



MARBLEHEAD TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

8th QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE SELECT BOARD

August to October 2025

Under the Town's adopted Article 49 of the 2023 Town Meeting, the TSAC was formed to provide advisory assistance to the Select Board on matters pertaining to the safety aspects of the town's transportation infrastructure and promoting the Town's Complete Streets policy. As an advisory body, we are submitting this quarterly report to inform the Select Board of our recommendations. We recognize it is the Select Board's prerogative to determine which of TSAC recommendations it considers are priorities and wishes to advance. We further recognize that unless the TSAC's recommended actions include already programmed labor costs and materials either in stock or planned, they may not be pursued. In such cases, the TSAC is available to assist the Select Board with unfunded actions it still considers as priorities by pursuing additional grant/funding opportunities.

During this period, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) held three hybrid public meetings, on August 18, September 15, and October 20, 2025.

At each meeting, the TSAC presented and debated safety issues consistent with our mission statement. Residents offered comments about traffic safety issues in town and generally wished to reduce excessive speeding to make Marblehead's roads safer for its vulnerable road users including pedestrians and bicyclists, while preserving or enhancing the town's unique character.

TSAC accomplishments during this period:

- A. At all three meetings, the TSAC discussed how the Town should address the growth in E bikes and an up-tick in E bike related crashes.** At all three meetings, the TSAC discussed how the Town should address the growth in e-bikes and an uptick in e-bike related crashes. The TSAC chair gave an introductory presentation on e-bikes issues (the most recent is attached) and the options Marblehead has for local regulation of e-bikes. The TSAC focused on improving e-bike education as the top priority. Rick Smyers, elected as the new Chair, helped the TSAC identify its target audience and the need for simple repeated messaging.

One key message is that **"20 is Plenty"** -- any bike, moped, or scooter that provides power over 20mph is regulated as a motorcycle and requires a license and registration to operate. Anecdotally, many of the problems in Marblehead stem from underaged operators of these unregistered "electric motorcycles" rather than e-bikes.

B. As annually required, the TSAC elected a new Chair, Rick Smyers, and Police Chief Dennis King as the new recording Secretary.

We welcome the Select Board's feedback and direction, as necessary.

Respectfully submitted,
Marblehead Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

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