



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

City of Newton **In City Council**

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Present: Councilors Ciccone (Chair), Blazar, Harney, Yates and Cote

Absent: Councilors Fuller, Norton and Lipof

City Staff: David Koses, Transportation Coordinator

#41-17 Resolution requesting the speed limit on Quinobequin Road be reduced to 25 mph.
COUNCILOR YATES, requesting that the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation reduce the speed limit on all sections of Quinobequin Road to 25 mph in conformity with the speed limit in the City. [02/09/17 @ 9:28 PM]
Public Safety & Transportation Held 6-0 on 03/08/17
Action: Public Safety & Transportation Approved 5-0

Note: This item was held on March 8, 2017, to allow Councilor Yates the opportunity to prepare a Resolution to present to this Committee for approval to be forwarded to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Committee members were provided with a Resolution for consideration requesting that DCR reduce the speed limit on all sections of Quinobequin Road to 25 miles per hour, attached to this report.

Councilor Yates stated that he docketed this item due to Quinobequin Road, a State road having both 30 miles per hour and 25 miles per hour speed limits. He said that it is appropriate to have consistent and uniform speed limits.

On February 6, 2017, City Council adopted "Sections 193 and 194 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, authorizing the City Council without further authority, to establish a speed limit of 25 miles per hour on any roadway inside a thickly settled or business district in the City on any way that is not a state highway; and to allow for the creation of designated safety zones on, at, or near any way in the City which is not a state highway, with the approval of MassDOT if the same is a state highway."

Mr. Koses said that he had no comments to add, as the City does not have purview over Quinobequin Road.

Two emails were received, attached to this report. Chair Ciccone opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Residents expressed their concerns, questions and suggestions.

Concerns:

- Drivers have the tendency to speed and do not obey the 25 miles per hour or the 30 miles per hour speed limit.
- Drivers have the tendency to cross the yellow line, making it unsafe.
- Public safety is necessary for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.
- Drivers use Quinobequin Road as a cut-through.

Questions:

- Would a traffic study be triggered?
- What is the definition of a 'pleasure road'?
- Is it appropriate for residents to file a signed petition with the DCR?

Suggestions:

- The installation of sidewalks on the residential side of the street.
- The installation of pathways on the river side of the street.
- Cut back overgrown foliage, which prohibits pedestrians from using the one sidewalk, which would allow better site visibility for all.
- Perform police enforcement.
- Install a digital speed-sign.
- Prohibit school buses from traveling on Quinobequin Road.
- If a Resolution is approved, new speed limit signs should be installed.

Chair Ciccone answered that a traffic study would not be triggered by the State, only municipalities are required to conduct a traffic study. He then suggested a separate signed petition from the residents be submitted to DCR.

A resident stated that Quinobequin Road does not resemble a residential road due to the double yellow lines, there are no cross streets and houses are on one side. She is opposed to approving the Resolution reducing the speed limit to 25 miles per hour and police enforcement to deter speeders.

Other residents present stated that they support the Resolution requesting DCR reduce the speed limit on all sections of Quinobequin Road to 25 miles per hour. If approved, new speed limit signs should be installed.

Chair Ciccone stated that the City does not have purview over Quinobequin Road, a State road. Therefore, the City cannot install speed limit signs and install sidewalks, etc. He then said that he would make a request for police enforcement during rush hour times. He asked the residents to let the City know if there are certain times that would benefit police enforcement.

Councilor Yates stated that he would docket an additional item if necessary, regarding the overgrown foliage.

Without further discussion, Councilor Yates made the motion to approve the Resolution. Committee members agreed 5-0.

#71-17 **Amendment relative to docketing Traffic Council petitions**
PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, proposing to amend **Sec. 19-29.**
Docketing of petitions; determination of eligibility for hearing. by deleting section (c)
(3). [03/10/17 @ 4:54 PM]

Action: **Public Safety & Transportation Held 4-0, Councilor Harney not voting**

Note: Chair Ciccone stated that it has been requested that this item be held without discussion pending additional information from the City's Law Department.

Without discussion, Councilor Yates made the motion to hold this item pending additional information. Council members agreed 4-0.

#25-17 **Resolution requesting MBTA repair the pedestrian bridge near the Elliot MBTA station**
COUNCILORS YATES, RICE AND CROSSLEY, requesting that the MBTA repair the
pedestrian bridge from the south side of Route 9 to the Elliot MBTA station. [01/23/17
@ 1:41 PM]

Action: **Public Safety & Transportation No Action Necessary 5-0**

Note: Chair Ciccone stated that Councilors Yates and Rice have requested that this item be voted no action necessary.

Councilor Yates stated that he has received email confirmation from MassDOT, attached to this report. The email indicates that MassDOT will repair the pedestrian bridge near the Elliot MBTA station.

