaming

Motion to address the next round of E-911 street renaming as a separate meeting from the TAC's regular monthly meeting: made by Schmidt, seconded by Weston. Motion passed 7-1 (Speidel opposed).

Discussion ensued regarding an appropriate date to select. Consensus was that this meeting should be held on Monday, June 30, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the City Hall Auditorium. Grasso spoke about on the process it would entail to bring affected residents to the meeting. Councilor Weston spoke about the target date for Council to address issue following a June 30 recommendation by TAC. Woodruff clarified which streets would need to be addressed or readdressed on June 30:

Redden Street Extension
 Spur Road Extension
 Tolend Road Extension
 Bellamy Road (north of Knox Marsh Road)

Discussion on forwarding a resolution to Council regarding streets that have already been addressed. These streets are:

Longhill Road Extension	rename to Sandy Lane
Horne Court	rename to Berry Brook Court
Varney Road Extension	rename to Laura Lane
Mast Road Extension	rename to Leathers Lane



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Motion to draft a resolution to send this recommendation of four street name changes to the Council: made by Speidel, seconded by Wentworth. Woodruff stated that city staff would notify Ford's Landing residents (a.k.a. 43 Mast Road Extension) prior to sending this resolution to City Attorney. Motion passed 8-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Request for Stop Sign in lieu of Yield Sign, Glenhill at Tolend

Councilor Weston stated she had asked for this item on the agenda at the request of a constituent. Resident Don Medbery of Covered Bridge Lane had addressed the committee at the April meeting regarding this issue. Weston stated that Medbery was unable to attend tonight. Weston stated that a utility pole obscures line of sight at this intersection and said she feels strongly that it should be changed to a stop sign.

Woodruff stated the issue is comparing traffic volumes on the major street vs. the minor street. The Planning Department's position is that the warrant requirement for a stop sign must be met. The movement to/from Glenhill to the east end of Tolend is the major movement, whereas the west end of Tolend may have lower traffic volumes. Scruton asked if the issue was with overgrown brush near the intersection and if the brush had been cut. Weston expressed frustration with lack of action by Community Services to address brush cutting both at this intersection and at Tolend/French Cross. Speidel pointed out that brush clearing by the City had occurred in the fall of 2007 at Tolend/Glenhill which Speidel had personally witnessed. Speidel produced photographs of the intersection to familiarize all committee members with current conditions. Speidel read relevant sections from Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) 2B.05 regarding guidance on stop sign applications. Stop sign should be used if engineering judgment indicates that one or more of the following conditions exist: (a) intersection of less important road with a main road where application of the normal right-of-way rule would not be expected to provide reasonable compliance with the law; (b) street entering a through highway or street; (c) unsignalized intersection in a signalized area; (d) high speeds, restricted view, or crash records indicate a need for control by a stop sign. Additional guidance provided by manual: (a) STOP signs shall not be used for speed control. (b) STOP signs should be installed in a manner that minimizes the numbers of vehicles having to stop. At intersections where a full stop is not necessary at all times, consideration should be given to less restrictive measures such as YIELD signs.



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Speidel advised that Mr. Medbery had already approached police department with this proposal in the past. Speidel stated that he wanted to make it clear that the police department is not opposed to this proposal, notwithstanding what is written in the MUTCD and despite the answer that we had previously provided to Mr. Medbery. Speidel stated he would therefore abstain from this vote.

Schmidt suggested that warning signs be installed as a supplement to the yield sign. Wentworth suggested more frequent brush cutting by Community Services. Schmidt stated that most regular users of this intersection are familiar with it, and that brush cutting would be significantly more labor intensive than simply adding signs. Grasso stated that the TAC is a deliberative body, and that we cannot prevent all accidents. Grasso expressed a concern over Mr. Medbery using the political process to get what he wants when he did not agree with an answer provided by City staff. Grasso pointed out a recent change from a YIELD to STOP sign at Back Road and Henry Law Avenue as an example where the TAC has supported a sign change even without clear supporting data pursuant to the MUTCD. Grasso stated he agrees with Schmidt on placement of advance warning sign on Glenhill Road and agrees with Wentworth on trimming brush. Grasso stated he would abstain from the vote due to his own personal history with Medbery.

