

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Consideration of Oak Hill Drive Referral**

Wednesday, November 14, 2001 7:20 PM

Committee members present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ralph Elwell, Larry Englisher, Alan McClennen, Lt. Jim McHugh, Scott Smith, Ed Starr

Others: Stephen Makolka, Charles Crevo, Ray Bradley, Paolo Marinelli.

Oak Hill Drive

Jim McHugh presented the police department report. Peak hour travel on Oak Hill Drive is approximately 100 – 120 cars in each direction. 85th percentile speeds are 39 MPH northbound, and 24 MPH southbound.

Discussion centered around speed control on Oak Hill, and the crosswalk at Summer Street. Four-way stops at Woodside and Joyce would not be appropriate because the sight lines are reasonable, there has only been one crash (at Woodside) in the past 10 years, and traffic volumes are below those in the guidelines for 4-way stops. Arlington DPW also believes that 4-way stops would not be appropriate at this intersection. The use of speed humps was also discussed as a future possibility. We noted that although a yellow center line was previously approved (in 1957), use of a center line is not likely to reduce speeds.

The crosswalk at Summer Street was considered a serious pedestrian issue. Ideas for alleviating this included

- Crossing island on Summer Street (this would require substantial engineering and expense)
- Improved crosswalk warning signs, including a warning bollard in the middle of Summer Street. Jim noted that these bollards are often knocked over, and would have to be removed during the winter.
- Improved crosswalk markings, with a more durable, reflective coating
- Extending the sidewalk on the north side of Summer Street to the traffic signal at Brattle Street. We noted that this would not help pedestrians who are traveling to the high school, but would be helpful to students going to Ottoson.

The committee adopted the following recommendations, all targeted towards improving safety:

- **1. Increase enforcement, targeted towards northbound traffic during afternoon commuter hours.**
- **2. Post crosswalk warning signs on Summer Street, and place a warning sign (bollard) in the middle of the crosswalk.**
- **3. Improve visibility of the crosswalk, possibly through reflectorized paint or thermoplastic.**
- **4. Move the existing speed limit sign for northbound vehicles to a more visible location.**
- **5. Extend the sidewalk on the north side of Summer Street to the traffic signal at Brattle Street.**
- **6. Have to town prepare for use of traffic calming measures such as speed humps with possible future application on Oak Hill Drive (and elsewhere).**

MEETING HANDOUT

Oak Hill Drive speed and traffic data – from Jim McHugh