



MEETING NOTICE

**THE HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
WILL MEET
MARCH 7, 2019
2:45 PM**

**LACONIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY ROOM
126 NEW SALEM ST.
LACONIA, NH**

AGENDA:

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes (attached)
3. City Council request to review proposed traffic changes to Beacon Street East and West (attached)
4. Other Business
5. Adjourn

HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES

August 21, 2018

Present: Tom Swett, chair; Chad Vaillancourt; Wes Anderson; Malcolm Murray; David Stamps, Secretary

Absent: Kimon Koulet; Henry Lipman

Vacant seat: Planning

- Meeting was called to order at 12:05 by Chairman Tom Swett, who stated a quorum was present
- Motion to approve minutes of October 16, 2017 by Chad; Second by Malcom; Approved unanimously.
- Chairman Swett presented information on the Highway Safety Grant Agreement - "Laconia Distracted Driving" - \$6,194.35. Malcom made a motion to approve; second by Chad; Approved Unanimously.
- Chairman Swett presented information on the Highway Safety Grant Agreement - "Laconia DWI Patrols" - \$13,694.51. Malcom made a motion to approve; second by Chad; Approved Unanimously.
- Chairman Swett presented information on the Highway Safety Grant Agreement - "Join the New Hampshire Click" - \$513.04. Malcom made a motion to approve; second by Chad; Approved Unanimously.
- Chairman Swett presented information on the Highway Safety Grant Agreement - "Laconia STEP" - \$11,304.54. Malcom made a motion to approve; second by Wes; Approved Unanimously.
- The commission voted to adjourn at 12:15

1/31/2019

Topic: Plan to improve pedestrian safety and increase parking spaces in the Downtown

Discussion:

The City has received several complaints over the past few years from pedestrians on the difficulty of safely crossing Beacon Streets West and East. Additionally the number of available parking spaces for shoppers and visitors in the downtown area have decreased with the recent increase of employees working in the area.

Public Works has developed a plan to construct bump outs in the streets in the downtown area to reduce crossing distances for pedestrians. This reduces their crossing times to more closely match sight distances and typical vehicle speeds in the downtown area. The plan does not change the downtown's traffic pattern.

Installing bump outs on both Beacon Streets results in the roads narrowing from two lanes to one in areas "upstream" of the proposed bump outs. Narrowing the travel way provides an opportunity to convert from parallel parking to angled in parking in certain areas of the two roads. The proposed plan is at attachment 1.

Public Works during the planning process determined that a bump out/crosswalk constructed at the present location of the crosswalk on Beacon Street West was not feasible due to the road's drainage system. The present drainage system is designed such that water on the east side of Beacon Street/ Water Street area and a portion of the parking lot to the rear of 22 Pleasant Street crosses the street to the catch basins on Water Street. A bump out constructed at the existing cross walk location would cause water to pool on the road. The drainage system would have to be relocated to eliminate the pooling problem however based on the amount of underground utilities in the area it is unlikely that we can modify the drainage system. Thus Public Works moved the location of the bump out south to eliminate the drainage issue.

The following is a summary of the change in parking spaces if the plan is implemented.

Changes in available Parking Spaces

Street	Current Parking Spaces	Proposed Parking Spaces	Increase
Beacon Street West	11	30	19
Beacon Street East	19	44	25
Increase in spaces			44

The following is the estimated cost of constructing the bump outs and changing the stripping for the parking spaces.

Estimated Cost of the modifications

Location	Cost	Comments
Beacon Street West	\$33,000	1 set of bump outs
Beacon Street East	\$45,000	1.5 sets of bump outs

Public Works presently has approximately \$80,000 in sidewalk capital improvement funds available to fund this work. Based on the number of complaints and the sight lines on the two roads, Public Works recommends that Beacon Street West should be constructed first due to the limited sight lines on the “upstream” portion of the road.

Although the plans include bumps outs on Main Street in the downtown, the speed of the traffic that is traveling through On Main Street does not present a hazard to pedestrians. Thus the construction of any bump outs in the vicinity of Colonial Theater should be postponed until such time there is a need.

Impact:

The project will be funded with existing sidewalk capital improvement funds.

Recommendation:

Public Works recommends that City Council approve the plan with initial priority going to the construction of the bump out and implementing the parking changes on Beacon Street West and then Beacon Street East.

Proposed Motion:

I move that we approve Public Work’s plan for constructing bump outs and changing the travel way widths on Beacon Streets East and West per Public Work’s proposal.