Agenda: The Traffic Authority, Town of Hamden, will hold a regular meeting on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom Meeting. The following topics will be discussed:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

https://zoom.us/j/98608823166?pwd=Q2w3TFFsQ2IBQTdZQk5ZzEyUlUyZz09

Passcode: 759872

Or iPhone one-tap:

US: +13017158592,,98608823166#,,,,0#,,759872# or
+13126266799,,98608823166#,,,,0#,,759872#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 986 0882 3166
Passcode: 759872

International numbers available: https://zoom.us/u/aLGkJo41P

1. Call to order

2. Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of October 14, 2020

3. Public comments on agenda action items only

4. Correspondence

a) Judith Beers and Stuart Engar, 215 Hillfield Road – requests “Blind Driveway” sign.

b) Roslyn Campbell, 264 Broadway – Reports that “Most drivers speed and seem annoyed that we’re slowing them down to turn in or out of my driveway (honk horn/hand gestures).” STATUS: Requesting Radar Speed Monitoring Device; Periodic enforcement; Review for a Speed Hump to determine if that will help.
Correspondence (continued)

c) Christine M. Melchinger, 140 Ardmore Street – Reports that vehicles are speeding up and down Ardmore Street and fail to stop at the Bedford Street Stop Sign. Requesting 3 Speed Hump(s) – two below and one above Bedford Street interval.

d) Myla J. Wilson, 30 Penn Street – Reports traffic issues at the Oakwood Child Care Center, 495 Benham Street. Requesting the installation of a Raised Crosswalk and/or a Speed Hump. Also reporting that vehicles do not stop at the “Stop Sign” at Harrison Drive and Vantage Road. Requesting Traffic Calming at these locations.

e) Jonathan Corillo, 1580 Whitney Avenue and the CT DOT – Request for a potential Road Diet on Whitney Avenue through Spring Glen (Route 707) be considered. The Police Chief has formed a team to investigate this CT DOT statewide program. Mr. Corillo is tentatively scheduled to address the Traffic Authority Chair, Traffic Authority Commissioners, and Community Members.

f) Karlen Meinsen, Hamden Traffic Collaborative Committee – Correspondence to share feedback on behalf of the Hamden Traffic Collaborative Committee and to relay other requests. Reports dangerous speeding on Whitney Avenue from New Haven border to Skiff Street, including in front of 4 schools.

g) Kelly Branin, 147 Ardmore Street – correspondence regarding requested updates on:
   • The results of the School Zone Study that was completed in June 2018
   • The Traffic Study on Spring Glen portion of Whitney Avenue
   • Speed monitoring devices on Whitney
   • Update school zone signs and flashing lights
   • The request for more traffic enforcement
   • Red-light running cameras

5. Department report
   a. Review of Department Activity

6. New Business (Action Item)
   a) Judith Beers and Stuart Engar, 215 Hillfield Road – requests “Blind Driveway” sign. (TA Action item)
New Business (Action Item) (continued)

b) Roslyn Campbell, 264 Broadway – Reports that “Most drivers speed and seem annoyed that we’re slowing them down to turn in or out of my driveway (honk horn/hand gestures).” Requesting Radar Speed Monitoring Device; police monitoring (Police Action item); Review for a Speed Hump to determine if that will help. (TA Action item)

c) Christine M. Melchinger, 140 Ardmore Street – Reports that vehicles are speeding up and down Ardmore Street and fail to stop at the Bedford Avenue Stop Sign. Requesting 3 Speed Humps – two below and one above the Bedford Avenue interval. (TA Action item)

d) Myla J. Wilson, 30 Penn Street – Reports traffic issues at the Oakwood Child Care Center, 495 Benham Street. Requesting the installation of a Raised Crosswalk and/or a Speed Hump (TA Action item). Also reporting that vehicles do not stop at the “Stop Sign” at Harrison Drive and Vantage Road. Requesting Traffic Calming at these locations. (Police Action item)

