

ARLINGTON TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7 Twin Circle Drive, Arlington, MA 02474

781-648-6224

Memorandum

To: Board of Selectmen, Arlington, Mass

From: Transportation Advisory Committee

Subject: Crosswalk at Norfolk and Jason

Reference: Board of Selectmen Letter: 15 July 2004

Date: 29 September 2004

1. Current Situation:

- a. Crosswalk is located within 80 – 100 ft of a curve traveling southbound on Jason. A pedestrian entering the crosswalk from the west can neither see nor be seen by southbound motorists until within that distance. See photos 1 and 2.
- b. Full crosswalk signage is in place, but placement could be improved for both directions of travel. Three trees and telephone pole obscure southbound line of sight.
- c. The school bus stop is located on east side of crosswalk, and is a prime destination.
- d. Residents are concerned about the safety of the crosswalk as vehicles approach from around the curve.
- e. This part of Jason has significant traffic, particularly at the commuter hours. Measured as 701 vehicles at AM peak. AM commuter hours match school bus times.
- f. Volume of pedestrian traffic appears to be very low except for school bus.
- g. Crosswalks exist at Gray/Jason and Brantwood/Jason. Norfolk crosswalk is within about 200 ft of the Gray crosswalk.

2. Engineering Guidance

According to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) guidelines, stopping sight distance is 115 ft at 20 mph and about 150 feet at 25 mph. Measured mean Speeds and volume were measured between Norfolk and Brantwood in May 02. Southbound mean speed was 26 mph, and 85th percentile speed 30 mph.

3. Conclusions

- a. The crosswalk at Jason and Norfolk cannot be made safe at its current location. It is too close to a curve with visual obstacles on a street with traffic traveling at 25MPH. Residents are right to complain about its safety.
- b. There is not much that can be done to make the crosswalk safe at its current location. Even removing two trees blocking the sight line and adding more signage would be inadequate.

4. Recommendations

- a. Relocate the crosswalk to Woodland Street and the School Bus Stop, and all related signage to a location near Woodland Street.
 - i. Sight line there is straight with good view from both directions. (see photo 4)
 - ii. Crosswalk will be more equitably placed between Gray and Brantwood.
 - iii. Safety will be substantially increased, and mobility maintained.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Starr, Chair of Transportation Advisory Committee

Transportation Advisory Committee Members:

Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ralph Elwell, Larry Englisher, Jeff Maxtutis, Lt. James McHugh, Kevin O'Brien, Michael Rademacher, John Sanchez, Scott Smith, Edward Starr, David Walkinshaw.

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Photo 1. Approach southbound from Gray on Jason. Distance about 100 ft.

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Photo 2. Pedestrian's view waiting to cross from west side of crosswalk.
Vehicle traveling south.

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Photo 3. View of Norfolk crosswalk from the south



Photo 4. View looking north of recommended crosswalk location at Woodland.

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