



MINUTES

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)

July 15, 2024

The TSAC meeting met in hybrid session at 4:00 p.m. at Abbot Hall, 188 Washington Street, Marblehead. The following TSAC members were in attendance which constitutes a quorum:

Gary Hebert, Chair, resident

Dennis King, Police Chief

Jason Gilliland, Fire Chief

Amy McHugh, Director, Department of Public Works

Charles Quigley, Town Engineer

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion To approve meeting minutes (5-20-24) made by Jason Gilliland and seconded Charles Quigley: All in favor. June 17 meeting minutes approval tabled.

3. Public Comment – None

4. UPDATE (Police Chief King) Markings and Signs at Village/Glover Schools

Work on two Safe Route to Schools grants involving the Village Street and Glover Street Schools are being undertaken this summer. Village Street improvements, while not fully completed, are noticeable and providing safer drop off/pick up areas in front of the Village Street School. Additional shoulder lines were added in front on Maple Street by Glover School to slow Maple Street traffic as it passes the Glover School.

5. Beach Street

Town is working through a multi-phase process – examining studies, signage and new design concepts, as Beach Street traffic calming is one of the Task assignments of the Town's infrastructure consultant. This Task should be done within the next two to three months. Chief King reported that MPD completed a Beach Street a radar speed/volume study from 6/27 to 7/5/2024. Over the 8-day period, some 14,500 vehicles were counted or roughly 1,800 vehicles during a typical day. As expected, this is roughly double the volume counted during the off-season when Devereux Beach is not as busy. The 85th percentile speed – the speed at which 85% of all the traffic was at or below -- was just above 25 mph. The measured average speed 23 mph. This data supports the finding that speed sign board has had a positive impact on motorist behavior and has lowered Beach Street speeds compared to off-season measurements taken in prior years. While the data indicates speeding is not a great an issue as it appears to have been in past, the Town is still looking to have Beach Street as a Complete Street Project. The interim measures of a speed feedback sign and increased enforcement have succeeded in reducing Beach Street travel speeds.

Motion To take no action at this time made by Jason Gilliland and seconded by Charles Quigley. All in favor.

6. Update – Mid-year evaluation of Town wide Crashes

Gary Hebert reviewed the reported crashes as identified on the MassDOT Impact Crash data website. He reviewed roughly 4000 crashes over a 20-year period and found that crashes and crash rates reported in Marblehead are lower than the vast majority of Massachusetts communities. The skewed intersection of Baldwin/ Smith /Pleasant was the highest crash location in Town over the last 20 years but has a lower crash rate than average for signalized intersections carrying similar traffic volumes within Massachusetts.

MassDOT data indicates that 76 reported crashes occurred in Marblehead between 1/1/24 and 6/16/24, just under a six-month period. Of the 76 crashes, 8 involved personal injuries and 2 involved vulnerable users. Focus of attention to Pleasant Street and Atlantic Avenue for improvements is supported by crash data.

On a similar note, Rick Smyers submitted a map highlighting problematic corridors for bicycling.

Amy noted that there will a Townwide Bike Plan public engagement meeting is scheduled for Abbot Hall on July 30th at 8pm. there is to collect resident input for the Bike Plan- the plan does include all forms of alternate transportation (motorized wheelchairs, etc.) Survey is on Marblehead.org on Planning and Highway page.

7. Resident Traffic Change Requests – status report

Many Traffic Change Requests are being incorporated in ongoing Town plans and investigations. Chief Gilliland noted that new fire lane requests from were installed at Hawkes and Lindsey Streets, Waldron and Gregory Streets, as well as Orne and Beacon Streets.

Sidewalks are being added on Commercial Street and installation should start soon of a new sidewalk on Lafayette Street between the Salem line and Maple Street. A summer intern for DPW is working on development of street and sign layers for the Marblehead GIS system.

8. Next meeting date, potential agenda items, and TSAC assignments

August 19, 2024

9. Motion made to adjourn 4:43 pm by Jason Gilliland and Dennis King seconded: All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy McHugh
Secretary