



TOWN OF WINCHESTER  
71 MT. VERNON STREET, WINCHESTER, MA  
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
PHONE 781-721-7120 / FAX 781-721-7166

**TO:** Richard Howard, Town Manager  
Mark Twogood, Assistant Town Manager

**FROM:** Beth Rudolph, P.E., Town Engineer *BER*

**DATE:** July 27, 2016

**RE:** Traffic Advisory Committee Recommendations

The Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) met on July 18, 2016 to discuss the following issues:

- (1) Request for stop sign at intersection of St. Thomas More Drive and Aristotle Drive;
- (2) Request for traffic calming/Do Not Enter sign at Glen Road;
- (3) Request for traffic calming on Pond Street;
- (4) Request for striping of turning lanes at three locations;
- (5) Request for extension of "No Parking" zone on Everett Avenue following completion of the Cambridge Street/Everett Avenue intersection reconstruction;
- (6) Request for new signage at intersection of Grove Street and the Symmes Corner rotary;
- (7) Concerns about truck traffic on Ridge Street near the Woburn line;
- (8) Concerns about speeding on Lockeland Road; and
- (9) Concerns about wrong way traffic on Laraway Road and pick-up/drop-off parking at Quill Rotary.

In attendance at the meeting were Town Engineer Beth Rudolph; Assistant Town Engineer Matt Haringa; DPW Director Jay Gill; Town Planner Brian Szekely; and Safety Officer Sgt. Tom Groux. Fire Chief John Nash was unable to attend the meeting.

A summary of the Committee's discussion and recommendations pertaining to these items is provided below.

**Stop sign request at intersection of St. Thomas More Drive and Aristotle Drive**

On March 16, 2016, the Town Manager's office received an email from Lisa and Bernie Deutsch, residents of 7 Wainwright Road, requesting that the Town install a new stop sign on St. Thomas More Drive at the intersection with Aristotle Drive. Mr. and Mrs. Deutsch noted that a new house had been constructed on the corner with a high stone wall that adversely impacts the line of sight.

**TAC Recommendation:** TAC was in favor of the proposed stop sign on St. Thomas More Drive at the intersection with Aristotle Drive.

### **Traffic Calming on Glen Road**

On March 30, 2016, the Town Manager's office received a letter signed by multiple residents of the Glen Road neighborhood expressing concern over the volume and speed of cut-through traffic in their neighborhood. Specific requests included the following:

- (1) Installation of a "Do Not Enter" sign at the corner of Glen Road and Cambridge Street to prevent non-residents from using it as a cut-through.
- (2) Installation of a "Do Not Enter" sign at the corner of Church Street and Glen Road to prevent cut-through traffic "during the hours school aged children are walking to and from school (7-9am and 2-6pm).

TAC Recommendation: Earlier this year, the Town has received a similar request from residents of Glen Road, which was discussed at the March TAC meeting. Following that meeting, the Engineering Department collected speed and volume data on Glen Road. The results of that traffic study are summarized in the TAC memo from that meeting. TAC does not recommend that "Do Not Enter" signs be placed on both ends of Glen Road – *i.e.* at the Church Street end and the Cambridge Street end, as has been requested by the residents. However, we would be open to a "Do Not Enter" sign at one end, depending on which direction appears to have the most cut-through traffic. TAC recommends that a public hearing be held with the neighborhood to discuss their concerns.