7. Old Business (Action Item)

a) Russell Savik, 86 Sky View Circle – Item concluded. See October minutes for details.

b) Jay Cruickshank, 11 Nature Trail – Requests an additional step to the Speed Humps Steps and Requirements that both the Police Chief and the Fire Chief sign-off when a street is under consideration for a Speed hump is the street is a primary or routine access road for emergency vehicles. STATUS: Police Chief, John Sullivan tabled this item as an Action Item to be voted on at the next TA meeting. Recommendations from the Fire Chief will be considered for adding an additional requirement to step 2 of the Speed Hump(s) Steps and Requirements for a Speed Hump if a street is a primary or routine access road for emergency vehicles. PENDING: POLICY REVIEW. (Action Item.)

c) Elm City Management/Anthony Cuomo – Requests 3 Speed Humps on Marne Street, between Foch Street and between Foch Street and Treadwell Street and between Foch Street, Pershing Street and Treadwell Street. STATUS: PENDING FURTHER REVIEW OF REQUEST.

d) Marion Molloy, 69 Webb Street – Item concluded. See October minutes for details.

e) Michele Proscino, 458 Waite Street – Item concluded. See October minutes for details.
Old Business (Action Item) (continued)

f) Jodi Rabinowitz, 193 Augur Street - Requests Speed Humps; Traffic Calming; Signage. STATUS: Pending Speed Hump Petition.

g) Karlen Meisen - Follow-up on correspondence to the Traffic Authority. Police Chief John Sullivan believes that there is a lot of useful information within the policy to help guide the Traffic Authority. The policy can be reviewed and presented to the Traffic Authority and implement some of the policies into the TA’s existing policies. STATUS: Continues under review.

h) Evelyn Wilson Peter - Request for Speed Hump on Westerfield Road. STATUS: Pending Speed Hump Petition.

i) Seb DiLeone - Item concluded. See October minutes for details.

j) Nicole Lee - Requests Speed Hump on Village Circle; Signage for “Children at Play.” STATUS: Pending Speed Hump Petition.

k) Tyrone Oliver - Request for Speed Hump on Cherry Ann Street. STATUS: Pending Speed Hump Petition.

l) Nathesia Wethington - Requests Speed Hump on North Street. STATUS: Pending Speed Hump Petition.

m) Walter Morton, 345 Morse Street, and Morse Street Neighbors. - Item concluded. See October minutes for details.

n) Lori Smith - Requests Speed Hump on Vantage Road and Benham Street. Street evaluation based on WSP Traffic Calming Study. STATUS: Pending Speed Hump Petition.

o) Derrick Corbett, 231 Brook St - Item concluded. See October minutes for details. Other Traffic Calming methods being considered.

p) Todd Street - Request “No Thru Trucks” sign. Denied by CT OSTA based on criteria for establishing a "No Thru Trucks" designation. STATUS: Police Chief, John Sullivan sent a second letter to the state to request a “No Thru Trucks” sign designation through a different avenue.

9. Executive Session

10. Adjournment
Good morning Judith,

Thank you for contacting the Traffic Authority with your issue. I have Cc’d the Traffic Engineer to look into this matter and to be added to the November Traffic Authority meeting. Please click on the link below and complete the form Request to be added to TA agenda. In the form please indicate the issue and what you would like to be resolved. From there, the Traffic Engineer and the Chief of Police will provide recommendations and the TA Commission will vote on an action. The form can be forwarded to Soraya Antonini santonini@hamdenpd.com, hamden.com/375/traffic-authority. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time.

Nancy Forvil, Clerk

Our driveway is the first on the left just past the bridge heading south. Because of the bridge we cannot see cars approaching from the right, nor can they see that we are pulling into Hillfield rd. Could you possibly put a sign up indicating the blind driveway?

