

Memorandum

To: Board of Selectmen, Arlington, Mass
From: Transportation Advisory Committee
Subject: Recommendations re Traffic Issues at Bishop School
Reference: 1) Letter from Board to TAC on 9 December 2002
Date: 8 February 2003

A request was made to the Board by Barbara Kelly (Crossing Guard), parents, and school staff, via a petition, to establish one-way traffic on Columbia Rd. between 8 - 8:30 AM and 2 - 2:30 PM on weekdays. This petition was forwarded to the TAC for review and recommendation in reference 1) above.

The TAC believes that having roadways change directions for short periods is not advisable, and would not recommend that action.

We observed the traffic patterns and parking at the school, and noted brief periods of congestion on Columbia Rd during the drop-off/pick-up periods. We considered several options to improve the situation. It is partly caused by all-day parking on the south side of Columbia by school staff - thus restricting parking would give enough room for cars to pass when a vehicle is dropping off students.

There are advantages to the slowing of traffic caused by the minor congestion during these periods - it most likely increases the safety for the students. In fact, we work hard in other areas to find ways of slowing traffic for safety.

After discussion and due consideration, the Transportation Advisory Committee unanimously voted on January 28, 2003 to recommend the following approach:

1. Request Bishop Administration to communicate to parents recommended traffic patterns to ease the situation, and to staff about parking on Columbia Road.
2. Following this, the TAC working group will observe the situation again in the spring to see if any further action is needed.

Both the Traffic Division and DPW are in agreement with these recommendations.

Steve Carme, Principal of Bishop, has agreed with this approach and initiated a communication to parents on January 28.

Respectfully,

Transportation Advisory Committee
Edward Starr, Chair