



TOWN OF WINCHESTER  
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ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
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**TO:** Richard Howard, Town Manager  
Mark Twogood, Assistant Town Manager

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

**DATE:** September 26, 2016

**RE:** Traffic Advisory Committee Recommendations

The Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) met on September 20, 2016 to discuss the following issues:

- (1) No Parking request on Everett Avenue;
- (2) Stop sign request on Briarwood Lane and Sussex Road;
- (3) Concerns about traffic on Main Street near Highland Avenue; and
- (4) Pedestrian concerns on South Border Road and Highland Avenue.

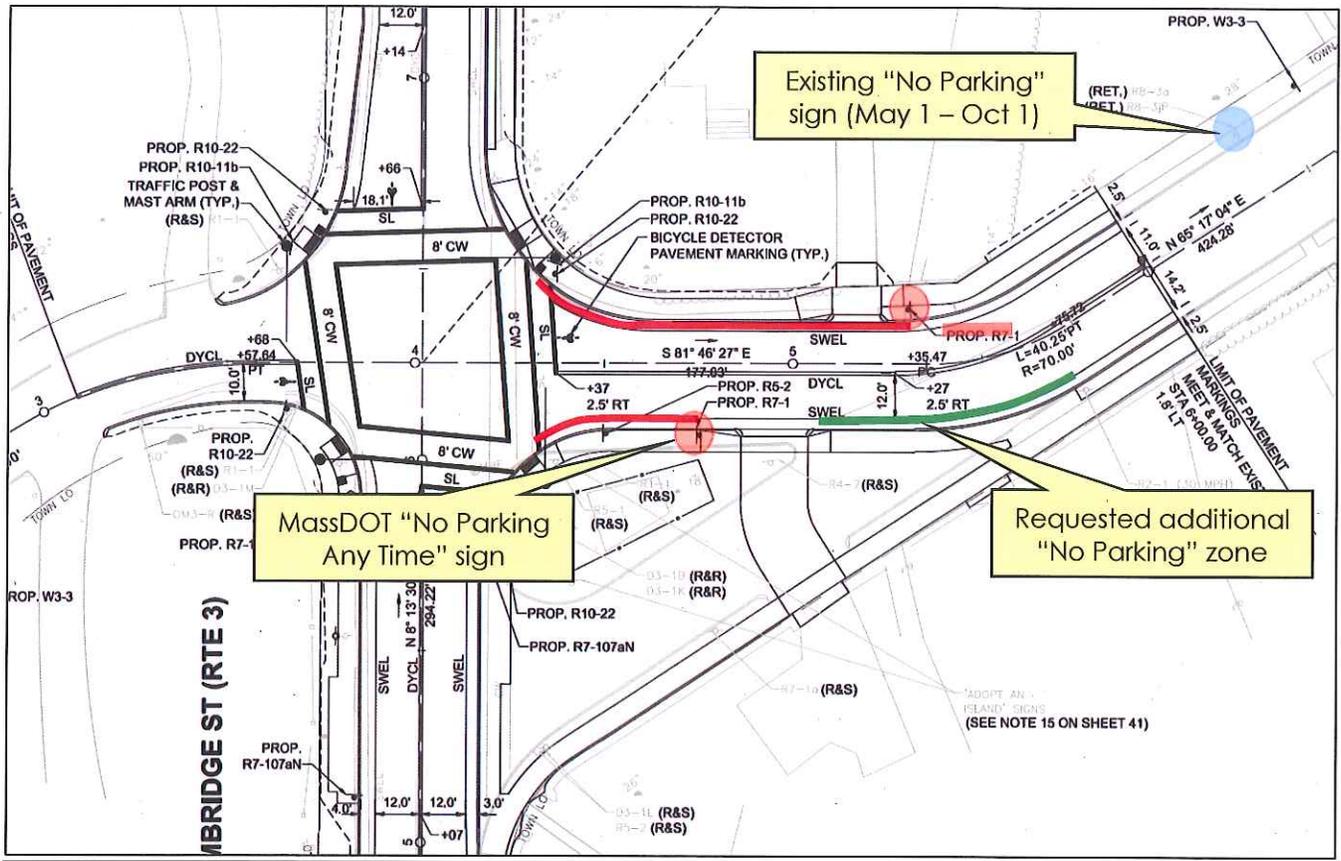
In attendance at the meeting were Town Engineer Beth Rudolph; Assistant Town Engineer Matt Haringa; Town Planner Brian Szekely; Cpt. Rick Tustin, Fire Department; and Safety Officer Sgt. Tom Groux. DPW Director Jay Gill was unable to attend the meeting.

A summary of the Committee's discussion and recommendations pertaining to these items is provided below. Note that the Committee also discussed the bump-out on Skillings Road in front of Winchester High School. A recommendation regarding this matter was provided in a separate memo dated September 21, 2016.

