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TOWN OF DEDHAM
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES
Remote participation via ZOOM
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 – 7 PM.

Present: John Bethoney, Chair
Charlie Packer, P.E. Member
Dimitria Sullivan, SB
Jack Kelliher, Member

Jason Mammone, P.E., Director of Engineering
Michael D'Entremont, Dedham Police Chief
Joseph Flanagan, Director of Public Works

Absent: Dan O'Neil, Member

Mr. Bethoney opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and reviewed the virtual meeting guidelines and protocols.

A roll call attendance was taken- above listed TAC members were present.

Agenda Item # 1 – Traffic Calming Request #2019-002, Upland Road: Carlo Prico (Applicant) – Discussion and Vote on Traffic Assessment based

Jason Mammone provided a summary of the history of the project that resulted in temporary traffic calming measures, consisting of speed humps for a 6-month trial period. They were installed in June. A before and after traffic study was done with and without speed humps present. Mr. Mammone provided a summary of the conclusions of the report based on the addition of speed humps. In conclusion Mr. Mammone stated that traffic volume did not substantially decrease, but the speed of vehicles generally went down to levels within the speed limit. The Engineering department sent out ballots asking if residence in the affected area were in favor of the speed humps. Mr. Mammone's recommendation based on the ballots and the study is to make the speed humps permanent.

Ms. Sullivan stated that she was in favor of the speed humps based on the survey results. Mr. Packer stated that though no applicants were present for the meeting, he would feel comfortable taking a vote based on the survey responses.

Mr. Packer made a motion to accept the Engineering Departments Recommendation. Second by Mrs. Sullivan.

Unanimous vote of Yes.

Agenda Item # 2- Traffic Calming Request #2021-004, Brookdale Avenue: Henry Mahegan (Applicant)– Discussion and Vote on Initial Evaluation.

Jason Mammone provided a summary of the report and the summary of findings. He stated that based on the data, the street appears to be a heavily used cut through. Based on the evaluation, the street warrants a traffic calming study.

Henry Mahegan, 31 Harvard, Street (Applicant) – Questioned if this is the time to provide recommendations.

Mr. Bethony (Chair) – Responded that this is the time to take a vote as to whether a traffic calming study is warranted.

Mr. Mammone – Responded that he can reach out to the applicant for ideas if and when the study is initiated.

Henry Mahegan (Applicant) – Asked police chief if there is a reason that he noticed more of a police Presence.

Michael D’Entremont,(Police Chief) – Responded his decision is based on feedback from town officials including the DPW and Engineering department.

John Heffernan (26 Brookdale Ave) – Commented that the radar recorder was positioned at a location that is likely not where the speeds are the greatest.

Dimitria Sullivan – Made a motion to accept the results of the report and to perform a traffic calming study.

Charles Packer – Seconded.

Unanimous vote of Yes.

Mr, Mammone stated he is hopeful he will have a report by May 2022.

Agenda Item # 3– Traffic Calming Request #2021-005, Curve Street (Maverick St to Washington St): Keith Mahoney (Applicant) – Discussion and Vote on Initial Evaluation

Jason Mammone provided a summary of the report and the summary of findings. He stated that the “special speed limit” is 20mph due to a Massachusetts Department of Transportation Special Speed Regulation from 1981. The report scores above the 50-point threshold to warrant a traffic calming study. However, Mr., Mammon suggested that a study be tabled to understand first if there will be impacts that may affect a concise conclusion based on the traffic calming measures on Colburn Street in the vicinity of the project.

Keith Mahoney - 142 Curve Street (Applicant) – States that the crossing the road is like playing “frogger” and urged for a ‘Yes’ vote to perform a traffic calming study.

Mrs. Sullivan (SB) – Stated she wanted to make sure that if traffic calming is performed at another location that could potentially affect Curve Street that this road could still be studied further in the future.

Mr. Mammone stated that there is always a potential for further studies in the future and this would not be neglected.

Mr. Packer asked if there were any improvements since the 1981 regulation.

Mr. Mammone stated no. The speed regulation was likely due to the road’s geometry, hence being called “Curve Street.”

Mr. Bethony – Stated that he fears the traffic calming measures on Colburn Street may exacerbate the situation.

Mr. Mammone furthered explained the recommendation to hold off on traffic calming measures to determine if adjacent road traffic calming measures, consisting of speed cushions, would have an impact on this subject area.

Keith Mahoney 142 Curve Street (Applicant) – Furthered argued that the vehicles are in excess speeds and would like to see a temporary improvement.

Mr. Bethony (Chair) – Stated that certain protocols need to be followed and we will first need to decide to either table or vote on the decision. Mr. Bethony explained the process to the applicant.

Mrs. Sullivan (SB) – Asked when the next study would be performed on Curve Street if the decision was made to table this agenda item.

Mr. Mammone stated that the next study time frame could go several ways including if the select board decides that there is no funding for speed cushions on adjacent roads, at which point, this study would move forward in July. Otherwise, this could be studied again December 2022 or January 23.

Mr. Packer (Board) – Stated that even if the recommendation is tabled, the decision will allow the engineering department to gather additional pertinent data.

Mr. Bethony (Chair) – Asked if data would be different if we waited concerning how adjacent street traffic calming measures affect this study area.

Mr. Mammone stated – He would hope that the traffic volumes and speeds would be reduced.

Mrs. Sullivan (SB) – Stated she fears that traffic speed will potentially be increased due to adding adjacent street traffic calming measures.

Mr. Bethony (Chair) – Stated he also thinks traffic speeds will also increase if traffic calming measures are only introduced on adjacent streets.

Mrs. Sullivan (SB) – Motioned to perform a traffic calming needs assessment.

Motion Failed – Not seconded.

Mr. Packer – Motioned to table the traffic calming study until adjacent road speed humps are implemented.

Motion Failed – Not seconded.

Mrs. Sullivan - Motioned to perform a traffic calming needs assessment.
Seconded by Jack Kelliher, Member

Discussion – Mr. Packer stated he will be voting ‘No’ because he agrees with the engineering department that having additional data would be beneficial before deciding.

Mr. Packer – No.

Ms. Sullivan – Yes

Mr. Bethony – Yes

Mr. Kelliher - Yes

Motion is passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from 12/14/2021

Mr. Bethony asked if members had a chance to review the minutes as drafted.

Dimitria Sullivan, motion to accept minutes from 12/14/21 as presented, 2nd Jack Kelliher, all in favor by roll call.

Mr. Packer abstained due to not being at the previous meeting.

Old/New Business –

Jason stated the next meeting will be April 12, 2022, at 7:00pm.

Chair Recognizes Mike Steinhoff, 106 Sanderson Ave – He was concerned that a bridge construction project in town (MBTA East Street Bridge) may have a negative impact on traffic on the Oakdale neighborhood.

Ms. Sullivan (Board) – Stated there will be a public information session concerning this exact project in the future.

Being no further business at 8:20 PM Mr. Bethoney sought a motion to adjourn, Dimitria Sullivan, 2nd Mr. Packer - all in favor.