



Town of Hudson

Internal Traffic Committee

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Minutes of Meeting – June 23, 2017

An interim meeting of the Town of Hudson's Internal Traffic Committee (ITC) was held on Friday, June 23, 2017. Jeff Wood, Chair convened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

The following ITC voting members were in attendance:

Jeffrey Wood, Building Commissioner, Chair
Johns Blood, Fire Chief
Michael Burks, Police Chief
Eric Ryder, Assistant Director, Public Works

The following Ex-Officio ITC members were in attendance:

Jack Hunter, Director of Planning and Community Development
William Paille, BSC Group

South Street Improvement Project

Jack Hunter, Planning Director provided brief introductory remarks about the South Street project to set the context for the Board. Mr. Hunter reminded the ITC Board that the \$100,000 in capital outlay money was approved at May Town Meeting to complete the design of streetscape enhancements along South Street. He then went on to discuss the overarching objective of the project, which entails the softening of the streetscape in order to improve the pedestrian environment. Mr. Hunter mentioned that this project is being design in a similar fashion to the Rotary project. Jack underscored that improvements on South Street are important in order to support to private investments on either end—7 South Street, a mixed-use development and the expansion of the Medusa Brewery. Finally, Jack discussed the Department's intension to apply for a MassWorks infrastructure for the construction of South Street (and the Rotary), which requires all projects to be "shovel ready."

Bill Paille, Manager of Infrastructure at the BSC Group introduced himself and described his credentials relative to this project. He emphasized his municipal experience with bicycle network design, roadway projects, asset management, traffic control, and controlling project budgets. Mr. Paille stated he will bring this experience to the table for this project and expressed his familiarity with the project limit of work, and Hudson overall.

Specifically, Mr. Paille asked the ITC Board feedback and corner on South Street relative to the following issues:

- Pedestrian safety at midblock crossings
- Fire truck running over the curbs
- Certain problematic driveways
- Thoughts on the different pavement treatment and desired cross sections
- Sidewalk walk widths on both sides of the street
- Required widths for fire truck access to the buildings

Chief Burks inquired whether Mr. Paille was looking for feedback at this meeting, or whether a one-on-one meeting on-site would be more appropriate. Mr. Paille agreed that a one-on-one meeting would be

appropriate to understand the existing public safety issues on South Street, and with anyone else who needs to be involved.

Chief Blood is concerned about access to downtown during emergency, and referenced an older idea for making both Main Street and South Street one-way roadways. In addition to creating safer emergency response, he believes that creating a one-way street will facilitate better traffic flow and open up parking opportunities. Chief Blood reiterated the many geometric constraints on South Street, and the consistent challenges faced by emergency response vehicles. Further, Chief Blood expressed concerns about the access to and from the Darnell School, which provides educational services to disabled individuals. He strongly suggested that any cross section design take in account the access to the Darnell School.

Eric Ryder discussed the challenges of snow removal and snow storage during large storm events. He expressed concerns about having the right-of-way be narrowed any further. Eric also concurred with the idea to make South Street a one-way Street, and expressed his dislike for bump outs and concerns about raised crosswalks.

Jack Hunter, Planning Director reminded the ITC Board that this project is not going to solve every issue on South Street, with the understanding that the project will not create any new issues. Tackling the one-way issue would require a lengthy process of policy discussions and approvals; and this project, needs to be a 25% design stage to be eligible for the August 4th grant by August 4th. Mr. Hunter concurred with Mr. Ryder that the project can be designed in such a way that it would not preclude the Town from making South Street a one-way roadway in the future. Mr. Ryder provided Mr. Paille some design strategies that could accommodate making South Street one-way.

A discussion ensued about maintaining existing parking along South Street. Bill Paille underscored that the approach to the design will maintain all existing parking along South Street, and that there would be no loss in parking. All agreed that making the environment more pleasant on South Street may encourage folks to use the parking on South Street and walk to their destination at the Rotary or Main Street.

