

**Town of Arlington  
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Tuesday, October 28, 2003 7:15 PM

Committee members present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Larry Englisher, Lt. Jim McHugh, Kevin O'Brien, Mike Rademacher, John Sanchez, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, David Walkinshaw

Others: Ray Bradley, Alan Jones, Paolo Marinelli,

**1. The minutes of 9/23/03 were approved unanimously.**

David Walkinshaw, John Sanchez and Mike Rademacher arrived at this point.

**2. Meeting dates**

For 2004, meetings will generally be on the 4th Tuesday of each month, except for 11/16 and 12/14.

**3. Hutchinson Road**

Larry Englisher reported there has been no recent activity. Three items were discussed:

- Traffic counts on Oldham Road are not worth doing, given the light volume
- Hutchinson Rd is too narrow for edge lines.
- An issue is that there is no sidewalk. Jim McHugh suggested that our report include a recommendation for a sidewalk, even though we realize that no funds are available at this time. Scott Smith suggested that we consult the ITE guidelines for sidewalk installation before making this recommendation.

**4. Rawson Road**

The following recommendations were discussed:

- a. Asking the MBTA to move the westbound bus stop to the near side corner of Broadway and Rawson, and make it a no-parking zone. This has the following advantages:
  - Allows this bus stop to be a stop where the bus can pull to the curb (and not a "standing" stop, as is typical for the Route 87 bus). This enables the bus to stop without obstructing traffic on Broadway, and makes it easier for mobility-challenged people to board and alight.
  - The no-parking zone ensures sufficient visibility for traffic on Rawson, by leaving at least 50' clear of parked vehicles.

It would remove one to two parking spaces that are currently legal, or two to three parking spaces that are currently used.

David Walkinshaw expressed concern about removal of the parking spaces. Scott Smith noted that although 50 feet of parking restriction is required to meet AASHTO stopping sight distance (SSD) criteria (25 mph design speed, 2.5 second reaction time yields an SSD of 150'), even keeping 20 feet clear would be an improvement over current parking practice. Jim McHugh noted that current law requires 20-foot clearance, but it is not enforced, because Police hesitate to enforce a parking restriction that has not been adequately signed.

- b. On Warren Street, prohibit parking for a distance of 50' (more-or-less one house). Again, it

was thought that simply signing and enforcing the current 20-foot rule might be a more appropriate, incremental, approach.

c. Erect stop-ahead signs on the approach to Rawson/Warren (especially on Rawson southbound). David Walkinshaw noted that potentially a parked vehicle could obstruct any stop sign. Scott Smith noted that the need for improved signage was greater here than at other intersections because of (a) the high injury-accident rate at this intersection, (b) the people involved in the crashes tend not to be residents of the neighborhood, and may be unfamiliar with the intersection, (c) Warren Street is busy, making it likely that a person running the stop sign will be involved in a crash, (d) in a densely populated neighborhood such as this, parked vehicles are more likely to be present.

d. There was general agreement on the following items:

- signing and enforcing the current 20-foot restriction on Broadway and Warren Streets
- maintaining the stop lines
- according to data gathered by APD, speed was not a major issue on Warren Street.
- a 4-way stop is not warranted at either intersection.

## **5. Quincy and Gray**

Elisabeth Carr-Jones discussed some of the perceived problems and potential solutions. The solution favored by residents is a Traffic Supervisor. John Sanchez suggested that it might be possible to make this an official school zone, with a lower speed limit. He volunteered to check into its applicability. Elisabeth also reported that David McKenna indicated that it was unlikely that a Traffic Supervisor would be reinstated at this intersection.

Several options, including signage and paint were discussed, as was a sidewalk on the south side of Gray. It was agreed to have specific recommendations at the next meeting.

## **6. Pace Car**

Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported no news.

## **7. Mass. Ave. Corridor East Arlington**

Scott Smith presented a Statement of Work outline. Kevin O'Brien suggested that goals be added. Scott outlined the work that had been done on the corridor to date, and reviewed the goals that were developed at a previous working group meeting:

1. Improve safety for all users: motorists, pedestrians and cyclists
2. Maintain mobility for all users along Mass. Ave at an acceptable level-of-service
  - Don't attract new auto traffic
  - Reduce through traffic on neighborhood streets
3. Improve the environment for transit users by coordinating bus stop with crosswalks.
4. Encourage a more orderly traffic flow.
5. Enhance the streetscape of the area.
6. Increase business patronage, by improving the pedestrian environment while maintaining parking.

Both David Walkinshaw and Kevin O'Brien indicated that working with the Arlington Redevelopment Board is essential. Kevin O'Brien plans to have the Mass. Ave. corridor on the agenda for the 11/17 Redevelopment Board meeting.

## **8. Mass/Rt. 60 CDBG Update**

Ed Starr reported that an initial meeting would be held next week. .

## **9. Summer Street**

Ed Starr reported on the suggestions we wished to make for Summer Street. They include minor signage changes, and a possible reconfiguration of the crosswalk at Brattle Street. John Sanchez said at this point it would be best to wait until after it was under contract, and an engineer for the project was on board.

## **10. Town News**

David Walkinshaw reported that the neighbors at Jason and Spring are concerned about a fence the MWRA plans to erect. Jim McHugh indicated that traffic on North Union Street (Thompson School) might become an issue for TAC.

## **The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM**

### **Handouts:**

Agenda packet including agenda and meeting – from Ed Starr

Minutes from 9/2003, draft recommendations for Rawson/Broadway and Rawson/Warren, draft work plan for Mass. Ave Corridor CDBG funds – from Scott Smith

Quincy/Gray intersection notes – from Elisabeth Carr-Jones