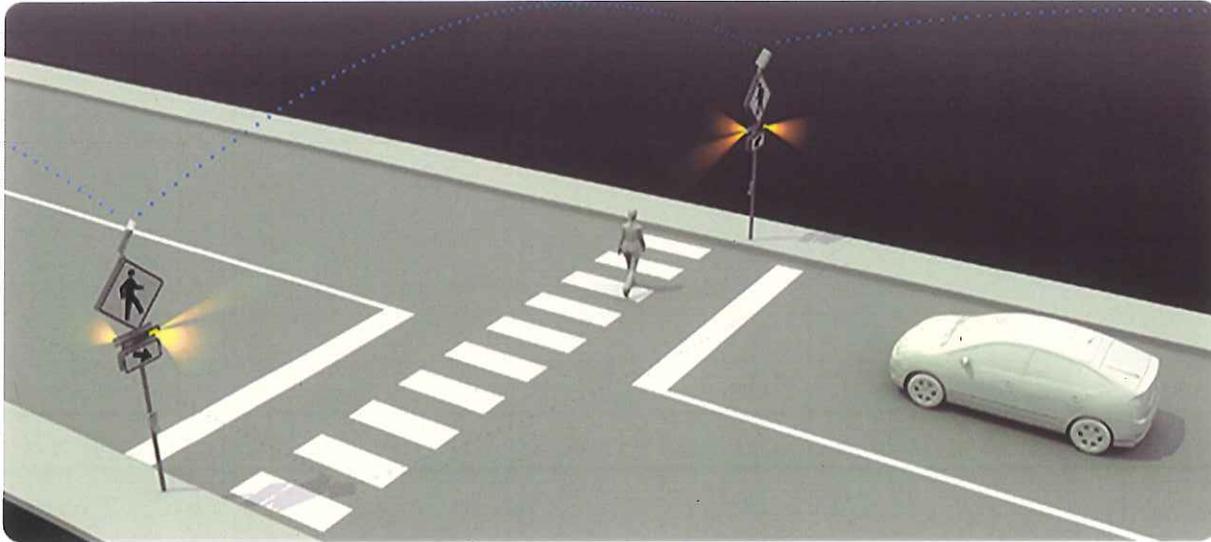
As noted in our previous recommendation, MassDOT is in the process of installing a new signal at the intersection of Cambridge Street and Everett Avenue, and upgrading the existing signals at the intersection of Cambridge Street at High Street/Church Street, and the intersection of Church, Bacon, and Fletcher Streets. Therefore, it may make sense to wait to install any signage until after that work is completed, and to reevaluate the traffic volumes to see if the signal upgrades impact the traffic patterns on Glen Road.

### **Traffic Calming on Pond Street**

On June 2, 2016, the Town Manager's office received an email from Mr. Jon Taylor, a resident of 24 Chesterford Road, noting his concerns about the speed and volume of traffic on Pond Street. He specifically noted his concerns regarding the conflict between pedestrians and vehicles at the intersection of Pond Street and Chesterford Road, where the entrance to the Horn Pond trails are located. He requested that the Town place traffic calming devices along this stretch of roadway.

TAC Recommendation: The Town of Winchester has recently applied to MassDOT for funding under the Complete Streets Program. This program provides communities up to \$400,000 for complete streets related projects, with the money needing to be spent by June 30, 2017. The state hopes to continue this program for five years.

Winchester has requested funding in the first fiscal year of the program to install a Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at the crosswalk located at the intersection of Pond Street and Chesterford Road that is used to access the Horn Pond trail network. Below is a figure showing how a typical RRFB works. The RRFB will help improve pedestrian safety at this crossing.



### **Request for Turn Lanes on Wildwood, Lake, and Church Streets**

On June 6, 2016, the Town Manager's office received a letter from Lisa and Bernie Deutsch of 7 Wainwright Road requesting that turning lanes be added to Wildwood Street in both directions at the intersection with Cambridge Street, on Lake Street at the intersection with Main Street, and on Church Street at the intersection with Bacon and Fletcher Streets.

