

2019 FEB 25 PM 2:09



Traffic Advisory Committee

September 13, 2018

Committee Members Present: Larry Macdonald (Chair), Dana Miller (Vice Chair), Peter Curro, Mary Gavin, Donald Mercer, Tomi Olson, Matt Sullivan

Ex Officio Committee Members Present: Chairman of the Belmont Board of Selectmen, Adam Dash; Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Mark Paolillo; Board of Selectmen member, Tom Caputo; Director of Belmont Community Development, Glenn Clancy; Belmont Assistant Police Chief James MacIsaac; Sergeant Ben Mailhot (Belmont Police representative to the committee)

Others Present: A sign in sheet is attached to the minutes

7:07pm: Mr. Dash, the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, spoke for the Selectmen; he expressed his sorrow at Sachi Thanawala's death and the town's commitment to make traffic safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, and those in cars on Belmont streets. Mr. Dash explained that the Board of Selectmen would be meeting next on September 17th and was looking forward to acting on recommendations coming from this evening's meeting.

Mr. MacDonald explained that the hearing was called because we are all very upset about the recent death of one of our town residents, who was hit by a car and killed while crossing the street in a crosswalk during the morning rush-hour. Mr. MacDonald gave voice to the town's determination to make traffic safer for everyone in our town—and that we want to develop strategies to reduce the likelihood of accidents in the future. Mr. MacDonald then explained the format for the evening's hearing: first Assistant Chief MacIsaac and Sergeant Mailhot would explain the police approach to the accident. Then Glenn Clancy, the Director of Community Development and our Town Engineer, would provide background and context for understanding how the town has approached traffic concerns in the area of the accident and, more generally, around town. After these two presentations, Mr. MacDonald would open the floor for public comment.

Assistant Chief MacIsaac told the assembled group that there is an ongoing investigation of the incident, that it could take six months to a year to close the case, and that the Belmont Police Department is under orders to NOT discuss the accident until after the report is released. Assistant Chief MacIsaac urged patience and warned against making any assumptions about the incident or about the factors that precipitated the incident. He referenced a 2007 accident in which an Armenian Priest was killed in Belmont and noted that, despite what some originally suspected, speeding was not involved in that accident.

Mr. Clancy reviewed the improvements that have been made to the intersection of Lexington and Sycamore Streets: a raised intersection has been installed to slow traffic and data shows a drop in the number of accidents after this improvement. Mr. Clancy explained that a four-way stop at this intersection had been considered but would not be feasible because of the proximity of this intersection to the signalized intersection at Church and Lexington Streets—a four-way stop here would result in a serious backup of traffic onto Trapelo Road. Mr. Clancy also reported that there is an ongoing, town-wide traffic study and that a report would be presented to the Traffic Advisory Committee in November. Mr. Clancy told the group that traffic-calming policy would be developed to address the issues identified in the report.

The hearing was then opened for public comment and approximately 35 residents addressed the committee. Among the comments, in chronological order, were the following:

- A request for a red-blinking light to be installed in both directions at the intersection of Lexington, Beech, and Burnham streets because the stop sign is not visible
- An observation that the raised intersection at Sycamore and Lexington makes the intersection less safe, both because some people cross the raised intersection too quickly and their cars become airborne, and because other people slow down in their approach to the intersection and confuse those waiting to cross Lexington on Sycamore Street—people on Sycamore Street wonder if some of the Lexington Street traffic is slowing to let the Sycamore Street traffic enter.
- A request for more cross walks—especially one to accommodate those headed to the mailbox on Ripley Road.
- An observation that intersections of Sycamore and White Streets, and White and Beech Streets are also dangerous
- A report of missing sidewalk on Sycamore Street, between White Street and Trapelo Road, across from the school
- A request for increased traffic enforcement all over town
- An observation that the no-right-turn-on-red is regularly ignored at the intersection of Beech, Thomas, and Waverly Streets; town trucks are among those that ignore the sign.
- A request for more signals at crosswalks all over town
- A request that Belmont consider installing signage like that on L Street in South Boston, which reads “State law requires that you yield” for drivers approaching a crosswalk
- A request that the town explore the use of flexible white poles, known as delineators, to guide drivers at intersections
- A request for a pedestrian light at the intersection of Sycamore and Lexington Streets
- An observation that traffic has gotten worse all over town and that at least two residents on Newcastle Road are unable to get out of their driveways in the morning
- A request for a transparent use of resources because the government cannot be trusted
- A request for more speed bumps to slow and deter cut-through traffic in Belmont neighborhoods
- A suggestion that the town examine traffic-calming practices employed in northern Europe

