

TAC Meeting – October 4, 2007

Meeting Called to order: 7:16 pm

In Attendance – Andrea Masciari, Larry Macdonald, MaryJo Frisoli, Linda Nickens; Phil Richmond; Ronnie Sacca

Also in Attendance – Glenn Clancy, Sargeant. Jamie MacIsaac; Sue Clippinger

City of Cambridge – Truck Ban Proposal –

Sue Clippinger (SC) – Need State approval and must have Belmont's support in order to make improvements from Concord Rd. to Grove St. – MaryJo Frisoli (MJ) concerned that trucks using alternate route would just go around to Grove to Watertown. SC thinks they'll use Aberdeen. Linda Nikens (LN) concerned engineers did not design for largest trucks. SC – trucks can make it if they don't hug the roundabout. Glenn Clancy (GC) not sure if 53' box trucks can make it. Saw one that did not. Would like something put on table to address Grove St. traffic flow. LN believes that diverted traffic will find alternate shortcuts in Belmont, and not go via Fresh Pond Parkway or Huron Ave. SC – Cambridge is going to build Blanchard. Phil Richmond (PR) – prefers physical counts rather than cone counts. More accurate. SC – truck restrictions do not apply to deliveries

Jamie MacIsaac (JM) – doesn't see anything wrong with truck ban. Ronnie Sacca (RS) – truck driver and cannot gain speed on these roads. When Concord Rd. is slippery, trucks will not be able to get up hill and might go by Burbank School and Wellington School. Can't ban trucks because they deliver everything we need and use. MJ – truck bans would be difficult because we cannot set an alternate route. Larry Macdonald (LM) – Cambridge would have to do some reconstruction from Parkway to Huron Ave. JM – if Cambridge does traffic calming on Blanchard, it will become a de facto truck ban and the trucks will go onto Belmont streets because they would have no other choice. SC – didn't think engineers knew there would be 53' trucks at the roundabout.

Ellie Hildebrand – resident of Blanchard Rd. – no problem until trucks rerouted from Fresh Pond to Blanchard. Was supposed to be temporary, but trucks never went back to Fresh Pond. Had a truck ban. Glen Rd is now the cut through to Bright Rd.

Molly Crawford – resident of Blanchard Rd. – truck volume increased exponentially. Has witnessed many huge trucks unable to negotiate roundabout. Is advocating another discussion of a truck ban and alternate truck routes. MJ would like to know what percentage of trucks are owned by Mabardy. Ronnie Sacca (RS) we cannot stop anyone from driving through Belmont because they have every right to be here.

MC – took some counts and by no means a single truck company problem.

Andrea Masciari (AM) we need to discuss this further with residents. RS many inspectors now that make sure trucks are safe. PR would like to see physical count of trucks. RS suggested night ban on trucks.

We will discuss at next meeting and get back to Sue

Carleton Circle – GC restricting access off of Common during peak school hours

Michael McCarthy 46 Carleton Circle – Phil Quinn – safety objectives have been achieved. Crossings shortened at Goden and Common Street. Carleton Circle crossing distance is 56'. People take Carleton because they don't want to wait at Washington. Carleton is not a real road. "It's just pavement over dirt." PQ people cut through Carleton. Would like to make mouth of Washington Street smaller in order to force tighter turn and make it safer for kids to cross. Or turn restriction while school is in session. Up Common so people cannot take left onto Carleton.

GC – Carleton appears to have been left out of the traffic rerouting. Too late for a neck down on a minor side street and in general, we do not put neckdowns on side streets.

Joseph Darling 1029 Concord Ave (parents at Carleton Circle) – agrees that street is dangerous. MJ asked for objectors. Cannot have resident exclusions. Barry Blisser – 10' from Common Street. Adds congestion onto other streets. JM – signs are covered up in summer. Resident wants to know if speed bumps are legal on side streets. GC does not know the answer. Highway Dept. does not like speed bumps when plowing.

LN likes idea but would like everyone to sign off on agreement to put up turn restriction. AM concerned about residents on Washington Street. LM would agree with restriction. Handles traffic at Goden/Oakley. GC believes impact would be minimal on Washington St. 7-9 and 1:30-3. All residents of Washington St were noticed. Resident of Washington St. (John Houston) – wants to make sure this is part of a bigger safety pattern.

GC believes TAC members should vote as they see fit not based only on what residents want. Look at situation, evaluate and make a decision that will be presented to Board of Selectmen

AM Motion to install left hand turn restriction onto Carleton Circle from Common Street. From 7-9 am and 1:30-3 pm Monday through Friday consistent with the restrictive signs in area. Unanimously approved.

Payson Rd. Speed Study Discussion –

10/2 10am – 10/4 10am – Resident wants to paint over yellow line. GC double yellow line on street under 4000 per day, no stripe. Black out line. Resident – cars routinely exceed 45 mph. They do not.

LN Motion to black over double yellow line. Phil 2nd – Unanimously approved.

New Business – GC – 10/15 BoS meeting – one member would like to stripe even though we voted not to. MJ reminded members that if we stripe even temporarily, skeptics will think we have decided to narrow road from Cambridge to Waltham. Unsafe if we stripe now – no public hearing yet. Bad policy. GC during public hearing process many people don't want single-lane striping. We did agree that School Zone should be installed at Butler School. RS is opposed to much of what we are now doing on Trapelo Road.

Motion to Adjourn LN

MJ 2nd

Meeting Adjourned 9: 21 pm