



## Engineering Services Division

# Traffic Operations Committee

## Meeting Minutes - February 21, 2012

Attendees: Rob Mack, PE, PTOE, Engineering Services  
Ed Roberge, PE, Engineering Services  
Steve Henninger, Planning  
Jim Major, General Services  
Greg Taylor, Concord Police Department  
Rick Wollert, Concord Fire Department  
Dick Lemieux, TPAC Chair  
Jennifer Kretovic, City Council

### Regular Discussion Items

- 1) **Overview of city-wide accident data, including prior-month accident summary and discussion of select accident locations, circumstances and potential action.**

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: Traffic accident data for January 2012 was reviewed. There were 101 reportable accidents in January 2011. This compares with 146 and 113 reportable accidents in January 2011 and 2010, respectively. 15 accidents resulted in total of 18 people injured, with 3 of those injuries occurring on Loudon Road. There were no fatalities.

There were no accidents involving pedestrians or bicyclists.

Six crashes have occurred at the Manchester/Airport/Integra intersection since the opening of the relocated Airport Road approach last November. The predominant crash involves left-turns or crossing traffic from the side streets colliding with northbound Manchester Street vehicles coming up the hill from Pembroke. Crashes all occurred in the late morning and early afternoon hours. Rob Mack visited the intersection and noted that sight lines were ample, but that northbound traffic approaching the intersection appeared to be travelling well above the newly-posted 30mph speed limit. Furthermore, the high volume and speed of Manchester Street traffic creates potentially long delays for traffic turning from Airport Road and Integra Drive with some drivers observed crossing the intersection using less-than-adequate gaps in Manchester street traffic. This condition should be alleviated following the completion of intersection construction this spring including widening of Manchester Street for left-turn lanes and the installation of traffic signals (signal installation anticipated in April). In the meantime, General Services has placed two variable message boards at the intersection: one on Airport Road noting the STOP ahead; and one on the northbound Manchester Street approach noting the 30 mph speed and alerting drivers to crossing traffic at the intersection. Police have also increased speed enforcement efforts. An option to paint a temporary delta island at the end of the northbound right-turn lane coming up the hill is being discussed with NHDOT as an option to discourage northbound traffic from using the right-turn lane as a passing lane. Staff will continue to monitor.

2) **City Council meeting update.**

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: At its February 13, 2012 meeting, City Council set a March 12, 2012 public hearing date for the School/North Fruit multi-way STOP sign removal request by several West End residents. Council also authorized the City Manager to apply for FHWA Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER4) funds for the Downtown Streetscape Improvements Project (CIP 460); Ed Roberge will be coordinating the application process which is due by March 19, 2012.

3) **Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) update.**

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: At its January 26, 2012 meeting, TPAC discussed a referral on a request to publish bicycle rules-of-the-road and safety education. TPAC also considered and approved the TOC report responding to the School/N. Fruit multi-way STOP sign removal request.

B. **On-going Discussion and Action Items.**

1) **None.**

C. **New Discussion and Action Items**

1) **Review of FY 2013-2022 CIP priorities.**

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: Ed Roberge led a discussion of the upcoming FY 2013-2022 CIP project program. The discussion focused on current and proposed transportation-related CIP projects for purpose of getting feedback from TOC members on project priorities and scheduling of projects within the limits of annual fiscal constraints. Projects were grouped in categories of: intersections; street corridor improvements; new street construction; and sidewalks/streetscapes. TOC members generally concurred with the CIP priorities as currently programmed in FY 2012-2021, with some near-term adjustments needed to accommodate funding for large, high-priority construction projects in FY 2013 and FY 2014 including the Sewalls Falls Bridge Replacement (CIP 22) and completion of the Route 3 Corridor (North) Improvements (CIP 35).

2) **Request by Evan Mulholland to consider installation of a crosswalk on Pleasant Street between Main and State Streets. (Engineering: 1/26/12).**

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: The potential crosswalk location was requested where Odd Fellows Avenue (from Bicentennial Square) intersects Pleasant Street. The request is for a more direct crossing between the square and White Mountain Coffee without having to walk to adjacent signal intersections to cross Pleasant Street. While this location may be a focal point for direct pedestrian crossings of Pleasant Street, TOC felt that installation of a crosswalk here would be inappropriate because of potential impacts on traffic operations and safety. This location is only about 120 feet from the stop line at S. Main Street and vehicle queues frequently extend across this location. Formalizing a crosswalk here would promote pedestrian crossings through a potential line of standing traffic which has safety implications. Furthermore, traffic operation along this segment of Pleasant Street is typically delayed during peak travel periods as evidenced by the standing traffic queues which at times extend the length of the street segment. Added pedestrian crossings that might occur while the

lights are 'green' for either direction along Pleasant Street would stop traffic while the green time at the lights would go unused, acting to exacerbate the traffic backup and delay in the area during peaks. In this instance, TOC encourages the slightly longer walk to the nearby signalized intersections and the use of existing signalized crosswalks.

D. 

- 1) **Staff response to miscellaneous inquiries (refer to correspondence in agenda packet).**

DISCUSSION / ACTIONS: None.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert J. Mack, PE, PTOE, Traffic Engineer  
Chair, Traffic Operations Committee

***The next Traffic Operations Committee meeting will be held on  
Tuesday, March 20, 2012 @ 12:00 PM in the 2<sup>ND</sup> Floor Conference Room.***