



MINUTES

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) Marblehead, Massachusetts

March 17, 2025

The TSAC meeting was held at 4:00 p.m. at Abbot Hall, 188 Washington Street, Marblehead and publicly via Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order

Chair Gary Hebert called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and announced it was being recorded.

The following TSAC members were in attendance, by roll call vote, constituting a quorum:

Gary Hebert, resident	Present
Dennis King, Police Chief	Present
David Kucharsky, resident	Present
Maggie Wheeler, Town Engineer	Present
Jason Gilliland, Fire Chief	Present
Thatcher Kezer, ex-officio	Present
Rick Smyers, resident	Present by zoom
Amy McHugh, Director of Public Works	Present; arrived 4:15 PM

2. Public Comment

Elizabeth Kausek of Pickwick Rd voiced concerns about speeding on Brook Rd and requested a stop sign on Brook at Pickwick. Chief King is considering Brook Rd for a speed feedback sign. The area near Hobbs playground could be designated a "safety zone". Stop signs are not recommended as speed control devices, but they could be installed if the intersections are dangerous. Education and enforcement are also appropriate on Brook Rd. Gary Hebert offered to look at the intersection and make recommendations.

Alan Bell of Ocean Ave voiced concerns about two recent crashes on the "S curve" on Ocean Ave and requested additional signage.

Judith Black of Prospect St spoke in support of bicycle infrastructure, mentioning that bike lanes reduce traffic and road maintenance needs, reduce pollution, increase public health, and encourage local shopping.

John Bonner of Jersey St spoke in support of bicycle infrastructure to increase safety for cyclists.

3. Review of crosswalk installation guidelines, Gary Hebert

The Committee discussed the proposed process for reviewing requests and agreed that an initial review of the basic criteria could remove some requests before they make it to the TSAC.

4. Review of MassDOT Vision Zero map, Gary Hebert

MassDOT has identified the corridor from Lafayette St to Pleasant St to Ocean Ave as a high-risk, high-injury corridor. DPW already has consultants looking at options for that corridor. The Complete Streets Committee is also looking at this corridor. Inclusion in the Vision Zero map may make that corridor eligible for state funding in the future.

5. Review of crash data, Gary Hebert

Based on preliminary data reported to MassDOT for Marblehead:

- Overall crashes declined from 2022 to 2023 to 2024
- Injury crashes were roughly flat over that period
- Pleasant St had the most crashes during that period, including one fatality
- From 2004-2022, Marblehead averaged 10 annual crashes with vulnerable users, about half of which were cyclists.
- Crashes with vulnerable users were concentrated at key intersections in town
- Crashes with vulnerable users increased to 17 in 2024

The Committee discussed the possible impact of e-bikes and their potential contribution to the increase in crashes.

The Committee discussed the new law requiring drivers to leave 4 feet of space when passing vulnerable road users. Signs are being provided by the state to remind drivers of this responsibility. Other ways to educate drivers may be needed. Salem is distributing road safety flyers along with tax bills.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting is April 14th, 2025.

7. Adjourn 4:54pm

Motion to Adjourn made by Dennis King and seconded by Jason Gilliland. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Smyers
Secretary