- A request for four-way stops, even where there is a clearly dominant road that has the right of way
- A request for a light at the intersection of Sycamore and Lexington Streets that is coordinated with the light at Church and Lexington Streets.
- A request to narrow town streets as a means of slowing traffic
- A request that the town consider making Sycamore Street one-way for some period of time during the day
- A request for a flashing crosswalk at the intersection of Sycamore and Lexington Streets
- Appreciation for the Belmont Police Department's efforts to enforce traffic rules and appreciation for the town's efforts to improve safety related to traffic
- Several expressions of sorrow over Ms. Thanawala's traffic death
- A suggestion that the name of the Traffic Advisory Committee be changed to the Transportation Advisory Committee
- An observation that at the intersection of Williston and Trapelo Roads, where there is ongoing construction, sidewalk is absent and pedestrians are forced to walk in the road, where cars do not yield to them
- A request for more crosswalk markings around town
- A request for a sign that reads "State law requires drivers to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk" at the intersection of Williston and Trapelo Roads
- A request that sidewalks be provided for residents near Cushing Square during the construction in Cushing Square
- A request that the town schedule meetings with area residents/abutters before the beginning of construction to discuss traffic management and pedestrian safety during construction
- An inquiry about the feasibility of volunteer crossing guards
- An offer to donate crossing signs for Belmont to use in its roads
- A request that social media change online photographs related to Ms. Thanawala to those of the memorial
- A request that the town remove two parking spaces on Sycamore, near Trapelo, because cars in these two spots obstruct pedestrians' view of oncoming traffic
- A request that the town take into consideration technological advances—specifically driverless cars, Waze, and ridesharing—and how these will affect Belmont traffic.
- An observation that cars coming down Lexington Street, from the Waldorf School to Sycamore Street, tend to accelerate as they get to the bottom of the hill
- A request that the town focus more on pedestrian safety and less on efficient travel routes for automobiles
- A request that the town reach out to neighborhoods in a systematic way, to invite them to voice their concerns about traffic
- A request for more flashing lights and stop signs at T intersections
- A request that the town develop long-term solutions to the problems that have resulted from increased traffic in town; perhaps, for instance, the town should charge commuting nonresidents for parking

- A request for more enforcement at the intersections of Sycamore and Lexington; Palfrey and Church, and Bartlett and PQ
- A request that the town reduce the town-wide speed limit to 15mph
- A request that the TAC work with the School Department to examine the feasibility of bus routes to school
- A request to update a Trowbridge Street sign on which the lettering has faded
- An observation that, while Thomas Street is relatively short, cars tend to speed on it
- An observation that the crosswalks at the intersection of Royal Road, Thomas and Clark Streets are not well enough marked
- An observation that sidewalk is missing in three areas: on Royal Road, from Clark Street to Common Street; and on both sides of Clark Street
- An observation that the sidewalk is broken on School Street, at the top of the Underwood Park
- A request to lengthen the pedestrian phase of the traffic light at the intersection of Waverly, Common, and School Streets
- An observation that the raised intersection at Sycamore and Lexington is too high—it causes Lexington Street drivers to slow such that Sycamore drivers try to sneak into the traffic on Lexington Street
- The request for a traffic light or pedestrian-activated signal at the intersection of Sycamore and Lexington Streets
- A request for a raised table on Monroe Street to slow cut-through traffic
- An observation that the traffic problems are not a town issue, but a regional issue
- A request that we encourage the State to improve public transportation
- A request that the town advance the efforts of the Safe Routes to School initiative
- A request that the town consider using a flag holder at intersections and leave in them flags that pedestrians could use when crossing the street
- A request for clarification of the town's sidewalk paving policy
- A request that the town flip funding from road maintenance to traffic calming
- A suggestion that residents park on the street to neck down their streets and to create chicanes
- A request that the town ticket cars that are parked on sidewalk or parked facing the wrong direction
- A request that the town improve the Trapelo Street crossings to make them more like the crossing in front of the TD Bank.
- A request that the town install islands for the pedestrian crossings on Trapelo Road at Waverly, Hawthorne, and in front of the Wheelworks store
- A request that the town use video surveillance for enforcement or, at least, mount video cameras that are not used, in hopes that drivers will believe that they are being filmed
- A suggestion that Belmont implement truck restrictions, narrow town streets, plant trees, and use planter boxes to deter and calm traffic
- A recommendation that Belmont review its policy and procedures, use up-to-date information, develop an implementation plan, and measure traffic safety according to the pedestrian experience, not according to the number and speed of cars
- A recommendation that Belmont allow residents to park on the street overnight to deter traffic

- An observation that cars move quickly around Statler, Newcastle, and Elliot roads
- An observation that the sidewalk on Newcastle Road, near the Winbrook , needs improvement
- Concerns about Bartlett Avenue, where parking and intersection markings need to be better painted
- Concerns about he intersection of Bartlett Avenue and Maple Street
- A request that the town act quickly to address pedestrian and traffic safety risks

In response to resident requests for more enforcement at multiple locations during the morning rush hour and throughout the day, Assistant Chief Maclsaac explained that the maximum number of available officers to enforce traffic law at 8am would be between three and four. For a community of our size, the department has sufficient staffing, but we need more staff for enforcement.

