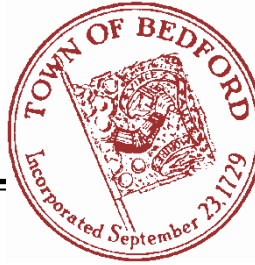


TOWN OF BEDFORD

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



314 THE GREAT ROAD
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730

TEL: 781-275-7605
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Date: July 25, 2019

To: David Manugian, Public Works Director

From: Jeanette Rebecchi, Transportation Program Manager

Re: Alcott Neighborhood Traffic Meeting Summary

On Monday, July 22, 2019, the DPW hosted a neighborhood meeting to discuss traffic safety concerns on Gould Road, Dewey Road, Alcott Street, Temple Terrace, Old Stagecoach Road, and Wagon Wheel Drive. Approximately 40 people attended, including representatives from the Bedford Police Department, Transportation Advisory Committee, and the Bedford Citizen. It was noted that a large portion of residents came from Temple Terrace and Gould Road in particular.

The meeting kicked off with brief introductions of DPW staff in attendance (DPW Director, David Manugian, Town Engineer, Adrienne St. John, and Transportation Program Manager, Jeanette Rebecchi). Neighborhood Captains, Elizabeth Stringer Keefe and Jessica Jannace, provided an overview of neighborhoods concerns, and the floor was opened up for additional comments. Resident concerns can be categorized as follows:

- High volumes of cars during commuter hours
- Cut-through traffic
- Speeding and aggressive driving; littering
- Unshoveled and/or overgrown sidewalks
- Dangerous street crossings, especially for school bus stop users
- Dangerous winter driving conditions at bottom of Temple Terrace
- Dangerous curves at 11 Temple Terrace & 23 Gould Road
- Not yielding to through traffic when turning right onto Gould Road from Alcott Street
- Turning at excessive speeds from Old Billerica Road onto Wagon Wheel and Temple Terrace
- Not stopping at Wagon Wheel/Old Stagecoach Road stop sign
- Truck traffic

The following remedies were suggested by residents:

- No thru traffic signs during commuter hours
- Turn restriction signage
- School bus stop signs
- Digital speed relay signs
- Additional crosswalks such as at the top of Gould Road
- Connecting the missing Alcott Street sidewalk

- Speed bumps
- Narrow streets to slow traffic down; bike lanes, fog lines and bump outs were mentioned

Mr. Manugian discussed cut-through traffic as a result of external issues such as navigation apps, new commercial development in Burlington, Route 3 traffic, and construction on Middlesex Turnpike. Traffic calming efforts should focus on making drivers uncomfortable driving at high speeds, and not merely shift traffic to another neighborhood. Mr. Manugian also responded to some of the requests made:

- **No Thru Traffic Signage:** Per Mass General Law c. 85, § 2, the Town is not allowed to prohibit vehicular access to public ways. Such signs are also unenforceable by the Police Department since there is no way to know which drivers actually live in the neighborhood.
- **Posted Speed Limits:** 25mph is the de facto speed limit on all unposted roadways. If a speed study was conducted, we would be required to set the speed limit at the 85th percentile speed, which in all likelihood would be higher than 25mph.
- **Speed Bumps:** After a lengthy neighborhood process, the Town is installing its first raised crosswalk in the Hartford/Crescent/Bacon neighborhood this summer. The Town is open to discussing this option further, if less invasive measures fail to work.

Sergeant Saunders provided an overview of the Police Department's enforcement efforts. The 3-4 patrol cars available during day shifts primarily focus on collector/arterial roadways and locations with high crash rates. Fortunately, this neighborhood has a very low reported accident rate. Crashes are typically related to icy driving conditions.

Next Steps

At this time DPW is only able to provide basic treatments such as signage and line painting from our operating budget. More permanent physical changes to the roadway require submitting a capital improvement request as part of the town-wide FY21 budget process, which will begin this fall. Any approved requests could begin construction in the summer of 2020.

- **Crosswalks:** DPW will continue painting new crosswalks
- **Speed Relay Sign:** DPW has ordered a digital speed relay sign. Each sign costs \$8,000-\$10,000. Once the sign arrives, staff will deploy it to this neighborhood for a period of time.
- **Data Collection:** If needed, additional data will be collected this fall to establish better baseline conditions.
- **One-way or no left/right turn restrictions:** These restrictions apply to all drivers. Staff will examine if these restrictions are appropriate.
- **Town-wide traffic mitigation study:** Addressing the Town's traffic problems is one of the Selectmen's official goals. DPW staff are working toward retaining a consultant to study the problem, and plan on focusing on neighborhood issues in particular.
- **Alcott Street Sidewalk:** The missing segment had been identified in the Town's Bike/Ped Master Plan, and is now on the Department's radar to request capital funding for construction.
- **Additional Measures:** DPW staff will meet with the neighborhood later this fall to review the effectiveness of the above treatments, and determine if more aggressive measures are needed.