#### **No Parking request on Everett Avenue**

On July 18, 2016, the Town Manager's office received a letter from Richard and Cheryl Norsworthy of 53 Everett Avenue requesting that the Town implement "No Parking" on both sides of Everett Avenue from Cambridge Street up to the first entrance of Sheffield Road, or at the very least, no parking on both sides of Everett Avenue up to the east side of 47 Everett Avenue. Their request is associated with the installation of new traffic signals and the roadway realignment at the intersection of Cambridge Street (Route 3) and Everett Avenue by MassDOT. They are concerned that the improvements will make it more difficult to exit their driveway onto Everett Avenue.

**TAC Recommendation:** Below is a plan highlighting the "No Parking" signage that will be installed by MassDOT as part of the intersection improvements, an additional "No Parking" zone requested by the owners of 54 Everett Avenue this summer (see July 18, 2016 TAC memo), and the existing "No Parking, May 1 – October 1" signage that is currently installed on the north side of Everett Avenue to help with parking concerns associated with the Boat Club.



Since work on the intersection is still progressing, TAC recommends that the Board of Selectmen hold off on making any changes to the existing and proposed “No Parking” signage on the north side of Everett Avenue until after the work is completed at the intersection. Once the new signal is installed and geometric changes complete, TAC recommends that the Town revisit the parking regulations and determine if any changes are required.

**Stop Sign Request on Briarwood Lane at Sussex Road**

On August 19, 2016, the Town Manager’s office received an email from Gerry Sohn of 3 Hastings Road requesting that the Town install a STOP sign on Briarwood Lane at Sussex Road. Mr. Sohn noted his concern that the sight distances are difficult for cars traveling on Briarwood Lane, Sussex Road, and Hastings Road.

**TAC Recommendation:** TAC noted that Briarwood Lane is a private road, and past practice has been that the Town does not install STOP signs, or other signage on private ways. Regardless of the private way issue, the Police Department noted that this was a low volume, low speed area, without a history of crashes, and therefore, they did not feel that a STOP sign was warranted at this location.

### **Concerns about traffic on Main Street near Highland Avenue**

On August 29, 2016, the Town Manager's office received an email from Sampath Krishna, PhD of 115 Main Street, expressing their concerns about the intersection of Main Street at Highland Avenue. Specifically, they stated that in the 15-years since they have lived there, they have noticed a dramatic increase in the number of accidents, with five accidents in the past six years impacting their property. They are requesting that the Town implement measures to improve safety at this location.

TAC Recommendation: TAC reviewed this intersection several years ago, and VHB was contracted to develop a layout that would improve the geometry of the Main Street/Highland Avenue intersection, with the intent of slowing cars down as they make the turn from Main Street onto Highland Avenue (see attached figure). The Town has requested funding for these improvements through the state's new Complete Streets Program. Unfortunately, the project was not funded in Year 1 of the program, but we expect to resubmit the project for funding in future years. In addition, the Town will be requesting funding under this program for that installation "Your Speed" radar signs on Main Street.

### **Pedestrian Concerns on South Border Road and Highland Avenue**

On September 15, 2016, the Town Manager's office received an email from Hannah Ellingsen noting concerns regarding pedestrian activity on South Border Road and Highland Avenue, as follows:

- (1) Ms. Ellingsen requested a new crosswalk on South Border Road between Myrtle Terrace and the pathway at the Middlesex Fells reservation;
- (2) Ms. Ellingsen noted that there is currently a missing section of sidewalk on the west side of Highland Avenue between Mason and Winthrop Streets. She requested that the Town install a crosswalk across Highland Avenue at Mason Street so that pedestrians can access the sidewalk on the other side of the street; and
- (3) Ms. Ellingsen requested a "Slow" or "Watch for Children" sign near her home at 270 Highland Avenue, as the cars travel at a high rate of speed on Highland Avenue.

TAC Recommendation: TAC considered each of Ms. Ellingsen's requests, as noted below:

- (1) TAC noted that South Border Road is a DCR roadway, not a Town road, so we have no jurisdiction regarding the installation of a crosswalk at this location. Regardless, TAC did express concern about the sightlines for a crosswalk at this location.
- (2) DPW is planning to install a new sidewalk on Highland Avenue between Mason and Winthrop Streets in the area where it is currently missing. TAC does not recommend installing a crosswalk at Mason Street in the interim. There is currently a crosswalk across Highland Avenue at Winthrop Street, which is the recommended walking route for children going to the Lincoln and McCall Schools from that area.
- (3) TAC noted that the Town has requested funding for the installation of traffic calming measures on Highland Avenue between Mason Street and Lawson Road as part of the

state's Complete Streets Program. Next spring, the Town expects to install "Your Speed" signage on Highland Avenue near Mason Street. In future years, the Town is looking at improving the intersection geometry at the intersection of Mason Street and Highland Avenue to shorten the pedestrian crossing at this location.