Judith Beers and Stuart Engar
203 248 6871
CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Coming south from West Woods rd. On Hillfield our driveway is not visible, nor can we see cars approaching from the right as we exit the driveway. We would like a sign to indicate that so that an accident does not occur.

Thank you,
Judith Beers and Stuart Engar
From: Roslyn <roslynpcamp@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 11:13
To: Soraya Antonini
Subject: Fwd: Request to be added to TA Agenda.pdf
Attachments:
Request to be added to TA Agenda.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Roslyn Campbell

Sent from my iPad
Subject: Speeding motorists on Broadway

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open any attachments unless you recognize and contact the sender to verify the content is safe.

Hello. I live on Broadway (Rte 22) in Hamden and although this street has always been a thoroughfare for people going to or coming from North Haven, I feel that as of late motorists are speeding faster and seem to be annoyed by residents pulling into or out of our driveways. Some have beeped their horns because we pulled out and slowed them down and others tail your bumper when you signal and slow down to turn. One time as I was backing out of my driveway, someone actually drove around my car, and over my driveway curb to pass me while part of my car was in the street. There’s little respect for residents on this street and as a result of the pandemic, more people are walking and biking so it’s dangerous as there as no sidewalks. I’d like for speed limit signs to be erected and if possible an electronic speed monitoring signs which lets motorists know how fast they’re traveling. It would also be nice if police would park from time to time to catch speeders. I’m sure the average speed is 40-45 on the straight part of the road which is way too fast. Please do something before someone gets hurt.

Roslyn Campbell

Sent from my iPhone
HAMDEN TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Request to Be Added to
the Traffic Authority Agenda

I am submitting my request for Traffic Calming and asking that it be placed on a forthcoming Agenda.

To be placed on the agenda, your request must be submitted in advance to the office of the Chief of Police no later than two weeks preceding the regular Traffic Authority meeting:

Hamden Traffic Authority or email to: santonini@hamdenpd.com
c/o Hamden Police Department
Attn.: Chief’s Office
2900 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518

Name (print): Roslyn Campbell

Address: 264 Broadway, Hamden CT 06518

Email: RoslynCamp@aol.com

Phone Number: 203-915-1462

Reason for the request: Describe the observed traffic conditions on the street and/or at specific intersections.
Most drivers speed and seem annoyed that we're slowing them down to turn in or out of my driveway (horns, honk, hand gestures)

Remedy requesting (if applicable):
Add speed monitor and police monitoring.
Review for speed bump - to determine if that will help.
Dear Hamden Traffic Authority,

October 14, 2020

Each day on Ardmore Street we experience hundreds of vehicles speeding, coughing, roaring up and down our road. Often they do not stop at the Bedford Street stop sign but rather give it a cursory nod and press on. During the years of the Skiff Street repair, people became even more enamored of reaching Whitney or Dixwell Avenues via Ardmore and Greenway until it became an intractable habit even after Skiff Street reopened.

In the majority of Ardmore homes are families with children. In others are older residents who would enjoy a quiet walk without the constant traffic which begins in early morning and persists well though the night. Ardmore seems to be the victim of that old right / left turn phenomenon that comes so naturally to the human condition - right off Elgin onto Greenway, left onto Ardmore -and the reverse from the east to Greenway coming from Whitney. We have more than our share of road activity which has only increased over recent decades. People who live nowhere near Ardmore say of course they know the route well since they always travel that way, always have. It’s the “cut through”.

What to do?

The majority of neighbors request, yes, you have guessed it, that you please install speed bumps when the promised road resurfacing is done, perhaps two below and one above the Bedford interval. We residents will also have to drive over these bumps but do so willingly to ensure the safety and serenity of all those who live here. This traffic is too fast, too loud and too much. It is dangerous for the children and prevents their enjoyment of their riding their bikes safely past their homes for which their parents pay significant taxes.

We should not wait longer and until someone is hurt or killed by a speeding car, truck or commercial vehicle during a driver’s momentary inattention and irreparable misjudgment because of an accident which could have been prevented by less speed.

