

ARLINGTON TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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Memorandum

To: Board of Selectmen, Arlington, Mass
From: Transportation Advisory Committee
Subject: Churchill Avenue
Reference: Board of Selectmen Letter: October 7, 2004
Date: April 25, 2005

Residents of Churchill Avenue raised the issue excessive vehicle speeds in their neighborhood and the disregard for Stop signs at Wildwood Avenue. The TAC has reviewed these issues as well as the intersection of Endicott Road/Churchill Avenue. At its meeting on 2/22/05, the TAC voted favorably on the following recommendations. An attached Summary of Findings provides justification for these recommendations.

1. Churchill Avenue

- a. Provide spot Police presence during morning commute hours.
- b. Provide radar speed sign to educate motorist of excessive speeds.

2. Churchill Avenue/Endicott Road

- c. Install a new Stop sign and Stop bar for the Endicott Road approach to Churchill Avenue.

3. Churchill Avenue/Wildwood Avenue

- d. Install a new advance Stop sign warning for the Churchill Avenue southbound approach to Wildwood Avenue.
- e. Install Stop bars at all existing Stop sign locations.

Sincerely,

Edward Starr
Chair – Transportation Advisory Committee

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Churchill Avenue Neighborhood Concerns

Churchill Avenue

Churchill Avenue is a popular route to Arlington High School and its intersection with Massachusetts Avenue is unsignalized making it a popular cut-through route for people looking to avoid the lights at Jason Street. The section of Churchill Avenue between Gray Street and Massachusetts Avenue consists of a significant slope down to Massachusetts Avenue which can encourage higher speeds. Traffic was measured on the 26th and 27th of October 2004. Northbound (toward Mass Ave.) volume was an average of 440 vehicles each day with an 85% speed of 30 mph. Southbound volume was an average of 290 vehicles with an 85% speed of 30 mph. The 95% speed in each direction was 34 mph. While these figures are not excessive several measures can be taken to help reduce speeds. The following is recommended:

- a. Provide spot Police presence during morning commute hours.
- b. Provide radar speed sign to educate motorist of excessive speeds.

Churchill Avenue/Endicott Road

Endicott Road connects Churchill Avenue to Gray Street. Due to the geometry of its intersections with these streets (significantly less than 90 degrees), vehicles traveling from Gray Street onto Endicott Road continuing to Churchill Avenue can do so without the need to slow down significantly. This situation not only encourages higher speeds northbound from Endicott Road onto Churchill Avenue, it provides for an undesirable situation at the Endicott Road/Churchill Avenue intersection where vehicle right-of-way is unclear. In order to slow down vehicles traveling from Endicott Road onto Churchill Avenue the following is recommended:

- c. Install a new Stop sign and Stop bar for the Endicott Road approach to Churchill Avenue.

Churchill Avenue/Wildwood Avenue

The intersection of Churchill Avenue is stop controlled on both approaches to Wildwood Avenue. The curb radius turning onto Wildwood is extremely large. This condition makes the existing Stop signs difficult to place correctly. In addition, the Stop sign on the southbound approach is difficult to see given the presence of street trees. In order to make the existing Stop signs more functional, the following is recommended:

- d. Install a new advance Stop sign warning for the Churchill Avenue southbound approach to Wildwood Avenue.
- e. Install Stop bars at all existing Stop sign locations.