Weston stated that a family member lives in Rochester and she drives this route frequently. She expressed frustration with the TAC arguing the merits of this request and stated she doesn't see the harm in putting up a stop sign here. Schmidt stated that the reality is that frequent users will do "California stop" and pointed out the lack of sufficient accident data. Schmidt stated he doesn't think this rises to the level of sufficiency for a stop sign.

Motion to amend city code to change intersection of Glenhill/Tolend from a yield to a stop intersection: made by Wentworth, seconded by Weston.

Scruton moved to amend this motion to make this an interim stop sign until additional traffic calming measures were in place. Grasso pointed out that this is unlikely to happen. Woodruff stated that City is unlikely to expend funds to implement traffic calming measures at this intersection due to its remoteness and because it is not in CIP. Speidel seconded Scruton's motion to amend.

Vote on motion to amend the motion failed 1-7 (Scruton in favor).

Further discussion on original motion. White stated that he agreed with Speidel's point that MUTCD should be followed relative to sufficiency of the YIELD sign. White stated that he would like to review the placement of the



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sign (currently on utility pole) to determine whether it could be more prominently placed with a new post. White stated he also agreed that an advisory "Yield Ahead" sign on Glenhill in advance of the YIELD was appropriate. Speidel stated that when reviewing possibility of installing new post, consideration should be given to effective snow removal efforts within the intersection.

Vote on the motion to change this from YIELD to STOP intersection: 1 in favor (Weston), 4 opposed (Woodruff, White, Schmidt, Wentworth), 3 abstained (Speidel, Grasso, Scruton). Motion fails.

Motion for TAC to encourage Community Services to follow through with alternative recommendations: made by Schmidt, seconded by Woodruff. Alternative recommendations are:

- 1) Install Chevron-type T-intersection safety sign across from Tolend
- 2) Install advance advisory yield sign (YIELD ahead)
- 3) Review possibility of relocating YIELD sign from utility pole to post
- 4) Implement consistent brush trimming schedule

Motion passed 8-0.

B. Request for Stop Sign at Morningside and Riverdale

Speidel stated that this issue was brought to the Community Services Director, Doug Steele, by a neighborhood resident and was referred to Speidel for a TAC agenda. Speidel produced photographs depicting the three approaches to this intersection to familiarize committee members with current conditions. Speidel stated that the lack of stop signs at this intersection is not unique to this neighborhood.

Woodruff stated that this neighborhood was specifically laid out in this manner as it has all local traffic and no thru traffic. Scruton stated that the issue of right-of-way doesn't always matter; the issue is to avoid a collision. Wentworth stated that he doesn't support this proposal, especially where this neighborhood was built to discourage thru traffic. Speidel stated that as best he understood, the concern was that traffic approaching simultaneously southerly on Morningside and westerly on Riverdale there was confusion over who had the right-of-way. Speidel stated that he had met with a property owner on the corner at #8 Morningside who was not opposed to adding a stop sign.

Motion was made by Schmidt to take no action, seconded by Grasso. Motion passed 8-0.



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4. MEMBER COMMENTS

WENTWORTH: Amtrak Downeaster statistics show ridership increasing. Presented handouts showing the usage.

WESTON: Asked whether parking permit fees are contained in the packet that has been handed to the Council. Speidel asked whether she was referring to FY2009 Proposed Budget; if so, the fee schedule is a part of the document and shows the current and proposed fees. Weston asked whether parking permit fees should be reviewed to determine if rates were high enough. Speidel provided reasoning behind nominal fee increase(s) as smaller steps toward an overall goal of making permit rates commensurate with market rates, so that long-time and large permit holders would not be so drastically affected all at once. Grasso stated that the issue had already been discussed at the April meeting.

SCHMIDT: Concurs with Wentworth's statement regarding Downeaster. Presented committee report (above).

WOODRUFF: Stated that Munson is ill and had called to excuse himself from meeting.

SCRUTON: Discussed Safe Routes to School literature and grant funding.

GRASSO: Asked whether Scruton had signed City's computer use form. Woodruff replied that he had.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

Next regular meeting is June 23, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.

Special meeting for E-911 street renaming is June 30, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.

6. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn: made by Schmidt, seconded by Scruton. All in favor.