



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Monday, September 26, 2011**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

ROLL CALL

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

Members present: Councilor Karen Weston (Chair), Jack Flick, Dennis Munson, John Scruton, Maurice Olivier, Bruce Woodruff (Planning), Marn Speidel (Police). Arriving at 6:10 were Jeremy LaRose (COAST) and Ben Clark (Community Services).

Members absent: None

Others present: Several residents of Trakey Street.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Review/Approval of minutes from July 25 and August 22, 2011

Speidel noted that copies had not been disseminated to the committee. Munson moved, Woodruff seconded, to table to a future meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

B. Letter to USPS regarding Sixth Street - staff update

Speidel gave overview of correspondence with USPS and stated that their offer was to relocate rural carrier boxes for residents on the northerly side of Sixth Street to a point on the easterly side of Hillcrest Drive. This would require residents to walk along Sixth and cross to the opposite side of Hillcrest. Scruton stated that this would not be acceptable for the residents. Speidel noted that further concessions by USPS were said to be constrained by union contracts. Woodruff stated that the USPS has a history of this type of customer service. Discussion ensued. Woodruff moved, Munson seconded, to forward this matter to the City Council in the form of a resolution requiring the US Postal Service to adjust the rural/city carrier line on Sixth Street for residents on the northerly side of the curve. Motion passed 9-0.

C. Trakey Street traffic concern

Speidel provided data from a recent traffic count on Trakey Street: average daily volume 854 vehicles split almost evenly between each direction, average speed 19 mph, 85th percentile 25 mph. Several residents spoke regarding their concerns for safety on the street, children in the neighborhood, and traffic speeds. Resident Jaimie Donovan stated that he believed the police department's traffic count data was inaccurate and that cars were traveling faster. Discussion ensued.

Speidel suggested that the speed limit be reduced to 25 mph pursuant to RSA 265:63, but stated that since the 85th percentile is already 25, this action is unlikely to change driver behavior. Woodruff outlined several options that could be taken as potential traffic calming tools: change pattern to one way, dead-end the street at one end, restrict turning movements during peak commute times to reduce the amount of cut-through traffic, constructing bulb-outs or chicanes to reduce speeds, etc. Speidel stated that the police department is in favor of traffic calming measures, but cannot commit to targeted patrols for speeding violations because the data does not support it. Further discussion ensued.



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LaRose moved, seconded by Woodruff, to impose a restriction on left turns entering Trakey at either end and to reduce posted speed limit to 25 mph. Discussion continued regarding the effective times of the day. Consensus was that it should be at all times. Motion passed 8-1 (Clark opposed).

D. Upper Whittier Street traffic concern

Members discussed their recollections from the August meeting, and in the absence of minutes, consensus was that the matter of reducing the speed limit had been resolved at the August meeting with a recommendation that no action be taken.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Neighborhood design/traffic calming

Scruton stated that the City and this committee need to do a better job resolving neighborhood traffic concerns, like the Trakey Street one, so people don't leave feeling powerless. Woodruff and Scruton led a discussion on adopting a policy on traffic calming and formation of a traffic calming committee to more directly address neighborhood concerns. After discussion, matter was tabled to a subsequent meeting.

B. Tolend Road traffic concerns

Speidel gave overview of correspondence between a Tolend Road resident, Mr. Sparkman, and the City Manager regarding truck traffic on Tolend Road, particularly to the use of Tolend Road by trucks to and from Brox Industries, a Rochester business. Speidel stated that previous city officials had already determined that Brox Industries, with a driveway within Dover city limits and property adjoining both sides of Glen Hill Road in Dover, is a local origin/destination. Per city ordinance 166-5, trucks over 26,000 GVWR must take the most direct route to/from the nearest designated truck route. By this rule, the nearest truck routes from Brox are Sixth Street (via Watson Road) and Littleworth Road (via Columbus Avenue). Flick moved, seconded by Woodruff, to reaffirm this interpretation. Motion passed 9-0.

Discussion ensued regarding the truck restriction imposed by the Town of Madbury on its portion of French Cross Road. Speidel stated that French Cross would otherwise be the more direct route to Route 9 and preferred by the City of Dover as it would mean less of Tolend Road would be used by trucks. Weston stated that the intersection of Route 9 and French Cross Road is difficult to navigate and would be especially dangerous for trucks attempting to turn left onto Route 9.

Woodruff stated that the future County Farm Road bridge project, which is presently listed as merely a "vision element" in the State's 10-year transportation improvement plan, offers the potential to divert all truck traffic from Brox away from Tolend Road. If ultimately approved, this project would provide 80% state funding to reconnect County Farm Road to Glen Hill Road in the area of what it presently Covered Bridge Lane.



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Speidel moved, seconded by Woodruff, to formally support this project. Motion passed 9-0.

Scruton stated that he still feels that seasonal weight limits should be imposed on dover's roads, just as other communities have done. Speidel pointed out that this issue had been discussed at the July meeting at which Community Services Director Steele was present, where Steele had said he would consider such restrictions on Tolend and Watson Roads which are in poor condition. Scruton moved, seconded by Speidel, to encourage the CS Director to consider seasonal weight restrictions on Tolend and Watson Roads. Motion passed 9-0.

MEMBER COMMENTS

LaRose noted that crosswalks were being repainted by the City and thanked the City for its efforts on behalf of COAST. LaRose stated that a prior Baker Street parking restriction was still not posted and inquired about the status of no parking signs. Speidel stated that a work order had been requested several times. Clark stated that he would follow up.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING (October 24, 2011)

ADJOURN

Olivier moved, seconded by Clark, to adjourn at 8:38 PM. All in favor.