We appreciate your attention and thank you in advance as we look forward to your new look at and answer to this old problem.

Sincerely,

Christine M. Melchinger
140 Ardmore Street
Hamden, CT 06517
for

The Ardmore Street Residents
HAMDEN TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Request to Be Added to the Traffic Authority Agenda

I am submitting my request for Traffic Calming and asking that it be placed on a forthcoming Agenda.

To be placed on the agenda, your request must be submitted in advance to the office of the Chief of Police no later than two weeks preceding the regular Traffic Authority meeting:

Hamden Traffic Authority or email to: santonini@hamdenpd.com
c/o Hamden Police Department
Attn.: Chief’s Office
2900 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518

Name (print): Christine M. Melchinger
Address: 140 Cardmore ST, Hamden, CT 06517
Email: cmelchinger@gmail.com
Phone Number: (203) 606-0461

Reason for the request: Describe the observed traffic conditions on the street and/or at specific intersections.
Please see letter attached.

Remedy requesting (if applicable):
A speed bump (below) Bedford, one above on Cardmore.
To: Hamden Traffic Authority (HTA)

In accordance with the Hamden Traffic Authority procedures, I am submitting this request for the installation of Speed Hump(s) on

Street: Cardmore Street
Between: Whitney Avenue and Greenway Street (Intersecting Streets)

I am a resident on this street and if this request is accepted by the Hamden Traffic Authority, I understand that it will be necessary to obtain a signed petition indicating that 75% of the residents of this street approve the installation of the Speed Hump(s).

This request is subject to review by the Hamden Traffic Authority.

There is no guarantee that this request will be accepted.

Print Name: Christine M. Melchinger

Signature: Christine M. Melchinger

Date 10/14/2020

Address 140 Cardmore St., Hamden, CT

Telephone (203) 686-0461 Email cmelchinger@gmail.com

Office Use Only

HTA Receipt Date: By:
Good morning Myla,

Thank you for contacting the Traffic Authority with your issue. I have Cc’d the Traffic Engineer to look into this matter and to be added to the November Traffic Authority meeting. Please click on the link below and complete the form Request to be added to TA agenda. In the form please indicate the issue and what you would like to be resolved. From there, the Traffic Engineer and the Chief of Police will provide recommendations and the TA Commission will vote on an action. The form can be forwarded to Soraya Antonini Santonini@hamdenpd.com, hamden.com/375/traffic-authority. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time.

Nancy Forvil, Clerk

From: Myla <iheartruiner@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 7:58 AM
To: hta Traffic <hta@Hamden.com>
Subject: Bottom of Vantage/Harrison & Dunbar Hill School (Benham Side)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open any attachments unless you recognize and contact the sender to verify the content is safe.

Good morning,

I would like to request an action for Dunbar Hill School on the Benham St side. Yesterday at dismissal, we had a large line for pickup. With huge understanding that the majority of parents want to drive their children this year, people are not taking care to drive slowly and safely while entering the lot or waiting for there to be space to pull into the pickup loop. I have spoken with Mr Goeler already, but would like to request to have traffic calming measures done so that the children who attend Oakwood Child Care can have a raised crosswalk and/or a crossing guard, and/or to have speed humps installed from the back field to the light. After the large hill towards the school, people do not take care to slow down and have complete disregard for the school zone speed limits.

I would also like to echo Seb’s request for traffic calming at Harrison/Vantage since I live on an adjacent road and have almost been broadsided by the many folks that never stop at that sign. People even fly through it when I stop coming down Vantage.

Thanks so much for your time,

Myla J. Wilson
CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Chief,

I am reaching out to see if the subject potential road diet can added to the Traffic Authority Agenda to be discussed and strongly considered. I have lived on this segment of Whitney Avenue for 8 years and I think that Whitney Avenue through Spring Glen (Route 707) would be a great candidate for this sort of project. I have personally been looking into potential improvements for this section of roadway from time to time and I do believe that road diet would provide many benefits and address issues that the local residents have been bringing up in recent concerns.

