

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
9:00 AM – Thursday, October 13, 2005
City Hall - Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

John Hynes Chairman, called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 a.m.

II: ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

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| Councilor John Hynes, Chairman | Fire Chief Chris LeClaire |
| Ralph DiBernardo, Deputy Chairman | Deborah Finnigin, Traffic Engineer |
| Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director | Ron Cypher, Member |
| Deputy Police Chief Dave Young | Ted Gray, Member |
| Excused Absences: Herb Bunnell and Jonathan Bailey | |

Chairman Hynes turned the meeting over to Ralph DiBernardo, Deputy Chairman.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion by Steve Parkinson to accept the minutes of the Traffic & Safety Committee meeting of August 11, 2005. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- (A) **Leary Field** – Report back from Fire and Police Departments – Issue of parking on both sides of street on Elwyn Avenue. Deputy Police Chief Young reported no issue with the Police Department. In the summertime during baseball season there was always room for Police vehicles to get through. Fire Chief LeClaire reported on issues.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to place on file. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

- (B) **Sherburne Road** – Report back from Police Department – Steve Parkinson stated the issue is speed of traffic especially from the school at the overpass and school zone and speed limit signs need to be updated. Deputy Police Chief Young stated there are complaints out there, there has been direct patrol and a sign board placed there. A survey taken a few years ago an 85 percentile was 34 MPH it is posted 20 MPH and will be enforced.

MOTION made by Ron Cypher to table until next month when Steve will report back on installation of signage. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief Young. Motion passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) **Rockingham Avenue/Meadow Road** – Potential Safety problem – Resident letter dated August 14, 2005 – Ted Gray referred to on-site that trees do come out

to the intersection. The question is whether they are City property or private property. Recommend referring to Public Works for discussion with Legal Department and take appropriate action.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to refer to Public Works to discuss with Legal Department and proceed accordingly. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

Steve Parkinson stated that it is the last tree in the row causing the problem. Public Works will determine where the property line is and if on City property would refer to the Trees and Public Greenery Committee.

- (B) **Market/Russell Streets** – Dangerous Intersection - Resident letter dated September 19, 2005 – Ted Gray referred to on-site looking at both inbound and outboard. There are no signs indicating the right turn lane being for right turn only, shown by arrows on the road and recommended referring to Public Works for appropriate signage.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to refer to Public Works for appropriate signage and lane markings. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief Dave Young. Motion passed.

- (C) **Peeverly Hill Road** – Truck Traffic – City Council Referral – Steve Parkinson referred to letter regarding the jake brake Ordinance. Would like restriction of jake braking. Deputy Police Chief Young would like to look at this and Bob Sullivan look at how the state law lines up with this.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to refer this to Legal Department for a report back on whether or not this is a possible course of action and report back at the next meeting. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

Fire Chief LeClaire asked if this referred to all trucks as fire trucks have them as well and as soon as you eliminate jake braking the speeds increase. Jake brakes help regulate speed of truck, if they cannot use them going down hills they will be much faster.

- (D) **Congress St./Maplewood Ave.** intersection, resident request for signage to Route 1 – Ralph DiBernardo stated that there were a number of people asking if they were still on Rte.1. When you come up Daniel at Congress (Rte.1) there were no signs telling you to turn left at end of Congress and Maplewood so you would continue straight. On-site recommended Public Works to locate appropriate signage.

MOTION made by Ron Cypher to remove the “No Turn on Red” sign and replace with “Do Not Enter” sign and place appropriate directional signs for Route 1 and 95. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief Young. Motion passed.

Ted Gray referred to discussion on signage coming from Islington Street at Library there is a sign I-95 but does not show which way to go. Also a sign at the top of Congress St. at lights that reads “no turn on red”.

Ron Cypher referred to on-site that there are conflicting signs, one reads “no turn on red” and another lighted sign that will allow turns on red and also no turn on red.

Steve Parkinson stated it is important to know that when this intersection and the one at State and Middle were done, there were signs added to allow right turn on red except during the pedestrian phase of traffic signal. When this sign is illuminated it prohibits the right turn on red, but when it is out the right turn on red is allowed.