Without discussion, Councilor Yates made the motion for no action necessary. Council members agreed 5-0.

At approximately 7:45 p.m., Councilor Yates made the motion to adjourn. Council members agreed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chair

Danielle Delaney

To: Danielle Delaney
Subject: FW: Please Forward to Public Safety and Transportation Committee

From: rrcexec [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 5:02 PM
To: Danielle Delaney; David A. Olson
Subject: Please Forward to Public Safety and Transportation Committee

To: The Public Safety and Transportation Committee
April 5, 2017

Dear Chairman Ciccone and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering lowering the speed limit on Quinobequin Road in Waban. We live on the corner of Quinobequin and Radcliff Roads and are appalled by the high speeds of a lot of the traffic on this scenic parkway that is also used by pedestrians, cyclists and motorists who enjoy the beauty of a country lane that follows the river's meandering path. Making the speed limit 25 for the entire trip between Routes 9 and 16 would not cause hardship to the public passing through, but would increase enjoyment of many who recognize the value of this anomalous roadway inside 128. If you also could inspire DCR to clear back the overhanging foliage that encroaches each year onto the roadway, blocking motorists' vision and forcing cyclists and pedestrians toward the road's center and potential harm, we would be doubly grateful.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sallee and Nelson Lipshutz
24 Radcliff Road
Waban, MA 02468

Danielle Delaney

To: Danielle Delaney; Allan CicconeJR_Comcast; John J. Babcock
Subject: FW: Quino memo to DCR- for April 5 meeting

#41-17

From: Lipson,Martha
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 12:12 PM
To: Danielle Delaney
Subject: Quino memo to DCR- for April 5 meeting

Dear Ms. Delaney,
I am responding to the agenda item to reduce the speed limit on Quinnobequin Road to 25 mph.
I would like to record the following.
I have lived on Nehoiden Road for over 50 years.
Beacon Street, Nehoiden Road, Waban Ave and Quinnobequin all basically run parallel to one another.
It has been my experience, that changing a speed limit, or posting a traffic enforcement officer on one street, impacts all the other streets.

Since there has been a regular traffic enforcement officer on Beacon street, (and I understand its importance due to the proximity of Angier school), there are cars that speed down Nehoiden Road, to by-pass Beacon street, regularly and often. I have never seen a traffic enforcement officer on Nehoiden Road pulling over speeding cars since I have lived here.

Quinnobequin is one of the few newly paved roads in Waban where one doesn't have to routinely dodge pot-holes and the one of the four streets mentioned where there are only houses on one side of the street.
Quinnobequin is also the other street in Waban where I have seen traffic enforcement officers.

I am not sure why reducing the speed to 25 MPH on Quinnobequin is more important than enforcing uniformity in safety for all the Waban streets and would like to ask that some resources be re-directed to Nehoiden and Waban Ave, which will become the natural by-pass streets, especially if they continue to lack monitoring.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Could you kindly forward this correspondence to Councilor Jay Ciccone as well.

Sincerely
Martha Lipson
69 Nehoiden Road
Waban

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

, 2017

RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF REDUCING SPEED LIMIT ON QUINOBEQUIN ROAD

BE IT RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, the General Court has passed and the Governor has signed into law the Municipal Modernization Act and;

WHEREAS, the Act authorized cities and towns to make the speed limit on otherwise unregulated streets 25 miles per hour and;

WHEREAS, the City Council has voted and the Mayor has signed a measure to reduce the speed limit on otherwise unmarked city streets to 25 MPH and;

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation has control of speed limits on state parkways including Quinobequin Road in Newton and;

WHEREAS, the speed limit on some sections of Quinobequin Road is 30 MPH and 25 MPH on others and;

THEREFORE, BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Newton City Council requests the Department of Conservation and Recreation to make the speed limit on Quinobequin Road uniform at 25 MPH and to continue to work with the Newton Police Department to enforce speed limits on the road.

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON
City Clerk

Danielle Delaney

To: Danielle Delaney
Subject: FW: Bridge to Eliot MBTA Station

#25-17

From: Brian E. Yates
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 7:40 PM
To: Danielle Delaney
Cc: Brian E. Yates
Subject: Re: Bridge to Eliot MBTA Station

From: Dailey, Donny (DOT) <Donny.Dailey2@dot.state.ma.us>
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 2:17 PM
To: Brian E. Yates; Gridnev, Dmitriy (HOU); adyanthaya@aol.com; Mark Bridger
Cc: Anderson, Catherine (SEN); Aaron M. Goldman
Subject: RE: Bridge to Eliot MBTA Station

Councilor Yates ,

The District will keep me apprised going forward

Thank you

Donny

Donny Dailey

MassDOT

Highway Division

Office of Government Affairs

Legislative Liaison

617 945 4272

Donny.Dailey2@dot.state.ma.us



From: Brian E. Yates [<mailto:byates@newtonma.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 1:45 PM
To: Dailey, Donny (DOT); Gridnev, Dmitriy (HOU); adyanthaya@aol.com; Mark Bridger
Cc: Anderson, Catherine (SEN); Aaron M. Goldman
Subject: Re: Bridge to Eliot MBTA Station

Dear Anil and Mark,

I thought you'd be interested in this response I got on the Elliot Station Bridge from Ruth Balser's office.

