

Traffic Advisory Committee minutes for Thursday, May 12, 2005.

In attendance: M.J. Frisoli, L. Nickens, A. Masciari, T. Olson, T. Turner.

Absent: T. Riley, P. Curro.

Also attending: G. Clancy, Sue Clippinger and Juan Avendano representing the City of Cambridge, several residents.

7:11 p.m. Meeting called to order

(7:11) Sue Clippinger presented the current plan for redesign of Blanchard/Bright/Grove intersection. Attention was given to various driveways that exit into the roundabout design. The center island has been modified to a reduced diameter with a textured concrete apron intended to allow larger trucks to negotiate the roundabout while maintaining the desired deflection of passenger vehicle travel. Mr. Avendano reported that roundabouts are being widely implemented in NY, CT, and much of MA.

(7:29) The floor was opened to comment. Mr. Bossert stated three concerns. First, he believes that the deflection is too limited to slow traffic. Second, the gravel turn-around on one of the drive will be problematic for snow removal. MF clarified that this surface has not been decided. Third, a tree would need to be removed in this plan.

Mr. Maxtutis stated that the goal of the design was to reduce pavement width. He stated that industry standards were used to narrow the road width while allowing buses and larger trucks to negotiate the roundabout. Small changes in the roundabout placement were considered to enhance deflection angles. This level of detail could be approved by Mr. Clancy without further discussion before TAC. GC also expressed reservations about the town sponsorship of a turn-around for one individual property owner. For that reason, the TAC recommends that feature be dropped.

Walter Arnold expressed his concern that the apron not be textured so as not to generate excessive noise when vehicles do enter the apron.

MF wrapped up the discussion by describing the process by which the recommendation will move forward. Once the design has been approved by GC, the TAC will recommend the design to the BoS for final approval. She reminded those in attendance that any resident may appeal the TAC recommendation to the BoS.

AM moved that TAC accept the plan as presented, including any potential revisions, including but not limited to position of the central island, composition of the concrete apron, position of the crosswalk on Grove St. to take into account the position of a near-by tree, the construction of a turn-around at 280 Grove St., and installation of appropriate traffic control signs, subject to the approval of Mr. Clancy. LN second. Motion passed 4-0.

(8:45 p.m.) Report of the Intersection Improvement Subcommittee. LN moved to table the discussion of the subcommittee report until the June 2 meeting. TO second. TAC members will provide comments on the draft to TT of the subcommittee in preparation for the June meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned 8:50 p.m.