At this point, the Department of Transportation is really only asking if the Town would consider it. As outlined in the email below, this would put things in motion to have a consultant engineer do further analysis and evaluation (at no cost to the town). If it all worked out and the Town decided to proceed with a road diet it would be several years (potentially) until it was implemented but this is how we could get this into the pipeline.

These road diets are typically in conjunction with scheduled roadway re-pavement (non currently scheduled for Route 707) and would mostly consist of just changing up the existing pavement markings on the new pavement: as opposed to just putting back the existing markings. The road diet installation would not really create much more work than would already have been done. Road diets have been successfully installed in various towns in this manner.

I am requesting that the Town strongly consider taking the initial steps into potentially considering the proposed road diet on Route 707. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 203-868-5737.

Jonathan J. Corilla, P.E. | Project Engineer
CT Department of Transportation | Highway Management Unit
2800 Berlin Turnpike | Newington, CT 06111-7546
Tel: 860.594.2755 | Fax: 860.594.3375 | Jonathan.Corilla@ct.gov

From: Martai, Balazs G <Balazs.Martai@ct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 10:06 AM
To: jcappiello@hamdenpd.com
Cc: rdunikowski@hamden.com
Subject: Project 0170-3480: Potential Road Diet on Route 707 (Hamden)

Good morning,
The Department of Transportation (Department) is currently working on State Project 0170-3480, which involves conducting a feasibility assessment of a road diet program. A road diet typically involves the elimination of a travel lane(s) along a roadway and repurposing that space for other travel modes. The goal is to reduce travel speeds, improve safety, and enhance alternative travel mode mobility of the State Highway system. As part of this project, the section of Route 707 (Whitney Avenue) from Waite Street to 300’ south of Skiff Street, a distance of 1.01 miles (aerial image attached), has been identified as a potential candidate for further study for a road diet.

The Department’s Consultant Engineer has completed a traffic engineering analysis of a potential road diet which revealed that this segment would not be negatively impacted by a road diet.

I am reaching out to you as the Local Traffic Authority (LTA) to discuss with other officials to see if the town is interested in pursuing a road diet; this would just be a preliminary buy-in, not a commitment. If yes, please let me know so we can proceed with the next step, which involves the development of conceptual plans to show the proposed lane arrangements and pavement markings.

Upon completion of the concept plans, we will schedule a meeting with you and other Town officials to discuss the proposed road diet and next steps in greater detail.

Thank you.

Balazs G. Martai, P.E.
Transportation Engineer 3
Connecticut Department of Transportation
Division of Traffic Engineering
Email: Balazs.Martai@ct.gov
Cell Phone (quarantine work phone): (732) 570-2345
EXISTING CONDITIONS

ROAD DIET CONDITIONS

12 TRAVEL LANE
12 LEFT TURN LANE
5.5' LANE WIDTH
5-8' SHOULDER
12' TRAVEL LANES

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ROAD DIET CONDITIONS

U.S. ROUTE 1 (POST ROAD)

8' SHOULDERS
12' PAINTED MEDIAN
12' TRAVEL LANES

1/2 TRAVEL LANES
1/2 PAINTED MEDIAN
2 MEDIAN LINES
**EXISTING CONDITIONS**

- 5-8' SHOULDERS
- 14' TWO-WAY LEFT TURN LANE
- 11' TRAVEL LANES
- CENTER LANE ONLY
- RIGHT LANE ENDS SIGN
- PEDESTRIANS AHEAD SIGN
- PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGN

**ROAD DIET CONDITIONS**

- REMOVE EXISTING PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNS
- INSTALL PEDESTRIANS AHEAD SIGN
- REMOVE EXISTING PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNS
- REMOVE EXISTING PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNS
- SIDE OF ROAD
- NO SIDEWALK RAMP ON SOUTH SIDE OF ROAD
- NO PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES ON CROSSING

