

**MEETING OF THE  
CITY OF WOBURN  
TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
JUNE 16, 2022 – 4:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBER  
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Attending: Comm. Lou DiMambro, Comm. Joseph Foley, Comm. Anthony Langone, Comm. Charles Stokes, Comm. Jeffrey Dillon (Chair).

Absent: Comm. Tina Cassidy, Comm. John Corey, Comm. John Duran, Comm. Peter Socorelis

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Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to approve, all in favor, 5-0-4 (Cassidy, Corey, Duran, Socorelis Absent).

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**2022-04**

On the request for speed and trucking traffic on Green Street, Comm. Stokes stated that the data reflector was put out and the police upped enforcement in the area. Comm. Stokes stated that there were about 13,000 vehicles going eastbound and suspects similar numbers for the opposite direction. Comm. Stokes stated it was a major cut through. Comm. Stokes stated the data reflects a good 30 days, with an average speed of 27 m.p.h. eastbound at the rear of the school. Comm. Stokes stated he will move to a different location after, but that this is a good starting point. Comm. Stokes stated that trucking was not an issue. Comm. Stokes stated that Salem Street is probably a similar major cut through. Comm. Stokes stated there is not much they can do about it, which is probably part of the frustration. Comm. Stokes stated the police are actively enforcing. Comm. Stokes stated the posted speed is 35 m.p.h. Comm. Stokes stated he will move the counter to the next area to get a better sense. Comm. Stokes stated at first, he sets it up so that the speed flashes, then changes the speed not to flash to get a more accurate reading. Chair Dillon thanked Comm. Stokes for him doing the counter and enforcement. Mr. David Fallon, 40 Green Street, the petitioner, stated the posted speed on Green Street is 30 m.p.h. Comm. Stokes stated it is 30 m.p.h. and apologized for the confusion. Mr. Fallon stated he would like the data collector moved to the corner of Eastern Avenue and Green Street. Mr. Fallon stated that there were two cars in an accident at 63 m.p.h. Comm. Stokes stated that the sign does show sporadic high speeds but that they turn it off so that younger drivers will not try to speed to see the speed lights blinking. Comm. Stokes stated it has only been 30 days and they are moving it around. Comm. Stokes stated that the counter is 24-hour monitoring, and it counts volume by hour and volume by speed. Mr. Fallon stated he is picking up the speeds from the school signs. Comm. Stokes stated that 13,000 cars go down that street. Mr. Fallon stated that Officer Gately stopped five vehicles in 45 minutes. Comm. Stokes stated this is one of the most enforced streets in Woburn. Comm. Stokes stated that vehicles are already doing 40 m.p.h. coming out of Eastern Avenue. Mr. Fallon stated that Eastern Avenue and Green Street is a dangerous intersection and that the fire trucks pulling out is some kind of indicator. Comm. Stokes stated there are stop

signs on the side roads, and that Mr. Fallon would need to petition for others to be installed. Mr. Fallon stated that the Shamrock is the only school that does not have a solar powered flashing light for speed. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the DPW and Engineering Departments look at the intersection of Green Street and Eastern Avenue for proper signage, school crossing, and school warning signs, all in favor, 5-0-4 (Cassidy, Corey, Duran, Socorelis Absent). Clerk Higgins stated that some of those signs were from mitigation funds from projects before the city council. Mr. Fallon stated that he had a picture of a sign that had fallen on Washington Street regarding commercial vehicle exclusions. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the picture be made part of the permanent record, all in favor, 5-0-4 (Cassidy, Corey, Duran, Socorelis Absent). Mr. Fallon stated that this sign was over by the post office, and it was knocked down, and at minimum this should be at the intersection of Montvale Avenue and Green Street. Comm. Dillon stated they are hoping to get this squared away. Mr. Fallon stated that he does not sit on the porch and count cars. Mr. Fallon stated he wants to work with the commission. Comm. Stokes stated that there is a good judge of speed at 27 m.p.h. which is not bad. Comm. Stokes stated that speed and trucking that the petitioner is concerned with are enforced and are not a major problem from what the officers are saying. Comm. Stokes stated five trucks a day and dump trucks are not a lot but can discuss signage. Comm. Dillon stated he will follow up with the DPW and Engineering Departments. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to continue the matter to the right meeting, all in favor, 5-0-4 (Cassidy, Corey, Duran, Socorelis Absent).

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Comm. Tina Cassidy entered the Council Chamber.

