



Amesbury

Traffic and Transportation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 12, 2015

Start: 6:30 PM at Amesbury Transportation Center

Attendees: Eric Eby, Anne Ferguson, Lauren Tirone, Craig Berard. Steve Buonomo absent.
Kevin Ouellette, Police Chief, present.

Old Business

Dunkin' Donuts' driveway at Route 110 - Scott Thornton, Traffic Engineer from Vanasse & Associates, Inc., present to present his proposed plan on behalf of Dunkin' Donuts to improve safety at the intersection of Route 110 and Dunkin' Donuts driveway. Plan and supporting documentation has been submitted to MassDOT for review. Committee requested this meeting in order to provide feedback to MassDOT prior to their decision on the plan. Accident data reveals that most accidents have occurred as a result of the left turns into Irving. Only one accident in the past year and a half involved a left turn into Dunkin' Donuts. Sight lines are sufficient for the 85th percentile speeds on Route 110. Proposed plan would extend the existing raised median concrete island on Route 110 by approximately 15 feet to further restrict the left turns into the Irving driveway. The existing yellow painted median island in front of Dunkin' Donuts driveway would be repainted as an exclusive left-turn lane for vehicles waiting to turn left into Dunkin' Donuts' driveway. However, the width of the left-turn lane would be just 10 feet, and the length would only accommodate 2 vehicles with no deceleration area. A left-turn lane on a 4-lane roadway of this configuration is usually 12-14 feet wide to provide a safer waiting area between the two high-speed lanes. The proximity of the I-495 ramp results in vehicles from the highway having to quickly weave across two lanes and quickly decelerate in the inside high speed lane to safely enter the proposed left-turn lane. Committee members also concerned that left turns from Dunkin's driveway would still be made. Recommend that Dunkin' posts directional signs within their parking lot to direct customers to the best way to Route 110 east and I-95. Eric noted that while he was observing traffic at the site on a recent Saturday morning, more traffic was using the driveway on Rocky Hill Road than the Route 110 driveway. Even the majority of the westbound traffic on 110 entering the site was making a right turn onto Rocky Hill and then a left turn into the site, rather than turning right into the driveway on 110. This could be because the driveway on 110 is not very visible to westbound motorists. The Chief also expressed his concerns with the sight line of the left-turn lane being blocked when a vehicle in the westbound left lane stops to allow an eastbound left turn into Dunkin's driveway. When this happens, the vehicle in the eastbound left-turn lane cannot see oncoming vehicles in the outside westbound lane.

Anne stated she would be contacting MassDOT to let them know the Committee's concerns with the proposed plan, and ask them to make a determination on the proposal as soon as feasible.

Atlantic Heights driveway location on Route 110 – Committee discussed once again the issues regarding the proposed driveways to this residential development. The main driveway location as proposed could have some impact on the ability of vehicles to turn left onto Route 110 from Hoyt Avenue. Lauren to check with Rob Desmarais on whom to address a letter concerning the driveway location.

New Business

Parking on Poplar Street – Committee discussed situation on Poplar Street where residents of the new Briggs Mill building are parking their vehicles on street along the building frontage. Residents have dedicated off-street parking lot but appear to be parking on street for convenience. Also some cars parked facing wrong direction. Street width is 22 feet, which leaves 14 feet for through traffic when vehicles are parked along the Briggs Mill side. This should be adequate for the low volume of traffic on the street. However, fire department personnel are apparently concerned with access to the building when vehicles are parked on the street. Also, when vehicles are parked directly opposite the driveway to 9 Poplar Street, vehicles have great difficulty getting in or out of that driveway. Lauren to check with fire department on specific concerns, need for fire lane and desired action, and report back at next meeting.

Next meeting will be September 21, 2015.

Motion to adjourn by Anne, seconded by Lauren at 8:00. Motion passed 4-0.