

**TOWN OF HINGHAM
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

Police Chief David P. Jones, Chairman
Sgt. Jeffrey Kilroy, Representative for Chief David Jones
Deputy David Levenson, Representative for Chief Steven Murphy
Randy Sylvester, Engineering/DPW
JR Frey, Engineering
Rita DaSilva, Representative for Planning Board
Daniel Miller Dempsey
Matthew Person

TO: Select Board
FROM: Chief David P. Jones
RE: Minutes of February 23, 2022 Traffic Committee Meeting
DATE: February 24, 2022

PRESENT: Sgt. Jeffrey Kilroy, Hingham Police Dept.
Dep. David Levenson, Hingham Fire Dept.
Randy Sylvester, DPW
JR Frey, Hingham Engineering Dept.
Matthew Person
Rita DaSilva

JR Frey called the meeting to order via Zoom at 6:05 PM.

Sgt. Jeffrey Kilroy made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on 1/19/22 which was seconded by Rita DaSilva and unanimously approved.

1. Update on Town Acceptance of MGL Chap. 90, Sec.17C

JR Frey provided an update that the Select Board voted to give their recommendation of favorable action for a warrant article allowing the Select Board to reduce speeds on a statutory basis to 25 MPH. This is will be voted on at Town Meeting.

2. MBTA Improvements, PATI Program

- a. Otis Street at Governor Long Road
- b. Otis Street at Broad Cove Road
- c. Otis Street at Burditt Avenue

JR Frey introduced Bin Zou of the MBTA to provide details on the PATI Program (Plan for Accessible Transit Infrastructure) and their mission to increase bus and rail accessibility for passengers with disabilities. The plan is to improve access for passengers at Otis Hill and Governor Long Road, Otis Hill and Broad Cove Road and Otis Street and Burditt Avenue. There is an approximately \$470,000 investment for design and construction in Hingham to improve safety, accessibility and ADA compliance. These are their high

priority bus stops. Corinne Tobias, project manager of Green International shared that this is being combined with a MassDOT project. There is a proposed bump out for people turning right on Broad Cove Road to reduce speed as well as the installation of curbs, crosswalks and landscaping. Nicholas Bellone of WSP said that there will also be a bump out at Burditt Ave. John Drew of Burditt Ave. objects to the crosswalk taking out his driveway to which JR Frey replied that the only change is in paint. Sgt. Kilroy asked if there are plans to install a guardrail to which Corinne Tobias replied that is already a part of the plan. Mark Buonagurio suggested moving the bus stop further down but JR Frey replied that is outside of the optimal distance for a disabled person. The bus stop is already there; these are all improvements that the MBTA committed to doing. The goal is to make the bus stops ADA compliant. 800-900 feet between stops is consistent for MBTA stops. Brian Sweeney asked if there would be a problem for buses to pull out to which JR replied that is not. Deb Hayes asked if there had been a speed study of buses since they often appear to be speeding. JR Frey replied that buses have been observed exceeding the speed limit. JR reiterated that the goal of this plan is to increase accessibility of bus stops and reduce barriers for passengers with disabilities. The current schedule for improvements is design in April/May 2022 with construction to follow. JR suggested that a motion be made for grant of location for Right of Way improvements at 154 Otis Street at Governor Long Road. Randy Sylvester of DPW said that we should revisit this issue until he was able to see the plans and after a speed study and pedestrian study has been conducted. He cited that it could be dangerous to install crosswalks on this busy road and would prefer to have more facts. JR Frey said that more research will be done and we will revisit this matter at an upcoming meeting. Lori Cashman of Otis Street asked if there would be land taking to which JR replied that this is a topic for the Route 3A Task Force.

3. West Corner Shared Streets Grant

JR Frey said that based on comments received during the Route 3A Task Force Design hearing, the Town is considering traffic safety improvements to the multi-jurisdictional intersection (Hingham, Cohasset, MassDOT) at West Corner. There have been preliminary discussions with Brian Joyce of Cohasset DPW and there will be advancing discussion with MassDOT and Hull. Jason DeGray said that the deadline to apply for this grant program is 3/1/22. The plan will take a seasonal approach with the goal of deflecting high speed with splinter islands to lower traffic speed. The center circle can be removed in the winter. The “slip lane” from Nantasket Ave. in Hull to access Rockland Street would be blocked off and cars would enter Rockland Street in a more traditional way. This would improve safety as well. Deputy Chief David Levinson (Fire) said that it would be tight for the large fire engine to access the intersection with the proposed changes and suggested that either a traffic light or a 4 way stop would work better. Randy Sylvester asked if there are many accidents at the intersection to which Sgt. Kilroy replied that accidents are not an issue there. Randy Sylvester said that it doesn’t appear that a problem exists. JR Frey said we will wait to investigate further and not rush the process.

4. Public comment

Rachel Sadhwani of Otis Street asked why the 4 lanes are reduced to 2 lanes at Hingham Lobster Pound? Why not leave it 2 lanes? JR Frey replied that traffic volume necessitates it in order to keep traffic flowing through that corridor efficiently.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Jacobson, Administrative Assistant