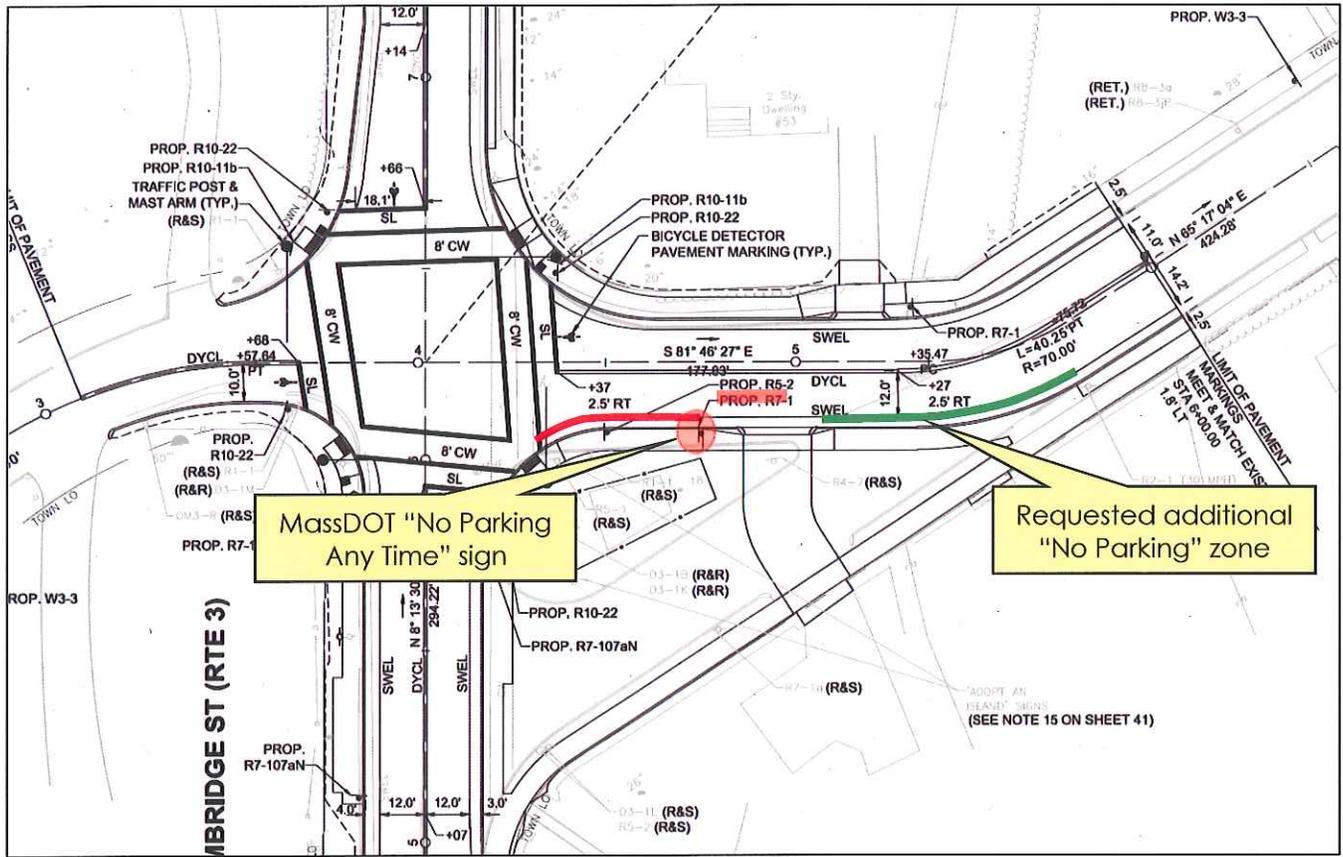
**TAC Recommendation:** Prior to the meeting, Sgt. Groux measured Wildwood Street in both directions – heading west, the lane approaching Cambridge Street is 16-foot wide and heading east it is 20-foot wide. Therefore, the westbound lane is not wide enough to install a dedicated turn lane. Heading eastbound, the 20-foot width would be wide enough accommodate a dedicated turning lane. However, the signal located at the intersection of Cambridge Street and Wildwood Street is owned and operated by MassDOT, not the Town of Winchester. The Town would need to get approval from MassDOT before any changes were made to the striping at that intersection. It is possible that MassDOT would not approve the change since there is no dedicated turn signal on the light.

TAC found that the lane on Lake Street was not wide enough to install a dedicated turn lane at that location. At the Church/Bacon/Fletcher Street intersection, MassDOT is in the process of installing a new signal at that location and updating the intersection geometry and striping. There will be a dedicated right turn lane installed on Church Street (eastbound) turning onto Bacon Street, and there will be a dedicated left turn lane installed on Church Street (westbound) turning onto Bacon Street.

### **Everett Avenue No Parking Zone**

On June 21, 2016, the Town Manager's office received a letter from Kevin and Stephanie Sarney of 54 Everett Avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Sarney live at the corner of Everett Avenue and Cambridge Street, and their driveway will be extended as part of the MassDOT intersection improvements, which include reconfiguring the intersection to remove the right turn only lane from Cambridge Street onto Everett Avenue, and installing new traffic signals. The Sarney's have requested that a "no parking" zone be installed on Everett Avenue from the corner of Cambridge Street to the east of their driveway.

TAC Recommendation: TAC is in favor of Mr. and Mrs. Sarney's request. We agreed that there will be a line of sight issue for the Sarney's as they pull out of their driveway. It should be noted that MassDOT has already required a "no parking" zone to the west side of Mr. Sarney's proposed driveway extension. The figure below shows the "no parking" signage that will be installed by MassDOT, as well as the additional "no parking" zone requested by Mr. and Mrs. Sarney.