Brian Yates

From: Dailey, Donny (DOT) <Donny.Dailey2@dot.state.ma.us>
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 9:58 AM
To: Gridnev, Dmitriy (HOU)

Cc: Anderson, Catherine (SEN); Brian E. Yates; Aaron M. Goldman

Subject: Bridge to Eliot MBTA Station

Good morning Dmitry ,

The Highway District 6 Maintenance section conducted a recent site inspection of the Newton pedestrian bridge N-12-072 (87D). There is an area on the Ramp side of the structure that is showing heavy efflorescence, at the same location the hand rail supports are showing fatigue, on the deck there are two soft locations next to clogged drains, and the French drains on the bridge are full.

The District will address all of the things mentioned over this upcoming construction season and it should be noted that some of the necessary work is weather dependent , however there is nothing at the structure that would be considered unsafe or a hazard at this time.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions

Thank you

Donny

Donny Dailey

MassDOT

Highway Division

Office of Government Affairs

Legislative Liaison

617 945 4272

Donny.Dailey2@dot.state.ma.us



From: Gridnev, Dmitriy (HOU) [<mailto:Dmitriy.Gridnev@mahouse.gov>]

Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 4:41 PM

To: Dailey, Donny (DOT)

Subject: RE: Bridge to Eliot MBTA Station

Thanks Donny. Representative Balser wanted to make it clear that she is also interested in seeing these repairs done this Spring.

Dmitriy Gridnev

Legislative Aide

Office of State Representative Ruth Balser

617-722-2396

From: Dailey, Donny (DOT) [<mailto:Donny.Dailey2@dot.state.ma.us>]

Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 3:54 PM

To: Gridnev, Dmitriy (HOU)

Subject: RE: Bridge to Eliot MBTA Station

Dmitry,

Anil Adyanthaya also sent the same letter to Senator Creem's office. I forwarded the same response that I had sent you on December 14th to Cat Anderson this morning. (see below). I will check back with the District and see if anything has changed

This past summer the Newton pedestrian bridge N-12-072 (87D) had areas of concrete that were spalling with delamination to the outside faces of the sidewalk deck. These locations were chipped clean of any loose concrete. I will let you know what , if any, other work is scheduled to be done on the bridge , which would likely be in the spring

Thank you

Donny

Donny Dailey

MassDOT

Highway Division

Office of Government Affairs

Legislative Liaison

617 945 4272

Donny.Dailey2@dot.state.ma.us



From: Gridnev, Dmitriy (HOU) [<mailto:Dmitriy.Gridnev@mahouse.gov>]

Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 2:38 PM

To: Dailey, Donny (DOT)

Subject: FW: Bridge to Eliot MBTA Station

Hi Donny,

Following up on this email I sent you last week. Could you please let me know what you have found?

Thanks,

Dmitriy Gridnev

Legislative Aide

Office of State Representative Ruth Balser

617-722-2396

From: Gridnev, Dmitriy (HOU)

Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:38 AM

To: 'Dailey, Donny (DOT)'

Subject: FW: Bridge to Eliot MBTA Station

Hello Donny,

Attached, please find a letter detailing the issues found with the bridge connected to the Elliot station. Representative Balser and I have been in touch with you about this bridge before.

You had said that if DOT would work on this bridge, the plan would be determined in the Spring. Does DOT have plans to fix the issues with this bridge? If not, what can Representative Balser do to advocate for fixing this bridge? She is very interested in seeing these cracks and breaks in the concrete repaired.

Dmitriy Gridnev

Legislative Aide

Office of State Representative Ruth Balser

617-722-2396

From: Anil Adyanthaya <aadyanthaya@newtonma.gov>

Date: February 4, 2017 at 6:20:10 PM EST

To: "Ruth.Balser@mahouse.gov" <ruth.balser@mahouse.gov>

Cc: Srdjan Nedeljkovic <snedeljkovic@newtonma.gov>

Subject: Bridge to Eliot MBTA Station

Dear Representative Balser,

Attached please find a letter for your consideration concerning the condition of an important bridge in our villages.

Thank you,

Anil

Anil Adyanthaya

President

[Newton Upper Falls Area Council](#)