

Corrected Meeting notes reflecting full list of attendees, etc.

Traffic Committee Meeting April 8, 2016

Attendees

- Beth Ries
- Tim Higgins
- Chris Bibbo
- Kevin Kennedy
- Ken Bassett
- Deborah Howe
- John Vancor
- Jane Herlacher
- Alex MacLean
- Margaret Olson
- Jennifer Burney
- Guests: Representatives from Ryan Estates(Avram and Esther Kalisky); Wendy Kusik; Michael DiToro

1. Complete Streets Program

Tim Higgins, Chris Bibbo and Jennifer Burney briefed the Committee on the Mass DOT's Complete Streets program and its potential for providing both technical assistance funds as well as funds for construction of specific projects. Lincoln's record of planning for public ROW improvements that address multiple users' needs was considered an advantage in qualifying for the program. **Tim, Chris, and Jennifer are drafting the initial application for participation in the program and will share the draft with the Committee.**

The breadth of the program is significant, including traffic and safety improvements, bicycle facilities, pedestrian facilities, and transit facilities. The likely focus for Lincoln would be improvements to the pedestrian/roadside path system, including possible extensions. The sense of the meeting was that a holistic plan needs to be developed and that public input to proposals would be solicited as well as cooperation between various town boards.

2. Pedestrian Crosswalks

The Committee reviewed a Town map of the existing location of pedestrian crosswalks and noted various locations where pedestrian movement would benefit from added crosswalks. Residents of Ryan Estates joined the meeting and described their experience with the crosswalk at St. Joseph's Church and the apparent disregard by some motorists for the safety of pedestrians, including failure to yield as well as excessive speed. Chief Kennedy did note that on average speeding through the area is not an issue, but that exceptions do occur.

The discussion focused on the need for enhancing the visibility of the crosswalk at St. Joseph as well as other locations in Town. The presence of signage at the approach to the crosswalk will be verified. Proposals for enhancing the visibility of crosswalks were discussed, including both the repainting of existing painted markings as well as added pavement markings on the approach to crosswalks.

In a related matter, Wendy Kusik shared input on the issue of road safety concerns at the 117/Lincoln Road intersection. Wendy and her neighbors submitted material illustrating suggested ways to improve safety at the intersection which the Committee will review in greater detail at its next meeting.

3. Guardrail Options

Chris Bibbo and John Vancor reviewed the results of their meeting with District 4 representatives of Mass Highways regarding Chapter 90 eligible guardrail designs. Four systems that qualify for Chapter 90 funding include two that are the most likely candidates for Lincoln: a cable system and a so-called "nature rail" constructed of wood with steel reinforcing. The sense of the meeting was that the "nature rail" has potential for Lincoln, although its cost and its foreign source raise some issues for maintainability as well as its cost for use town-wide. It was noted that an extensive amount of guardrail exists along Old County Road that serves to control parking and that some areas of existing guardrail may not be needed.

Two areas of concern for improved guardrails are at the intersection of Routes 117 and 126 as well as an area along 117 adjacent to Mt. Misery. With input from Town resident Michael DiToro of Winchelsea Lane about the condition of the guardrail on the southeast side of the 117/126 intersection, **the Committee concurred with the recommendation to have John Vancor prepare a preliminary plan for guardrail improvements for the immediate area of the intersection.** Furthermore it was recommended that the study recognize that this area represents a gateway into Lincoln and that the study should look to improve the overall character of the area with a holistic approach. A second phase of work might focus later on the section to the west adjacent to Mt. Misery.

Note: four guardrail options were #1) steel-backed wood similar to Route 2 @ \$70/l.f.; #2) standard steel guardrail @ \$60/l.f.; #3) "nature rail" @\$80/l.f.; wire cable system @\$30/l.f..

4. Other:

- The Committee concurred with Chris's recommendation to replace a "blind driveway" sign at 253 Concord Road
- Chris reported on planned spring paving projects; shoulder restoration work, and drainage improvements on Old Lexington Road (which is a problem related to a Town water line leak).
- Margaret discussed the potential traffic issues that may ensue when Carroll School proceeds with its plans to relocate its middle school and sports fields to the MacDowell property on Old Sudbury Road. Chief Kennedy suggested that some turning restrictions may be an option for improving/limiting traffic on the road during peak hours.

5. Meeting adjourned at 10 AM. Next meeting to be scheduled, most likely in May.

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Ken Bassett