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## 2022-06

On the request for enforcement of no trucking, slow dangerous curve sign, blind driveway sign, and Burlington school bus restrictions on Mountain Street, Comm. DiMambro stated he had pictures he wanted to submit. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the pictures be made part of the permanent record, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Corey, Duran, Socorelis Absent). Comm. DiMambro stated that this is a small street. Comm. DiMambro stated he agrees that certain times during the day larger trucks and buses use the street, and the street is narrow, and they take up the whole width of road, which is concerning. Comm. DiMambro stated there was a do not enter sign in the past and that he was also toying with the idea of one-way signs. Comm. DiMambro stated he would rely on the commission for what can be done to accommodate the neighbors. Comm. DiMambro stated he contacted the school about the buses. Comm. DiMambro stated that he reached out to the Burlington Schools and emailed the superintendent who told him to contact the transportation director and the transportation director will take it under advisement for new routes. Comm. DiMambro stated he if the buses could use an alternative route with a wider road like Sylvan Road since it has sidewalks. Comm. DiMambro stated the bus company would take this into consideration. Comm. DiMambro stated it is unfortunate they use the street as it is more like a cart path. Comm. Dillon stated that there is no jurisdiction or legal avenue from keeping the Burlington bus company from using the street. Comm. Stokes stated as far as he knows yes. Comm. DiMambro stated there is a high amount of pedestrians walking the streets. Comm. Dillon stated he appreciates Comm. DiMambro's efforts. Paula White, 1 Townsend Street, stated there are three houses on Townsend Street. Ms. White stated that the Burlington buses use Kearsage Avenue to Townsend Street and then to Mountain Street. Ms. White stated there are

eight school buses every single morning that go down and come back, which is 32 buses total. Ms. White stated that her husband screamed at the buses. Ms. White stated there are kids walking in the streets and the buses come flying up to go to Wilmington. Ms. White stated the radio is as loud as it can go, which is aggravating. Ms. White stated she has lived there for 43 years. Ms. White stated the traffic is horrifying and that she wants speed bumps. Comm. Dillon stated that there are not speed bumps in Woburn because of plowing problems. Ms. White stated the commission can come sit in her yard. Maggie Spagnuolo, 27 Mountain Street, the petitioner, stated she called the bus company, and they get notified if they go outside the intended route. Ms. Spagnuolo stated she would like a dangerous curve sign, blind driveway, and restricted access. Ms. Spagnuolo stated it is hard to say to stay the same for 30 years. Ms. Spagnuolo stated it is more erratic recently. Ms. Spagnuolo stated the number of bike deaths has increased. Ms. Spagnuolo stated she is terrified to leave her driveway. Ms. Spagnuolo stated she walks her daughter to the Altavesta playground, and it is scary. Ms. Spagnuolo stated there are lots of cars and truck. Ms. Spagnuolo stated in the winter it escalates because of the snow and can only fit one car. Ms. Spagnuolo thanked the commission for all their work, and she stated she was interested in the process. Comm. Foley stated he will double his efforts to reach out to the bus companies. Comm. Dillon stated that hopefully they can get a handle on the Burlington bus company and will leave it to Comm. DiMambro and Comm. Foley. Karen Dionne, 64 Mountain Street, stated that Burlington signed a new contract with a new bus company which is now located in Wilmington. Ms. Dionne stated she would like to have restricted access during certain hours, two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. Ms. Dionne stated this really decreased traffic and it will make the street safer. Ms. Dionne stated that they would have to eliminate the buses. Comm. Stokes stated hours restriction the buses would have to follow. Comm. Stokes stated that signage will help. Comm. Stokes stated he is hesitant because he is concerned where the traffic is going to go, whether it be Nichols Street or Elm Street. Comm. Foley stated he preferred the traffic be re-routed to another street that has sidewalks. Ms. Dionne stated that she does not want another street to get the burden, but that Poole Street is wider and has sidewalks. Comm. Stokes stated the diplomatic approach may be best. Upon inquiry from Comm. Langone, Comm. Stokes stated that residents only signs are not enforceable. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to send a communication to the city solicitor asking for a legal opinion if a do not enter restriction can restrict school busses from entering a street, especially school busses serving other communities, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Corey, Duran, Socorelis Absent). Nicholas Spagnuolo, 27 Mountain Street, thanked the police as the trucks have stopped combing by with an occasional sporadic offender. Comm. Stokes stated that the no trucking signs are not official signs and are not enforceable. Comm. Stokes stated trucking is a nonissue, and that trucks can technically use the street. Comm. Stokes stated that the volume is in the morning and afternoons. Mr. Spagnuolo stated the volume is lower in the summer months. Comm. Stokes stated that he can advise trucks but not cite them. Upon inquiry from Mr. Spagnuolo, Comm. Dillon stated he will ask DPW about the blind drive signs. Ellen Meuse, 23 Mountain Street, stated she did not want to come across that inconvenience is her main priority. Ms. Meuse stated that safety is priority. Ms. Meuse stated that she has noticed a decrease in trucking. Ms. Meuse stated she saw one dump truck tonight. Ms. Meuse stated that the speed sign was not blinking. Comm. Stokes stated sometimes it is the battery and sometimes he does not want the speed sign flashing. Comm. Stokes stated it is a better judge of accurate speeding when not blinking, like he explained for the Green Street petition. Ms. Meuse stated that the dangerous curve sign should be put on the pole. Michael Dionne, 64 Mountain Street, stated Cambridge has elevated crosswalks, not speed

bumps. Comm. Dillon stated that raised crosswalks are frowned upon. Comm. DiMambro stated that plows have permanent angled cutting, and it will be chipped away at it. Upon inquiry from Comm. DiMambro, Comm. Stokes stated that the markings on the street would be an engineering and DPW question as he was not sure if it was allowed. Comm. Stokes stated that there are no sidewalks and no crosswalks. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be laid on the table, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Corey, Duran, Socorelis Absent).

