

**PORTSMOUTH  
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
8:00 a.m. – Thursday, April 9, 2009  
City Hall – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers**

DRAFT

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Councilor Ken Smith, Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 8:15 a.m.

**II. ROLL CALL: Members Present:**

Councilor Ken Smith, Chairman	John Connors, Member
Steve Parkinson, P.E. Public Works Director	John Howe, Member
Deputy Police Chief DiSesa	Christina Westfall, Member
Debbie Finnigan, Traffic Engineer	Brendan Cooney, Member
	Ron Cypher, Member

Absent: Asst. Fire Chief Steve Achilles

Also present were Peter Rice, City Water/Sewer Engineer, Jeff Murray, Engineer CMA, Jeff Clifford, Altus Engineering and Jack Kelly.

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

**IT WAS VOTED** on a Motion made by Ted Gray to accept the minutes of the March 12, 2009 meeting. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

**III. NEW BUSINESS:**

- (A) **2009 Highway Safety Grant** – Request for Approval - (application attached) – Debbie Finnigan reported she submitted this grant for the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline asking for a stealth stat to supplement the Police Department's current equipment so that more can be accomplished. Requested that the committee approved this grant in the amount of \$3100.00.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to approve the Grant application for the NH Highway Safety Agency 2009 Grant Application. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (B) **Route 1 ByPass Northbound Maplewood off Ramp** – Safety Concerns (Map attached) – Ron Cypher referred to the on-site. This was a request for people wanting to get onto Rte.1 By pass northbound from Maplewood Ave. The area is not conducive for this. Reported it is the Committee's suggest that new signage be put up to direct taking the second left putting them onto the southbound side to the Circle going around and coming up north side. While standing there, there were several vehicles going up to that stop sign and went right through. Suggested asking the State to paint the stop bar there and perhaps the word "Stop".

Steve Parkinson responded to the Chair's question of what the state is looking at for that ramp, that ultimately, it is part of the redesign of the Rte.1 By-pass. The plan for that particular area was to eliminate the northbound off ramp at Maplewood Ave making it a full intersection on the Bypass with traffic going up Cutts to Maplewood, signalized intersection. The ramp is the responsibility of the State.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to send a letter to the State outlining the concerns, requesting them to repaint the stop bar and also add the word “Stop” to it. Move the location of the existing stop sign and refer to Public Works to review and change the signage on Maplewood Ave. to be more current. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

Deputy Chief DiSesa stated that the stop sign is located across from two car lengths from the actual intersection, so people approaching that intersection go through the stop sign and go to the stop line so they have a sight line to see over the bridge which is very dangerous turn. Suggested the State move the stop sign closer to that stop line so that people realize there’s a stop sign, a stop line and that is where they are suppose to stop which would alleviate this problem. This location is not an accident haven.

Debbie Finnigan stated the sign is located there so people coming up the ramp can see it, if moved around the corner, would not be able to see it and would also have to add a “Stop Ahead” sign.

- (C) **Safe Routes to School Representative vacant for Traffic & Safety** – The Chair is looking for a volunteer to fill the vacancy for the representative of Traffic and Safety to the SRTS Committee.  
Brendan Cooney volunteered.

**MOTION** made by John Howe that Brendan Cooney will be the Traffic & Safety representative. Seconded by John Connors. Motion passed.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- (A) **Pease Tradeport** – Information only – Letter to PDA endorsing updating existing traffic study – Debbie Finnigan referred to the letter written to the PDA stating that Maria Stowell requested the existing PDA traffic study be updated using current traffic data to determine what improvements need to be made and that this Committee supports this project.
- (B) **Woodbury Avenue** –Signage (letter to NHDOT dated April 1, 2009 attached) – Debbie Finnigan reported that we have been working with the State to figure out what signage we can and cannot put on the highway. We met with them at the end of January. Attachment B is being placed on Market St. ext. southbound. The current I-95 junction sign will be relocated up 300 ft from its current location and the sign in the packet will replace it. Attachment A will be placed on I-95 northbound prior to Exit 5. These signs have been approved.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to approve the report. Seconded by Christina Westfall. Motion passed.

- (C) **State Street** – Review of revised plans – Peter Rice gave an updated status of the State St. reconstruction project. There are modifications to the design. Both actions referred to at the last meeting have been completed.  
Jeff Murray, Project Manager CMA Engineers is present and will go over the proposed changes.

Mr. Murray showed plans of the proposed streetscape which has not changed significantly from what it was. At the intersections of Penhallow and Chapel St. the bump outs were reduced by a foot on either side to make the travel lane 12 ft. Other changes are modifications to the Pleasant St. intersection. After review with their traffic engineer, a school bus could not make that turn at the previously planned delta island and are proposing instead of the delta island to increase the sidewalk width in front of the State St. Saloon and to accommodate this proposing to reduce the four lanes to three. The major change to the layout of the street design is reducing the four lanes to 3 lanes which does not change the traffic flow. Additional improvements at Marcy Street intersection to improve left turn lane coming from Scott Ave. and modifications to existing curbing and adding crosswalks there to accommodate the sidewalk on the north side. There is no loss of parking spaces. We will be working with the Trees & Public Greenery Committee in selecting appropriate trees.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to accept report. Seconded by John Connors. Motion passed.

- (D) **Mechanic Street near Prescott Park Flower Bed** – No Parking – Report Back Police Department – Deputy Chief DiSesa reported this issue came up in January that the Parking Committee wanted to know why there was no parking on the Prescott Park (flower bed side) from Mechanic St. from 11:00 pm. To 6:00 a.m. Capt. Dave Ferland researched this which went back to the mid eighties. Prescott Park and that whole area was being used for illicit activities in cars causing the no parking restriction to control that activity. This has since cleared, but the parking restriction remains in effect.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to accept the report. Seconded by Christina Westfall. Motion passed.

## V. OTHER BUSINESS:

### Referrals from City Boards and Commissions

- A. **198 Islington Place** – 198 Islington Street – Proposed Redevelopment of Existing Building TAC Referral – (Existing Conditions Plan, Site Plan, Traffic Impact letter dated March 12, 2009 and Vehicle Turning Diagrams attached) – Jeff Clifford, Altus Engineering gave a brief overview of the proposed Redevelopment to convert three residences and one hair salon to 14 residential units and no commercial. There are currently 16 parking spaces and the proposed change is that 11 of the spaces will be in the garage space and 5 spaces outdoors. An updated traffic study was submitted. The 400 ft sight distance is more than adequate for 30 MPH.

**MOTION** made by Ted Gray to accept report as presented. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

- B. **Intersection of Middle and State Street** – “No Turn on Red” Sign – Ted Gray asked if the sign was new? Steve Parkinson responded it was installed when the intersection was done 3.5 years ago. The sign only goes on during the pedestrian phase and when lit, you

can't make a no turn on red. The same kind of sign is at Congress and Maplewood.

- C. **143 Pleasant Street – Parking** – Jack Kelly has come before this committee before requesting permission for a curb cut for access to the alley that 143 Pleasant St. has. There is an 8 ft width, the width of a small car is 5 of 6 ft. Mr. Kelly asked if there was some way to stipulate for access to the yard that the vehicle has to be a certain width. One of your concerns was not wanting backing out for safety reasons. There is plenty of room to turn around in the yard and enter Pleasant St. face first. Mr. Kelly asked if the committee would once again reconsider a curb cut and feels it can be done safely.

The Chair suggested this be on our May Agenda for reconsideration with a sight walk to look at it again.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine E. Boucas, Recording Secretary