



CITY OF WALTHAM TRAFFIC COMMISSION

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Frank S. Lombardo
Clerk

August 4, 2020

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION Held: TUESDAY AUGUST 4, 2020 @ 10:00 AM via Zoom

New High School Traffic Signal - This meeting was result of the July 16 Traffic Commission vote, where the item was tabled so there could be increased public impute. The architects for the new high school on Lexington Street need a decision and guidance for a preferred option to install a traffic signal(s) on Lexington Street for the entrance/exit. In the interest of transparency, this was a "Zoom Meeting". There were up to thirty-seven (37) participants at one time.

Mr. Todd Breyton and Ms. Lorraine Finnegan made a presentation and explained two options. One option called for a single signal at the main entrance/exit drive, opposite Stanley Road. There would be a south driveway some distance south that would be right turn, southbound onto Lexington Street (Right Turn Only) controlled by a Yield and or Stop sign. The second option called for two signals and two driveways that would be about 80 feet apart approximately opposite Stanly Road. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin, supported a single signal operation with a Stop/Yield for the south driveway. Under either option, traffic along Lexington Street will be significantly affected; however, the single signal will have the least impact on traffic operations. Member, Mr. Kelly favored the single signal option, but felt that a traffic light with a right arrow for right turn only at the south driveway would be better that a Yield/Stop sign. Fire Chief MacInnis voiced his concerns that vehicles exiting the south driveway would turn left (northbound) onto Lexington Street causing a very dangerous safety concern. Councillor Karen Dunn, Ward Councillor expressed her concerns for the residents on the east side of Lexington Street and also to have the present High School Access

Road on Woodcliff to remain open 24 hours, seven days a week that would give some motorists another option to Lexington Street. There were questions about sidewalks and the use of surrounding residential streets. Commission member Mr. Waddick explained that the decision to locate the High School at the former Stigmatine Espousal Retreat 554 Lexington Street has been made. Traffic issues, need for sidewalks, speed of vehicles, and parking issues will be addressed as needed. A Citywide 25 MPH speed limit is presently under review; several locations for new sidewalks have been recommended in the Lincoln Street area to the C.P.W. Stanley Road and Curve Street may have issues that will be reviewed in the future with residential input.

Chief MacPherson, summarized the questions and favored the two signal operation as the best option to answer several safety concerns that were raised. Residents on the east side of Lexington Street, most likely will have to turn right out of their driveways in order to enter Lexington Street safely. If there is a south driveway, further to the south of the main entrance/exit, vehicles may attempt to turn left onto Lexington Street opposing the "Right Turn Only" trying to avoid the signal at the main drive.

Voted five (5) to (1 Mr. Kelly) to recommend the two signal operation which will have the High School driveways approximately 80 feet apart at the intersection of Lexington Street and Stanley Road.

Adjourned: @ 12:03 PM

Attendance: All members except, Ms. Cagle. Councillors Cathyann Harris and Karen Dunn; Mr. Todd Brayton and Lorraine Finnigan Bryant Associates.