Sargent Mailhot explained that, under current State law, we are not allowed to conduct video surveillance of drivers

After the public comment period had concluded, Mr. Clancy reiterated that, in November, the town consultants would present a report of the town-wide traffic survey to the Traffic Advisory Committee.

Sargent Mailhot recommended that a speed read-back sign be paired with a speed limit sign coming down the hill from Watertown on Lexington Street, across from Chandler Street.

Mr. Clancy discussed having a consultant evaluate the Sycamore-Lexington intersection for signalization, with a separate pedestrian phase and indicated that he would ask the consultant what improvements can be made immediately. There was also suggestion that a sign be installed to alert drivers and pedestrians that "cross traffic does not stop."

The committee voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that both the speed read-back sign be paired with a speed limit sign on Lexington Street, across from Chandler Street and that the Mr. Clancy be authorized to engage a consultant to evaluate the Sycamore-Lexington intersection for signalization.

The committee voted unanimously to recommend the speed read-back sign and all but one committee member voted to recommend that Mr. Clancy engage a consultant to evaluate the intersection for signalization. Committee member Don Mercer voted against evaluating the intersection for signalization and advocated a four-way stop, which Mr. Clancy again explained would result in a traffic backup to Trapelo Road. Mr. Clancy offered to again speak with his traffic consultant about the idea of a four-way stop.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Miller
Traffic Advisory Committee Vice Chair



Traffic Advisory Committee

TOWN OF BELMONT

19 Moore Street
Homer Municipal Building
Belmont, Massachusetts 02478-0900
Telephone: (617) 993-2650 Fax: (617) 993-2651

Laurence Macdonald, Chair
Dana Miller, Vice Chair

Peter Curro
Mary Gavin
Michael Lanza
Donald Mercier
Tommasina Olson
Matt Sullivan

Date: September 10, 2018
To: Members – Traffic Advisory Committee
From: Glenn R. Clancy, Committee Liaison
Subject: Agenda for Meeting on **Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 7:00 PM in Town Hall Auditorium, Town Hall.** If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact me via e-mail.

7:00 – 8:30 Intersection – Lexington Street at Sycamore Street

✓Bos
Committee Chair Statement
Police Department Statement
Town Engineer Pedestrian and Traffic Projects Overview
Resident Comments
Presentation (Resident)

8:30 – 8:45 Old Business
• No Known Items

8:45 – 8:50 New Business
• No Known Items

8:50 Adjourn

Note: Times are tentative depending on the flow of the meeting, the time of any particular item may deviate ten to fifteen minutes from the schedule.

Cc: Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator
Sgt Ben Mailhot, Belmont Police Department
Richard McLaughlin, Belmont Police Chief
Jay Marcotte, Director, Department of Public Works



**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
TOWN OF BELMONT**

19 Moore Street
Homer Municipal Building
Belmont, Massachusetts 02478-0900
Telephone: (617) 993-2650 Fax: (617) 993-2651

Building Division
(617) 993-2664
Engineering Division
(617) 993-2665
Planning Division
(617) 993-2666

**Town of Belmont Safety Improvements
and Traffic Mitigation Projects (9/13/2018)**

Burbank School

New sidewalk and curbing on School Street abutting the school
New school signage incorporating speed limit feedback signs
Installation of speed tables on School Street approaching the school crosswalk
Push button activated crosswalk signage at the school crosswalk
New sidewalk on school walking route Sharpe Road
Four way Stop analysis at Washington Street / Dalton Road / Sharpe Road (not submitted to BOS due to abutter pushback)
Improved drop off / pick up signage on Gale Road
Updated school zone signage in Gale Road neighborhood

Winn Brook School

Raised crosswalk on Cross Street at Middlecot Street
Curb extensions at crosswalk locations on Cross Street
Raised crosswalk on Cross Street at Broad Street (funded - to be constructed)
New school signage incorporating speed limit feedback signs on Cross Street and Sherman Street
Installation of speed tables on Cross Street (funded - to be constructed)
Four way Stop installation at Waterhouse Road and Sherman Street
Four way Stop installation at Dean Street and Sherman Street (funded - to be constructed)
New sidewalk and curbing at Dean Street and Sherman Street (funded - to be constructed)
New sidewalk on Waterhouse Road abutting school property
New sidewalk on school walking route Middlecot Street
New sidewalk on school walking route Sherman Street