Chief Blood thanked the Planning Department for soliciting input from the ITC Board on this and other infrastructure projects at the beginning of the design process.

Main Street /Cox Street/Glendale Road Intersection

Eric Ryder initiated the discussion by mentioning that addressing the traffic operations at this intersection has been a priority for him and the Department. The complicated geometry poses traffic safety and operational issues at this location. Chief Blood mentioned that the ITC Board made recommendation in the past to address issues at the location, but ultimately the DPW did not have the funding to implement improvements. The ITC Board discussed several low-cost, temporary measures that could be implemented in the immediate term.

Chief Blood moved to bag the traffic lights at the Main Street/Glendale approach to intersection and disconnect the loop detectors on a temporary basis, all subject to available budget. Eric Ryder added that he will have to change the yield sign to a stop sign. Seconded by Chief Burks. 4-0-0

Minutes

Jeff Wood moved to approve the minutes of the following ITC meetings: 4/11, 5/26, and 6/13. Seconded by Eric Ryder. 4-0-0

Other business brought up by ITC members:

Striping of the South Street Parking Lot

Jack Hunter inquired about the status of the striping of the parking lot on South Street. Eric Ryder indicated that work will commence on that effort in the immediate future.

181 Main Street

Jack Hunter updated the ITC Board on the status of the approval of the proposed donut shop at 181 Main Street. He noted that the Planning Board approved the site plan with extensive conditions, which includes a \$25,000 to the Town properly coordinate the signals at Broad Street and Villa De Porte so that with the existing controls at the corner of Broad Street and Main Street. Jack, however, noted that the project still needs a Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Fox 25 Zip Trip

Jack Hunter discussed Fox 25's proposal to come to Hudson for their Friday Zip Trip segments on July 14th. It was noted that Hudson hosted a Fox 25 Zip Trip in the past. He requested that Fox 25 come before the ITC, but Fridays does not work for any of the location staff. Jack stated that eventually—subject to the final approval of the Recreation Department and the School Department—he will bring the FOX 25 location staff before a meeting a special meeting of the ITC Board to review any public safety logistics.

Driveway Cut for 568 Main Street

Eric Ryder discussed the Collingsworth Foundation's proposal for a curb cut on 568 Main Street, and requested that they revisit the issue. Chief Blood noted that the Collingsworth foundation received ITC approval (after numerous meetings) and site plan review approval. Jack Hunter offered to do some research on the past decisions and put this item on the next agenda, if needed.

Main Street/Broad Street/Manning Street Intersection

Chief Blood disseminated pictures of the recently restriped intersection by MassDOT, and expressed his concern that the restriping has posed a safety issue at this location. He noted that motorist by habit are queuing up the left lane on Broad Street to head straight on Manning Street, and with the new restriping there are now serious potential conflicts with oncoming traffic. Chief Blood recommended asking the MassDOT Bridge Replacement contractor to do the following: 1) restripe the right-hand lane as a right-turn/through lane; and 2) install signage that will state "left-lane for left-turn only." He mentioned that MassDOT would like to install signage, but they do not have any readily available; therefore, he requested that DPW look in their sign shop for any available signage.

Eric Ryder moved that Chief Burks direct MassDOT to either deploy police details and/or restripe the intersection and install appropriate signage to reflect the existing conditions at the Main Street/Broad Street/Manning Street intersection. Seconded by Jeff Wood. 4-0-0

Cox Street/Old Bolton Road Intersection

Chief Blood brought to the ITC Board's attention the continued safety and operational issues at this location. He mentioned that the ITC Board had discussed recommendations in the past, but nothing moved forward. Chief Blood requested an ok from the ITC Board to work with Chief Burks and Eric to develop solutions for improving the safety at this location. Eric Ryder stated that he would bring recommendations to the next month's meeting.

Adjournment

Jeff Wood moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Chief Blood vote 4-0-0.