



Town of Hudson

Internal Traffic Committee

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Minutes of 1-28-2022

A meeting of the Town of Hudson's Internal Traffic Committee (ITC) was held on Friday, January 28, 2022 via Zoom. Chief Johannes convened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

The following ITC voting members were in attendance:

Richard DiPersio, Police Chief
Bryan Johannes Fire Chief
Eric Ryder, Director of Public Works
Max Kamel, Assistant Director of Public Works

The following non-voting ITC members were in attendance:

Kristina Johnson, AICP, Director of Planning and Community Development

The following guests were in attendance:

Mark Schulthess, Westridge Resident
Paul Leonardo, Ordway Road
Thomas McCabe, Orway Road

Speeding concerns at the Westridge Road/Technology Drive Intersection

Mark Schulthess, resident of Westridge presented an overview of his concerns regarding traffic safety concerns on Technology Drive in the Westridge community. Mr. Schulthess referenced a document he submitted to the Internal Traffic Committee that outlines all of the safety and speeding concerns and included ideas on how to alleviate said concerns.

Chief Johannes inquired whether Mr. Schulthess believes that the issues outlined in the document sent to ITC primarily impact Westridge residents only.

Mr. Schulthess noted that there is no stop sign at the Westridge Driveway /Technology Drive intersection and wondered if that would be the responsibility of the Homeowners Association. He outlined the following issues that he believes are contributing to unsafe traffic conditions in the vicinity of the Westridge Community:

- Dangerous spot getting into Westridge Road turning Left from Technology Drive from the North West (Stop and Shop direction).
- Vehicles traveling at a high rate of speed down the Hill from the Intel Campus toward Westridge
- Limited decision time to safely navigate from Westridge onto Technology Drive in either direction

- Overgrown brush at the top of Technology Drive that impede sight lines traveling up the hill.

Mr. Schulthess outlined his proposed solutions including cutting back the overgrown brush and possibly lowering the speed limit. He asked the ITC for their feedback about potential solutions.

Chief DiPersio asked if Mr. Schulthess could identify which of the traffic issues noted as being the one causing the largest safety impact. Mr. Schulthess noted that the left-turn movement from Technology Drive into Westridge was in his opinion as being the most unsafe. Chief DiPersio stated that he would check if the Department's Traffic Supervisor has posted the portable speed limit sign up that displays speed (and collects volume and speed data) in the Westridge area, and if not, would have that location added to the list for placement. Chief DiPersio noted that the process to modify an existing speed limit is costly and time consuming, and the end result may not be what is actually desired, such as an increase in the speed limit.

Chief Johannes inquired if the Westridge roadways were private and if the Town handled snow removal. Ms. Johnson responded that the roadways were indeed private and managed by the Homeowners Association, similar in setup to Sauta Farms. Chief Johannes strongly encouraged Mr. Schulthess to bring forward a proposal to the Association Board to install a stop sign at the Westridge egress at Technology Drive.

No further action was taken relative to this item.

Pedestrian Safety Concerns on Chapin Road

Paul Leonardo of Ordway Road described the pedestrian safety issues on Chapin Road. Mr. Leonardo noted that it is unsafe to walk to and from Ordway Road, Hudson High School, Morgan Bowl, and Boutwell Memorial Park, as Chapin Road does not have any sidewalks from Juniper Road through the four-way stop at Brigham Street. Mr. Leonardo stated that this also poses a safety issue for students using the Chapin Rd @ Ordway Rd bus stop as they must walk on Chapin Rd to get to the bus stop. This bus stop is currently used by Farley Elementary, Quinn Middle School & AMSA. And finally, he noted that the lack of a sidewalk is especially dangerous during the winter months when there are snowbanks as there is no place for pedestrians (students) to walk except on Chapin Rd.

Mr. Leonardo inquired if the Complete Streets program could be a funding source to add sidewalks. Chief Johannes inquired if the Complete Streets program funded the recent improvements on Cox Street, to which Ms. Johnson noted that it was the Complete Streets program. Ms. Johnson noted that project undertaken with this funding must be selected from a prioritization list that was developed back in 2021.

Mr. Ryder expressed his understanding of the pedestrian safety issues in this neighborhood. He noted that the feasibility of installing sidewalks would need to be evaluated based on the following factors: available right-of-way, utility obstructions, and the overall design and construction costs. Mr. Ryder further noted that there are other neighborhoods throughout the Town facing the same issues, and that improvements need to be properly prioritized.

Chief Johannes inquired if a potential funding source could be identified to advance the installation of sidewalks on Chapin. Mr. Ryder stated that a prudent first step would be to understand the design and construction costs and any right-of-way constraints before identifying a special funding source.

Thomas McCabe of Ordway Road emphasized that their street is isolated from the adjacent neighborhoods, and the only access point to get to the High School is via Chapin Road, which does not have sidewalks. Mr. McCabe noted that there are other streets in the immediate area that are isolated and require the crossing of Chapin Road to access the High School.

Mr. Ryder stated that he could provide a cost estimate at the next Internal Traffic Committee meeting. Ms. Johnson inquired whether the Safe Routes to School program could be tapped for a potential funding source to install sidewalks on Chapin Road. Mr. Ryder stated that through the program a “safe route” is delineated, and made more walkable through pavement markings and signage. He did not believe that sidewalk installation would be an eligible project under this program.

Chief DiPersio stated that the Town understands and supports the need for safer pedestrian accessibility along Chapin Road to the High School. He noted that moving forward will come down to developing a cost analysis. Chief DiPersio committed to deploying the portable speed limit sign, which collects traffic volumes and speed.

No further action was taken relative to this item.

that they will discuss what was shared with the BID Executive Board.

No vote or action was taken relative to this matter.

Approval of Minutes

Chief Johannes seconded by Chief DiPersio moved to approve the November 2021 and December 2021 meeting minutes. 3-0-0. Unanimous

Other Business

Ms. Johnson noted that she is still receiving emails from a resident concerned about the intersection blocking at Washington Street/Park Street with a recommendation that intersection be striped and signed with a “do no block the box.” She stated that this recommendation was investigated and that the ITC did not believe that this was a feasible alternative to advance. She further noted that the traffic signal has been retimed several times since the Washington Street Bridge replacement project.

No further action was taken relative to this item.

Adjournment

Eric Ryder seconded by Chief DiPersio moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 AM. 3-0-0.
Unanimous