Butler School

New sidewalk and curbing on school walking route Maple Terrace
New sidewalk and curbing on Sycamore Street abutting the school
Raised intersection on White Street at Sycamore Street
Drop off and pick up plan on White Street
Curb extensions at crosswalk locations on White Street
Curb extensions and reduced number of travel lanes on Trapelo Road at Hawthorne Street
Four way Stop installation at Lexington Street and Beech Street
Raised intersection on Lexington Street at Sycamore Street
Enlarged flashing Red/Yellow beacon on Lexington Street at Sycamore Street
New crosswalk / accessible ramps on school walking route Waverley Street at Irving Street

(OVER)

General Improvements

Four way Stop installation and intersection narrowing on Washington Street at Goden Street
Four way Stop installation and intersection narrowing on Washington Street at School Street
Intersection narrowing on Cushing Avenue at Payson Road
Intersection narrowing on Common Street at Washington Street
Town wide bicycle pavement markings and signage
School Zone advance warning signage upgrades and additions - various locations
New and enhanced crosswalk signage – various locations
Sidewalk repair and reconstruction – various locations
Turn and access restrictions to neighborhood streets – various locations
Installation of Round-about on Washington Street at Grove Street
Intersection improvements Winter Street at Concord Avenue and Mill Street at Concord Avenue
(concept design phase)

Four way Stop installation at the following locations:

Slade Street at Upland Street
Slade Street at Creeley Road
Oakley Road at Cushing Avenue
Oakley Road at Payson Road
Betts Road at Dalton Road
Winter Street at Marsh Street

Major Projects incorporating Complete Streets principles

Trapelo Road / Belmont Street Reconstruction Project
Belmont Center Reconstruction Project

Policy Actions


Adoption of Town wide 25 mph Thickly Settled speed limit
Pavement Management Sidewalk Policy
Town Wide Traffic Study (ongoing)
Traffic Calming Policy (ongoing)
Complete Streets project list (ongoing)
Belmont High School Traffic Working Group (ongoing)



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEMO

MEMO TO: Board of Selectmen
Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator

FROM: Glenn R. Clancy, P.E. 

SUBJECT: Intersection of Lexington Street and Sycamore Street
Traffic Signal Evaluation

DATE: September 13, 2018

On September 13, 2018 the Traffic Advisory Committee voted to request the Board of Selectmen to direct the Office of Community Development to hire a traffic engineering consult to evaluate the intersection of Lexington Street and Sycamore Street for potential traffic signals.

In addition to evaluating the intersection for potential traffic signals I will also be requesting recommendations for short term improvements recognizing it will take a year or longer, depending on available funding, for design and construction of signals (should they be warranted).

I estimate the cost of this evaluation to be \$10,000.

TAC 9/13/18

NAME	ADDRESS
Sheila Hewellings	36 SYCAMORE STREET
Dennis R. Hewellings	" " "
JIM MAZZANESE	177 LEXINGTON ST.
Kate Grimes	" " "
PAULA VAN HORN	97 SYCAMORE ST
PHIL THAYER	39 OAK AVE
Elizabeth Sue Pew	27 Wellington Ln.
Richard Par	27 Wellington Ln
Jane Nuscher	50 Wynn St.
Kate Caffrey	63 Sycamore St.
CHIP GAYSON AT	330 PAYSON
NORMA MASSAROTTI	53 BAY STATE Rd
Catherine Otis Cole	23 Flett Rd
Lane Seiger	2 Thomas
Garrett Lee	89 Hull
Lisa Fournes	105-107 Bantlett Ave
Sarah Jensen	92 Sycamore
Kim O'Mahony	54 Sycamore
Therese Calise	22 Walnut St
Ma Trillith	23 Walnut St
John O'Connor	35 Upland Rd.
Kevin Cunningham	20 Chandler St.
Jen Palmer	24 Home Rd
Kathy Rushe	64 Home Rd
Eric Perkins	32 Thayer Rd.

Rekha Palyanda
Matt Woker
Kim Archer

Patrick G. STARR EMARS

Alan Mandela

Tom Caputo

Sarah Wang

Qden Sawyer

Sibley Slinkard

Colin McKeown

Emily Walsh

Aara Wilson

Kim Messenger

Sara Green

Jennifer Pressey

TANIA DUNLAP

Laura VanderHart

HELI TONGARD

Paul + Anne Reuben

80 PALFREY ROAD

50 Bartlett Ave

63 Richmond Rd

273 Orchard St.

81 Lexington St

149 White Street

26 Vincent Ave

84 Lexington St

48 Thomas St

108 Sycamore St.

72 Waverley St

96 Agassiz Avenue

42 Pinehurst

90 School St