

Memorandum

To: Board of Selectmen, Town Manager

From: Transportation Advisory Committee

Subject: Request for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for improvements to Pleasant/Mass Ave intersection

Date: 3 March 2003

Background:

Since 1992, 132 crashes have occurred at the intersection of Pleasant/Mystic and Mass Avenue; 48 resulting in injuries. This intersection is ranked as the most dangerous intersection in Arlington over the last ten years. In the three year period between 1998 to 2000, crashes at this intersection have increased more than 25% compared to the periods from 1992-1994 and 1995 to 1997. Between 1998 to 2000, there was an average of 1.42 crashes per month compared to an average of 1.11 in the prior periods.

The Summer/Mystic, Mystic/Chestnut, and Pleasant/Mass Ave intersection is very complex. It carries heavy vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic. The Assessment Study (Chart 3) prepared by Louis Berger Associates measured pedestrian volume at this intersection as:

217 between 7AM and 9AM, or 108 per hour, and
358 between 4PM and 6 PM, or 179 per hour.

The Assessment Study (pg 37) also identified this intersections as the most important to improve.

Request:

Over the long term, it is important to work on the major issues of this complex series of intersections, but there are less expensive things that can be implemented to improve safety in the near term. These might include:

- New signal heads that indicate time remaining for pedestrian/cyclists to cross.
- Study and adjustment of the signal timing balance of the intersection.
- Additional signage to reinforce the changes that are made.

The Transportation Advisory Committee respectfully requests that \$25,000 be identified from the CDBG funds to hire professional assistance to make specific recommendations, and to acquire and install new heads/signs.

Respectfully requested,

Edward Starr, Chair
Transportation Advisory Committee