**Request for Turn Lanes on Wildwood, Lake, and Church Streets**

On June 24, 2016, the Town Manager's office received an email from Deborah Johnson of 14 Wickham Road. She requested that the Town consider installing a "No Left Turn" or "Right Turn Only" sign on the north end of Grove Street where it intersects with the rotary at Symmes Corner. She noted that people unfamiliar with the area are often unclear with how to get to Bacon Street from Grove Street, which can sometimes result in people going the wrong way through the rotary exit toward Grove Street (*i.e.* the wrong way through two stop signs).

TAC Recommendation: TAC agreed that the intersection is dangerous and can be confusing for people unfamiliar with the area in understanding how to navigate from Grove Street to Bacon Street. TAC recommended that a "No left turn" sign be added to the area, as well as the painting of a right arrow on the pavement.

### **Ridge Street Traffic Concerns**

On June 28, 2016, the Town Manager's office received an email from Mr. Patrick Collier of 194 Ridge Street stating his concerns regarding the volume and speed of heavy truck traffic on Ridge Street in the area where he lives.

TAC Recommendation: TAC noted that the Town is in the process of designing new traffic signals for the intersection of Johnson Road and Ridge Street. The new signal should aid in reducing vehicle speeds through the neighborhood. Sgt. Groux will reach out to Mr. Collier in the meantime to further discuss his concerns.

### **Lockeland Road Speeding Concerns**

On June 29, 2016, the Town Manager's office received a letter from Suzanne Wasserman and Chad Kocur of 7 Lockeland Road expressing their concerns regarding the high speed of vehicles driving on Lockeland Road. Ms. Wasserman and Mr. Kocur requested that the Town develop a traffic calming plan, including the following:

- Ban commercial trucks (18-wheelers);
- Install speed cameras (photo radar) with posted signs of violations if speed limits are exceeded;
- Install curb extensions;
- Narrow the travel lanes through bike lanes, striping, sidewalk extensions, or installation of street trees;
- Painting "SLOW" on the road surface; and/or
- Adding crosswalk signage at the following locations: High Street, Lockeland Road and Manomet Street, Ridge Street and Lockeland Road, and Mullen Field to the Fire Station.

TAC Recommendation: As part of the Complete Streets program for the current fiscal year, the Town has requested funding to install "Your Speed" radar signs in both directions on Lockeland Road. In the meantime, Sgt. Groux has indicated that he will put the mobile speed trailer out on Lockeland Road and increase enforcement in that area.

TAC noted that the travel lanes on Lockeland Road were approximately 11-feet already, and does not recommend narrowing the lanes further with curb or sidewalk extensions. There is not sufficient room to strip a bikelane in either directions, as they require a minimum of 5-feet in width, and the travel lanes should not be narrower than 10-feet. Additionally, the sidewalk on the south side of Lockeland Road is located directly adjacent to the roadway, and there is not sufficient room within the public right-of-way to shift it over and add a grass strip that would be wide enough to plant street trees. There is currently no sidewalk on the north side of Lockeland Road. However, TAC does not recommend planting street trees in the existing grass strip on that side in case the Town ever decided to move forward with installation of a sidewalk on that side of the road as well.

DPW Director Jay Gill said that the DPW will look at the existing crosswalk signage in the Lockeland Road corridor and refresh it as needed. TAC is not in favor of installing additional crosswalks at Lockeland Road and High Street or at Mullen Field to the Fire Station, since there is no sidewalk on the north side of Lockeland Road. TAC recommends that the addition of crosswalks at Lockeland and Ridge Street be evaluated as part of an overall study of that area to improve the intersection geometry.

### **Traffic Concerns on Laraway Road**

On July 1, 2016, the Town Manager's office received a letter from Ms. Peggy Schleicher of 22 Lochwan Street expressing her concerns regarding people exiting the wrong way on Laraway Road, which is a one-way street from Waterfield Road to the Quill Rotary. Ms. Schleicher also asked if TAC could reexamine the traffic patterns around the rotary. She noted particular concerns with cars attempting to enter the rotary from the "unofficial" pick-up/drop-off spaces under the bridge.

**TAC Recommendation:** TAC agreed with Ms. Schleicher's concern regarding the traffic on Laraway Road. DPW indicated that they would paint arrows on Laraway Road to help reinforce the one-way traffic patterns. With respect to the rotary circulation concerns, the Planning Board and Selectmen have recently hired three landscape architecture firms to complete a corridor analysis along Shore Road, through the rotary, down Laraway Road, to the Waterfield Parking Lot. TAC recommends holding off on any suggestions regarding the rotary circulation until the studies are completed.