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## 2022-07

On the discussion of the MBTA's Bus Network Redesign Plan, Comm. Langone stated he had a draft letter he wanted to submit for the record. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the pictures be made part of the permanent record, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Corey, Duran, Socorelis Absent). Comm. Langone stated he wanted to keep the presentation brief, but that this is a major redesign to the bus network and will add traffic in the city. Comm. Langone stated on slide 2 that there is the 350 bus to Alewife Station and the 354 that goes from Woburn center to East Woburn to Boston. Comm. Langone stated that the 134 Bus goes from North Woburn with no access to Alewife but goes to Wellington Station. Comm. Langone stated the 354 express line goes on I-93. Comm. Langone stated with the pilot program allowing buses to use the breakdown lane and HOV lane it offers great incentives to residents. Comm. Langone stated he himself takes the bus three times a week. Comm. Langone stated that the proposed slide that the 350 buss will remain the same, but the 94 bus will go to Somerville. Comm. Langone stated that there will now be two buses with two separate stops going to the same T line. Comm. Langone stated that the 133 buss will have access to Anderson Station. Comm. Langone stated that the new Woburn Village wants access to Mishawum station, which they are not expanding. Comm. Langone stated there will be no more express bus from Woburn to Boston. Comm. Langone stated Woburn is a growing city and there will no longer be a direct bus line to the city . Comm. Langone stated now commuters are going to have to go to Oak Grove and Malden. Comm. Langone stated the route will go from Stoneham to Melrose to Malden which has significant gridlock. Comm. Langone stated at some point the commuter is going to say is it worth taking public transportation. Comm. Langone stated he wants to send a communication to the state house delegation to oppose the changes during the public hearing timeframe. Comm. Langone stated the proposed changes are directly against the MBTA's goals. Comm. Langone stated the 354 bus takes you right downtown to State Street, now there will be additional transfers, which means additional time added to the commute. Comm. Langone stated they are not making it simpler they are making it more complicated. Comm. Langone stated the MBTA's on statistics show that the 354 express bus is one of the best performing lines. Comm. Langone stated the MBTA is having a Metro North public hearing, but that Comm. Langone strongly encourages to let Woburn have its own in a public building in Woburn. Comm. Langone stated there are some good aspects of the proposed plans such as access to Washington Street and access to Anderson Station. Comm. Langone stated he would want the letter to go to state delegation, Caroline Vanasse of MassDOT, the mayor and the city council president. Comm. Langone stated he is very passionate about this as he is also a commuter. Comm. Dillon stated he appreciated Comm. Langone's efforts. Comm. Dillon stated that if the MBTA does not make it easy, people are not going to use it. Comm. Dillon stated the goals of the MBTA should be to make it beneficial for the general public. Comm. Dillon stated that gas prices keep creeping up more people may rely on it. Comm. Dillon

stated these proposed changes do not make a lot of sense. Comm. Langone stated the MBTA is stressing new connections and better access to Burlington, service to Montvale Avenue, and pushing for weekend service. Comm. Langone stated that the project manager stated it was going to be more weekend service and better access, and simpler service. Comm. Foley stated that the cost effectiveness is perhaps to spread the wealth. Comm. Langone stated the MBTA has not specifically stated that, but it probably has to do with the drivers. Comm. Langone stated they are pushing commuters to static lines, but there are more cars on the road. Comm. DiMambro stated he agrees with Comm. Langone. Comm. DiMambro stated that it only makes sense to increase service and make it more convenient. Comm. DiMambro stated it sounds like a nightmare. Comm. DiMambro stated the MBTA should open Mishawum Station to help the development. Comm. DiMambro stated the MBTA should be increasing service not decreasing it. Councilor Charles Viola, Ward 7 Councilor, stated he echoed Comm. Langone and Comm. DiMambro's comments. Comm. Viola stated this will be detrimental to the Woburn and residents. Councilor Viola stated that the MBTA cutting service is not viable for Woburn and that he will also be writing a letter as well. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that a communication be sent to State Senator Cindy F. Friedman, State Representative Richard M. Haggerty, State Representative Michelle L. Ciccolo, Caroline Vanasse of MassDOT, Office of Transportation, the mayor, and the city council president opposing the changes as drafted in the MBTA's Bus Network Redesign Plan, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Corey, Duran, Socorelis Absent).

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Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Corey, Duran, Socorelis Absent). Meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

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Lindsay E. Higgins  
City Clerk and Clerk of Traffic Commission