- (E) **Griffin/Greenland Roads** – (Griffin Road) Intersection – Ted Gray referred to on-site there is one standard street sign indicating Griffin Road but 25-30 ft off Middle Rd, suggested in view of the fact of speed of traffic, lack of signs be placed on both lanes of Greenland Rd indicating Griffin Rd is approaching to alleviate confusion there.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to have two new larger signs placed on Greenland Road and appropriate distance back from Griffin Road intersection informing motorists of approach to Griffin Road. Seconded by Fire Chief LeClaire. Motion passed.

- (F) **Sutton/Greenside Streets** – Placement of stop sign – Ron Cypher referred to on-site and suggested referring to Public Works for research as to why signs were placed where they are. Steve Parkinson suggested referring to Public Works to research the issue and report back at next meeting. Before changing anything out there may want to let neighborhood know. Ralph DiBernardo clarified this that they are speaking specifically to the fact that someone expressed the opinion that the stop signs have been changed from the through street to the lesser used street and this is what we are looking at.

MOTION made by Ron Cypher to refer to Public Works to research this issue and report back. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (G) **South St./Summit Ave.** – Request by Portsmouth High School for a “no left turn” sign between 7:00 – 8:00 am and 2:00 – 3:00 pm coming out of the high school – Debbie Finnigin presented the Committee with a plan and informed them that she received a call from Principal of the High School, Forrest Ransdell concerning the left and right turn out of Summit Ave. to South St. The crossing guard at Summit and South Streets would like appropriate signage to help enforce traffic to the right. The only access out of the school is Summit Ave. during this time period. They are requesting a “no left turn” sign at that location from 7:00-8:00 am and from 2:00 to 3:00 pm.

Ralph DiBernardo introduced Debbie Finnigin, the new Traffic Engineer. Debbie stated that a barricade is put up during the a.m. drop off to force all vehicles to exit via Summit Ave. They come in Summit and Andrew Jarvis Drive but can only exit via Summit.

Deputy Police Chief stated his concern with sending all traffic on neighborhoods and did not realize this was the traffic flow.

Ted Gray stated he did not understand why Andrew Jarvis Drive is closed off.

Fire Chief LeClaire asked Deputy Chief if the crossing guard has any legal authority to tell cars they cannot take a left? Dave answered she was delegated that authority from the Police Department to control traffic at that intersection, she can not take enforcement action but pass it on to us.

Steve Parkinson stated the intent was initially when they went one way on Andrew Jarvis, was to have all traffic come in Alumni and go left up and exit out

Summit. Feels we should not allow traffic coming up Summit. If you want good circulation the conflict points need to be eliminated.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to table this until next meeting to give the committee an opportunity to take a more in-depth look at this issue and do an on-site visit with the principal. As this problem exists during the hours of 7:00-8:00 am and 2:00–3:00 pm, Steve Parkinson, Chief LeClaire, Deputy Chief Young and Debbie Finnigin will arrange a meeting with the school and notify the Committee of the day and time so they can attend.

- (H) **State/Summer Streets** – Intersection – Steve Parkinson referred to on-site, the resident living at the intersection noticed an increase in people coming up from Summit to Middle going through the stop sign at State Street. It is in need of a repaint at the stop bar and the stop signs were not at the appropriate height.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to refer to Public Works to update the signage and paint street markings for the intersection. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion Passed.

Fire Chief LeClaire stated he drove coming from Middle up Summer, the first intersection at Austin, when you get to State St. there is a stop sign which doesn't seem to be needed there. Seems like it warrants other two-way stop at State. Debbie Finnigin suggested placing a "stop sign ahead" warning sign 200 ft east of the intersection.

State St. – Debbie Finnigin informed the committee that traveling towards town there are some tree branches in the way of the stop sign, no matter how high the sign is put it will still be an issue and suggested trimming back the tree. Steve stated that if it is a City tree it will be trimmed. If private property will refer to Trees & Public Greenery Committee.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (A) **Church Street** – Ted Gray said the trash cans are still there and wondered if any progress has been made. Steve Parkinson spoke with Legal Dept. there is an Ordinance change going to the City Council next meeting adding the section of Church St. from State to Court to the No Parking Ordinance to prohibit parking in that section. One of the owners has a permit for the dumpster.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION to adjourn. Adjourned at approximately 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Elaine E. Boucas