
ARLINGTON TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FROM: TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUBJECT: CROSSWALK AT MYSTIC AND WINSLOW
DATE: 11/13/2005

Arlington holds a seasonal farmer's market on Wednesday afternoons in the parking lot between Mystic and Medford Streets. Oakes Plimpton, the organizer of the market, noted that a substantial number of elderly citizens cross from Winslow Street, and has requested a crosswalk across Mystic Street at this location.

FINDINGS

At this location, Mystic Street is a four-lane divided road with over 20,000 average daily traffic volume. Mystic Street/Winslow Street is located approximately 200 feet south of a signalized intersection with Chestnut Street and approximately 300 feet north of a signalized intersection with Mass. Ave. Observations at approximately 3:30 PM on a Wednesday afternoon in July 2005 indicated only a few pedestrians crossing at this location (1 person in 12 minutes).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We recommend against installation of a crosswalk across Mystic Street at this location, for the following reasons:
 - Installation of a permanent crosswalk is not appropriate for an event that occurs for a few hours once per week during the summer.
 - FHWA crosswalk guidelines (ref.) indicate that an uncontrolled crosswalk should not be installed within 300' of a signalized intersection.
 - Pedestrian volumes at this location appear to be too low to warrant installation of a crosswalk
 - An uncontrolled crosswalk would disrupt efficient traffic flow in the event the two signals are synchronized. There would be strong incentive for motorists not to yield to pedestrians in such a crosswalk.

2. However, the following measures may improve pedestrian and vehicular safety at this location:
 - Allow the organizers of the market to place temporary pedestrian warning signs (MUTCD W-2) at Mystic / Winslow during the hours the market is in operation.
 - Permanent "do not block intersection" signs or markings at the intersection. This may help to improve visibility.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Smith