



CITY OF NEWPORT
CITY MANAGER
Joseph J. Nicholson, Jr., Esq.

To: Mayor Jamie P. Bova and Members of the City Council
From: Joseph J. Nicholson, Jr., Esq., City Manager
Date: August 4, 2020
RE: Docket of August 12, 2020 – Recommendations on Short-Term Traffic Solutions

The staff has prepared a memorandum addressing Council Resolution #2020-57, read and passed on July 8, 2020. The resolution called for “short-term solutions” to perceived pedestrian traffic safety issues regarding specifically Malbone Road, Girard Avenue and Hillside Avenue.

I am going to note that no long-term analysis or potential long-term solutions are noted in the staff recommendation.

JJN/paf
Attachment

cc: W. Riccio, Director of Public Services



*City Of Newport
Department of Public Services
280 Spring Street
Newport, RI 02840*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joseph J. Nicholson, Jr., Esq.
City Manager

FROM: William R. Riccio, Jr., PE
Director of Public Services

DATE: July 14, 2020

RE: Resolution 2020-57

The subject resolution requests an analysis of short-term traffic calming solutions for Hillside Avenue, Girard Avenue, Malbone Road and Leal Terrace. Upon analysis, the following recommendations are proposed:

Hillside Avenue

Existing Traffic Control Measures (Bedlow to Admiral Kalbfus)

Speed limit signs exist, one in each direction

Pedestrian activated signal is in place at Admiral Kalbfus (owned by RIDOT) plus high visibility crosswalks

Stop sign at Bedlow Avenue

Existing Traffic Control Measures (Admiral Kalbfus to Maple Avenue)

Pedestrian Crossing Ahead sign between Dudley and Dexter (northbound)

High visibility crosswalks are present at Dexter, Eisenhower, Sgt Weideman, Kennedy, and Sunset

Speed Limit sign located before Beacon (northbound)

Signal Ahead sign (southbound)

Hillside Avenue is in the RIDOT TIP for the addition of sidewalk walks under the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Category. Funding will be available at the start of the new federal fiscal year that begins October 1, 2020. We are presently working with RIDOT in order to expedite funding authorization in the fall in hopes that this work will be able to be contracted and constructed in Spring 2021 (sooner if federal calendars and approvals allow)

As part of these improvements, we anticipate installing sidewalks on the east side of Hillside (possibly the west side, as well, as funding allows) in addition to bicycle "sharrow" pavement markings and or bikes share the road signage. The original petition for SRTS funding included the area of Hillside south of Admiral Kalbfus; however, we anticipate extending toward Dexter Street (or possibly to Kennedy) to accommodate a new school zone.

Recommendations:

As we anticipate more permanent signage to be included in the SRTS project, we would recommend that, in the short term, a reboundable pedestrian sign be installed at Dexter Street/Hillside Avenue intersection.

We further recommend, and are working with the pavement marking contractor, to refresh the pavement marking in this neighborhood prior to school opening.

We further recommend that the council consider official establishment, by ordinance, of a “school zone” along Hillside Avenue from Admiral Kalbfus to Kennedy inclusive of the establishment of a school zone speed limit of 20mph. The 20mph limit is recommended due to the fact that the city’s sole elementary school resides in this neighborhood. The school zone ordinance can also include the area along Dexter Street from town line to Hillside already signed and marked accordingly. Staff from the departments of Public Services, Planning, Police and Solicitor can collaborate on the details of this proposal for presentation to the council in fall 2020.

Girard Avenue

Existing Traffic Control Measures:

Speed Limit sign southbound at 66 Girard near bus stop

Slow Children sign at Leal Terrace

School Pavement Marking north of Leal Terrace and at York

School Speed Limit Ahead sign north of Leal Terrace and at York

Speed Limit sign, End School Zone sign and School Pavement Marking at York

High Visibility crosswalks at West Evans and York

Stop sign at Maple

Recommendations:

Install speed limit signs, one in each direction, between Admiral Kalbfus and York

Establish official school zone between Leal Terrace and York in order to codify that traffic control existing in place

Add bicycle pavement sharrow markings and/or bikes share the road signs as applicable

Malbone Road

Recommendations: install speed limit signs in each direction from Admiral Kalbfus to Van Zandt

Leal Terrace

Recommendations: none at this time

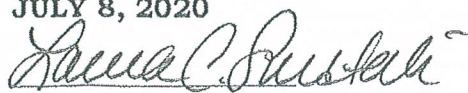
THE CITY OF NEWPORT

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
COUNCIL
No.2020-57**

- WHEREAS: Malbone Road, Girard Avenue and Hillside Avenue are identified in the city's Comprehensive Land Use Plan as "primary thoroughfares that collect traffic from local residential roads and guide it to the high-capacity arterial streets"; AND
- WHEREAS: The aforementioned streets and Leal Terrace, in the same vicinity, are experiencing increased levels of vehicular traffic, particularly commercial vehicles, and increased reports of speeding incidences at a time when there are also increases in pedestrian and bicycle activity; AND
- WHEREAS: The school zones of both East Bay Met School and Pell Elementary School within and connecting to this area have the potential to see an increase in pedestrian, bicyclist and single car traffic due to changes in how students get to school during the Covid-19 pandemic; AND
- WHEREAS: A transportation master plan will be developed in the near future, but immediate action to increase safety for all modes of travel on these streets must be taken; NOW THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED: That the city administration shall explore short-term solutions including, but not limited to: speed bumps, speed humps, increased visibility of crosswalks, speed limits, crosswalks, sharing roads with bicycles and adding and changing placement of signage indicating no thru traffic on Leal Terrace; AND LET IT FURTHER BE
- RESOLVED: That the city administration will come back to Council with an updated report by August 12, 2020 at the latest.

Angela McCalla
Jamie Bova
Susan Taylor

IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED
JULY 8, 2020


LAURA C. SWISTAK
CITY CLERK