

Barre City Transportation Advisory Committee

September 15, 2021, 6:30 PM

Barre City Council Chamber

Members present: Giuliano Cecchinelli, Michael Hellein, Joshua Akers, Joanne Reynolds, Art Bombardier

City support staff: Bill Ahearn, Elijah Morgan, PD Deputy Chief Larry Eastman

Visitor(s): Nicholas Bredice (Design Engineer VTrans), Taylor Sisson (VTrans Project Manager)

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1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Michael Hellein, at 6:30 pm.
 2. Adjustments to the Agenda
 - a. There were no adjustments to the agenda.
 3. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. The Chair announced that there be any changes to the minutes, that they are announced. No changes were made. Joanne Reynolds motioned to approve September minutes. Art Bombardier seconded this motion. All members were in favor, with no opposition.
 4. Visitors and Communications
 - a. There was nothing from visitors and communications.
 5. Public Works Department Monthly Transportation Report
 - a. Bill Ahearn noted that the DPW has been working on the neighborhood concerns on Allen St. Where the DPW has been working on creating a speed zone on Allen St from the Prospect St side to the residential Southside. This has included a crosswalk on Bergeron Place, additional speed limit signs, speed limit zones, and planning for a proposed future walkway to the Mill St sidewalk.
 - i. Michael Hellein questioned the plans for a walking path from Allen St to the existing bike path. Bill Ahearn noted that this would be something for the joint meeting between the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Path, Routes and Trails Committee.
 - b. Bill Ahearn noted that the redesign of the intersection between North Seminary St and North Main St has had positive feedback for its restructure. Construction was completed with a rough cost of \$1800-2000.
 - c. Bill Ahearn noted that the DPW has been working with Spaulding High School to influence driving behavior to slow down. The redesign that the DPW built includes bulb-outs, crosswalks, and signage. Bill mentioned that it is planned to

Elijah Morgan, WEA

gate post the crosswalk signs (both sides of the street) and change the colors to engineering green for added visibility. Bill Ahearn has worked with the Administration at Spaulding to improve traffic flow during the school afternoon release. Spaulding removed the speed bump in the exit reducing release times to better manage traffic.

- d. Bill Ahearn added that traffic painting is seeing a widespread shortage. Noting that the widespread shortage has continuously lengthened the timeframe that we have been told to expect traffic paint. Camp St will be planned for painting next year as a direct result of this. Bill Ahearn has received permission from Steve McKenzie for the premium offer to paint suppliers for their supply of a 24bucketgallon order of paint to the City. The deadline to paint is November first due to weather conditions.

6. New Business

a. VTrans

- i. VTrans is planning to change the intersection of Maple Ave, Rte 14, and Merchant St in the year 2023. Taylor Sisson noted currently, there are little to no traffic controls for this intersection, the traffic coming from Rte 14 is reduced from 40 mph, and the grade is roughly 8 percent. The traffic volume that can be seen is anywhere from 100 to 275 left turning cars in the morning through this intersection. The crash data that was conducted by the State listed this as a high crash zone due to the left-hand turns required with this design. The project will be fully (100%) federally funded.
- ii. Taylor noted that the new design will incorporate street lighting, new pavement with sub-base changes, 11-foot wide travel lanes with 3-foot shoulders on Rte 14 and 2-foot shoulders on Merchant St, new water, stormwater, and sewer upgrades as well.
- iii. The design change will increase the sight distance that drivers will have as well as reduce the statistics of a likely crash by 23 percent.
 1. Art Bombardier noted they needed to add a break in the centerline. Art questioned the fire access, Bill Ahearn mentioned that the tower truck would be required to take up both lanes in order to make a turn in the intersection. Taylor Sisson responded that they will look into this.
 2. Giuliano Cecchinelli asked what the extent of work would be due to the Hope Cemetery planning to connect to adjacent power on the other side of VT14. Taylor Sisson answered that the project will go past the north cemetery entrance approximately 250 feet.
 3. Michael Hellein stated that he was on the planning commission for 9 years and was not aware of this project. He questioned why

project wasn't known to City planners or in the City's master plan. He questioned the crash data and its validity, noting that it was data from 2002. Taylor Sisson noted that the data that qualified the intersection for a safety project was different from data used to analyze safety improvements with analysis by Harmenlink. Michael Hellein rebutted, that the numbers may not be valid and that the left turn lane is not needed. The State Crash Data site shows one crash in the last 5 years and their statistics of 0.23 percent is an error within their rounding. Mr. Hellein expressed that the failure to comply with the City plan and the absence of need were important. M Chair Hellein asked about changing and giving feedback on the design from members of the community. Taylor Sisson explained that the City Council would be the authorized body to make that decision. There was conversation about distinguishing personal positions from the City's official position. All agreed that the Council had final authority to decide the City's position. Art Bombardier noted that the City had asked the CVRPC to add the project to the Regional Transportation Plan and that was how it was incorporated into the STIP, so the City had officially approved the project in 2002

4. Joanne Reynolds asked about the timeline of the project and why it was taking so long. Taylor Sisson responded with the complexity of the project was the main reason.

b. Camp St

i. Camp St is planned to have parking on the uphill side, biking on the uphill, and no parking, and a shortened lane width. The line painting will not occur until next year due to the paint shortage. Bill mentioned that the line painting from the City line to Cassie St was a mistake done by the Town of Barre.

7. Confirm Meeting Date

a. November 17th, 2021

8. Roundtable

a. Bill Ahearn noted the desire to provide a list of items that were to be talked about and worked on in the future for the Committee. The Chair noted that we are searching for a good tool to accomplish that goal, but See, Click Fix was not yet a good tool to use for that purpose.

9. Adjourn

a. Joanne Reynolds motions to adjourn.
b. Art Bombardier seconded.
c. All in favor, no opposition.

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