

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
8:00 AM – Thursday, August 21, 2003
City Hall - Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Alex Hanson, Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m.

II: ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Alex Hanson, Chair, Asst. Mayor	Hank Greenberg, Member
John Burke, Dir.Parking & Transportation	Deputy Fire Chief Steve Achilles
Dave Allen, Deputy Public Works Director	Ron Cypher, Member
Deputy Police Chief Dave Young	Ted Gray, Member
	Ralph DiBernardo, Member

Absent: Herb Bunnell

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion by Ralph DiBernardo to accept the minutes of the Traffic & Safety Committee meeting of July 17, 2003. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

(A) Sagamore Road/Wentworth Road – 8/12/03 Letter to NHDOT attached – Requesting that NHDOT conduct a signal warrants analysis of the intersection.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

(A) Plains Ave./Pevery Hill Road Traffic Signals – Report Back – John Burke stated that the intersection would be evaluated for geometric improvement and signal timing later in the fall. He will bring a report back once the analysis is completed.

(B) Sheafe Street – Traffic Flow/Safety – Resident request to review one-way circulation – Ted Gray referred to the on-site review with residents. Parking will be pulled back from the intersections to make sure that when cars enter Sheafe Street, there will be room for exiting cars to get around them. .

MOTION made by Ted Gray to re-institute Sheafe Street to a two-way street and to eliminate the most easterly parking space on Sheafe Street, paint the curbs where there will be no parking (100 ft from Chapel Street), and cross-hatch the no parking area. Seconded by Ralph DiBernardo. Motion passed. Hank Greenberg opposed.

Alex Hanson suggested the residents be present at the September 22nd City Council meeting for the public hearing since an Ordinance change will be required.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) Court Place – Emergency Response/Proposed one-way – Fire Dept./PWD referral. Deputy Fire Chief Steve Achilles referred to the on-site review. Initial proposal was to make it one-way from Court to State Streets so that Court Place would not have to be signalized (for the Fire Station). However, a solution was developed to keep it two-way, by bumping out an island at the Court Street/Court Place intersection where the signal post can be installed.

MOTION made by Steve Achilles to leave Court Place a two-way street and install a Fire Station Traffic Signal post at the intersection as proposed. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (B) Hanover St./Market St. – Review Need for Turn Lanes @ intersection – PWD referral. – Ralph DiBernardo referred to the on-site review. There is a need to improve traffic flow from the Parking Garage. Installing a right- and left-hand turning lane on Hanover Street at Market St. will reduce queuing back to the parking garage entrance. This will be accomplished by replacing the temporary bus parking space, which is no longer needed by COAST, with 3 metered parking spaces and eliminating 3 metered parking spaces at the corner of Hanover and Market Street to allow for the right- and left-turn lanes.

MOTION made by Ralph DiBernardo to install left- and right-turn lanes with appropriate markings on Hanover Street at its intersection with Market Street, replace the temporary bus stop with 3 metered parking spaces and eliminate the three easterly most parking spaces on Hanover St. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

- (C) Maplewood/Cutts/Rt. 1 Bypass – Signal/4-Way Stop Warrants – Chairman referral – John Burke stated that he spoke with the NHDOT on this issue and they have agreed to meet with him and the Police Department to review a 4-way stop condition. There have been eight reported accidents in the past three years. The interchange is being redesigned but construction is still at least 4 years away. The City is

interested in exploring the need for temporary traffic control for all four approaches. The flashing yellow beacon would be changed to red and stop signs would be installed. The City will want to make sure that adequate sight distance and advance notification is provided drivers of the stop condition. The State is most interested in making sure that no traffic backs up from the 4-way stop onto the Bypass. John will report back.

- (D) South/Broad Street – Sight Distance – Chairman referral – Ron Cypher referred to the on-site review and stated that the bushes at the intersection obscure sight and that it is worse for an SUV. Two reported accidents have occurred in the last three years. The hedge for the left-hand view coming out of Broad St. hangs out at least a foot over the sidewalk. The right-side view is also obscured by a hedge that hangs out a foot over the sidewalk. He suggested the hedges be cut back at least to the City property line.

MOTION made by Ron Cypher to have the hedges cut back at least to the City line on both sides of the street. Seconded by Hank Greenberg. Motion passed.

- (E) Water Country Directional Signage – 7/15 email from Citywide Neighborhood Chair and 7/22 email from Stonegate Neighborhood President – All traffic from Water Country is currently routed down Constitution to Banfield to Ocean to Rte. 33 to I95. The Citywide Neighborhood Association would like it route to Route 1 to I95, however, until the intersection of Constitution and US 1 is signalized, this is not possible. John Burke stated that the project is in the state’s 10-year plan but they are currently proposing to move it from 2007 to 2012. John stated that the City will be objecting to this delay at the upcoming GACIT Hearings on the 10-Year Plan. Alex Hanson suggested John put together a letter on behalf of the Committee. John suggested that in the meantime, the I95 traffic could be split. SB traffic could be directed toward Ocean Road on Banfield and NB traffic could be directed toward Peverly Hill Road. After all, it is faster for NB traffic to exit via Peverly Hill Road to get to I95 than Ocean Road.

MOTION made by Ralph DiBernardo to change the signage at intersection of Banfield and Constitution indicating 95 N in one direction and 95 S in the other with appropriate signage. Ted Gray seconded. Motion passed.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

Martin Cameron, President of the Ocean Road/Maplehaven Neighborhood Association first thanked Public Works for clearing out the right of way of brush and debris. He asked that 20 MPH signs be posted at all entrances going into Maplehaven. There is presently one sign on Winchester posted 20 MPH. If it is not posted it is assumed to be 30 MPH. There are a lot of

children who play in the street. He also requested “children playing” signs. Alex Hanson suggested having a motion to check the Ordinance and have the appropriate Ordinance drafted to change to 20 MPH.

MOTION made by Hank Greenberg to check the Ordinance and to draft any necessary Ordinance to allow 20-MPH postings on all entrances to Maplehaven. Seconded by Steve Achilles. Motion passed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Elaine E. Boucas