

**TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
December 7, 2006
Meeting Commenced: 7:04 pm**

In Attendance:

TAC Members	MaryJo Frisoli - Linda Nickens – Andrea Masciari – Tim Riley - Peter Curro
Director of Community Development	Glenn Clancy
Belmont Police Department	
Planning Board	
BSC Group	
Residents	

PLEASANT STREET UPDATE

GC – ROADS is no longer involved in the Pleasant Street reconstruction. BRIDGES is the new contractor. All correspondence will go through them. Completion of the project is behind due to the widening of the road at McLean – moving the stone wall back 10’ at a cost of \$250,000. An extension of time has been granted until May 2007. Contractor is asking Mass Highway for further extension until September 2007.

The utilities are complete. Drainage work is moving into winter if the Board of Selectman will allow it. The road is paved up to binder course. Sidewalks and curbing are next. Verizon is taking its time moving the utilities. Verizon is bound by law to take on this huge job, and they don’t get paid for it; so they are taking their time because there is no incentive to do this job. Their poles carry the electrical, cable and phone wires. Future drop of utilities underground is feasible, but would be very expensive.

BLANCHARD ROAD UPDATE

GC – No problems at Blanchard/Colby construction site. There is a drainage issue, and the crew will do something with a storm drain at Hamilton Rd. There are no manholes so access is a problem with respect to tv and liner. Cambridge doesn’t want GC to dig up the street, but GC needs to get in there at Hamilton. Should be done next week.

ROUNDABOUT UPDATE (Grove, Blanchard, Washington)

There is a phantom truck driving over the roundabout. A tractor trailer should be able to get around the rotary. No one is sure if truck is intentionally driving on roundabout (and digging up the grass) or of the driver really cannot make the rotation. Sue Klippinger will not get the information from Earth Tech on whether or not their calculations considered a 53-foot truck, so GC is going to call them and find out.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of a truck ban at this roundabout. The ban would not be in response to issues associated with the roundabout. Rather, it would be discussed with respect to other complaints on Blanchard Road.

LN – expressed great concern over this. We got the entire town on board with the roundabout, and we cannot now ban trucks. We did not build the roundabout to discourage truck traffic.

GC – suggested that we take some grass away (about 10') and pave the outer perimeter of the roundabout to enable huge trucks to drive on it without destroying the grass. PDPW will not tolerate having to repair this roundabout even twice a year.

LN – suggested a video camera to watch what the traffic flow does as it approaches and then navigates the roundabout. AM expressed concern about the legality of a camera. GC will look into this.

MJ – Would like to discuss solution for Blanchard Rd. Could include a truck ban here because trucks are trying to avoid Fresh Pond.

TRAPELO ROAD UPDATE

GC – Chasing Watertown down to discuss School Street, but no luck in reaching Director of Public Works Gerry Mee. Belmont and Watertown share a plumbing and gas inspector.

Getty Gas Station – Tom Younger was impressed with the modeling shown by BSC Group with and without the gas station. The traffic queues are going to get really ugly if the gas station remains. On January 8, 2007, the BoS will meet in Executive Session. GC will make this presentation to the BoS.

TIP – Jay Schlut, with BSC Group, is completing the application to get back on the TIP.

GC – A resident asked Angelo Firenze about temporary striping. AF asked that the TAC discuss temporary striping along the Corridor. GC feels that it's already okay from Pine St. to Waverley Square. We cannot stripe two, 11' travel lanes. Town could be liable for any accidents. Current traffic lights cannot accommodate one lane of traffic bunching up at intersections. There are not a lot of accidents, and we could hurt our efforts with Mass Highway if we make these temporary recommendations. Road has been this way for 50 years.

MJ – “People would hammer us.” They will assume we have made the decision to recommend narrowing the entire Corridor to one lane in each direction even though we have assured everyone that we have not made a final decision yet.

AM will write a recommendation to the BoS. She will send a draft to GC, KH, MF and LN. It will include the complaint, plan of action, conclusion, and recommendations.

TR – Made a motion to leave the striping as is for now. AM seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

SCHEDULE

MJ – made meeting dates up to and including June 2007. Will not hold a meeting in January 2007.

THOMAS STREET UPDATE

MJ – called resident to tell her that there is nothing more TAC can do. Invited her to come back, but MJ has not received a response from her.

INTERSECTION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

GC – five of the seven intersections identified in the report will be addressed during upcoming reconstruction projects

AM – will draft recommendations to BoS for Horne Rd and Trapelo Rd. temporary striping.

Motion to Adjourn: TR

Meeting adjourned: 8:35pm