



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7 Twin Circle Drive, Arlington, MA 02474

To: Board of Selectmen, Arlington, Mass

From: Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Subject: Preliminary Recommendations re Crosswalks on Chestnut Street

Date: 14 December 2009

Background

Residents of Chestnut Hill Manor and the Arlington Housing Authority have requested a pedestrian signal at the existing crosswalk located at Chestnut Street (Route 60) and Medford Street, by Keefe Funeral Home. This area has the following characteristics:

- The nearest existing signalized crosswalk (Route 60 and Warren Street) is slightly less than 300 feet away.
- Average Daily Traffic is approximately 20,000 vehicles.
- The street has one lane in each direction, with on-street parking. The approximate width is 40 feet.
- Major land uses near this crosswalk include St Agnes church and school and Arlington Catholic High School.
- Two pedestrian collisions were reported in the 13 years between 1990 and 2002.

Observations

At both crosswalks, the thermoplastic is badly worn and needs to be restored.

Chestnut Street and Medford Street:

- On the south side a spotlight for St. Agnes church may create glare for eastbound drivers on Chestnut Street, making visibility of pedestrians more difficult
- On the weekend of November 30, it was observed that two streetlights at this crosswalk were out. This has been reported to Republic ITS.
- Parked vehicles on the westbound side of Chestnut Street often make it difficult for westbound drivers to see pedestrians who are crossing from right to left.

Initial Recommendations

Signalization is an expensive (approximately \$100,000), "last-resort" solution that needs to be supported by a formal engineering study and may not be warranted at this location. Less expensive solutions should be pursued first.

The following initial recommendations were unanimously voted on November 4, 2009.

1. Restore both crosswalks on Chestnut Street (at Medford Street and at Chestnut Terrace) with thermoplastic and in-street pedestrian crosswalk signs (bollards).
2. Follow-up items:
 - a. Address the glare issue from the spotlight
 - b. Install a pedestrian warning sign (on the side of the road) at the crosswalk at Chestnut Street and Terrace. (The crosswalk at Medford Street already has signs.)

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Smith – Working Group Lead

Edward Starr – Chair

Transportation Advisory Committee Members:

Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, Steve Kurland, Officer Corey Rateau, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise,
Michael Rademacher, Scott Smith, Edward Starr, and Laura Wiener

Web site; www.tac.arlington.ma.us/