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**Road Diet Feasibility Study on State Roads**

**FAIRFIELD**

**Concept Plans**

**Scale:** 1" = 40'
EXISTING CONDITIONS

ROAD DIET CONDITIONS

INT. #050-262
U.S. ROUTE 1 (POST ROAD)

8' EB SHOULDER
5' WB SHOULDER
11' LEFT TURN LANE
12' TRAVEL LANES

ROAD DIET CONDITIONS

ARRANGEMENTS TO
REVISE SIGNAL HEAD
ACCOMMODATE NEW LANE
ALIGNMENTS TO
INT. #050-262
PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL HEAD
ASSIGNMENTS TO NEW LANE
ARRANGEMENTS.

FAIRFIELD

FAIRFIELD

SEGMENT 1-F
CONCEPT PLANS

ROAD DIET FEASIBILITY STUDY
ON STATE ROADS

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ROAD DIET FEASIBILITY STUDY ON STATE ROADS

COG DESIGNER/DRAFTER: CHECKED BY:

PROJECT TITLE:

DRAWING TITLE:

PROJECT NO.

DRAWING NO.

SHEET NO.

FILENAME:

REVISION DESCRIPTION

DATE

REV.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SCALE 1"=40'

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ROAD DIET CONDITIONS

SEGMENT 349

ROUTE 349 (EASTERN POINT ROAD)

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ROAD DIET CONDITIONS

ROUTE 349 (EASTERN POINT ROAD)

ONLY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL DYNAMICS

ELECTRIC BOAT GENERAL DYNAMICS

ELECTRIC BOAT GENERAL DYNAMICS

FIRE DEPARTMENT GENERAL DYNAMICS

G LOT

E LOT

J LOT

EASTERN POINT ROAD
HAMDEN TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Request to Be Added to the Traffic Authority Agenda

I am submitting my request for Traffic Calming and asking that it be placed on a forthcoming Agenda.

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Hamden Traffic Authority or email to: santonini@hamdenpd.com

c/o Hamden Police Department

Attn.: Chief’s Office

2900 Dixwell Avenue

Hamden, CT 06518

Name (print): KARLEN MEINSEN

Address: 80 SANTA FE AVE

Email: sgtrafficcalming@gmail.com

Phone Number: Please contact via email

Reason for the request: Describe the observed traffic conditions on the street and/or at specific intersections.

Dangerous speeding on Whitney Ave from New Haven border to Skiff Street, including in front of 4 schools.

Remedy requesting (if applicable): Please see attached letters from:

Kelly Branin

Karlen Meinsen
February 18, 2020

Dear Traffic Commission,

My name is Kelly Branin (147 Ardmore St), and I am one of the members of the newly resurrected Spring Glen Traffic Committee. We are looking forward to working with the Commission to address traffic/safety concerns for our neighborhood going forward.

While we have shared a survey with the neighborhood asking for their current concerns and look forward to addressing these with you in the near future, we are aware that there was previous work completed by our predecessor, Ron Remer.

While looking through 2018 documentation, we found multiple items that had been previously submitted to the Traffic Committee for action, which we would like an update on. Specifically,

- The results of the School Zone Study that was completed in June 2018
- The Traffic Study on Spring Glen portion of Whitney Ave.
- Speed monitoring devices on Whitney
- Update school zone signs and flashing lights
- The request for More traffic enforcement
- Red-light running cameras

As previously identified, speed on Whitney Ave continues to be a high concern for the neighborhood. In addition to the above, we also recommend adding speed limit signs (preferably solar powered light up), and a cross walk between Santa Fe and Ardmore Street, would be a request of ours.

Also, according to multiple posts on Mayor Lang’s Facebook page, stemming from the February 2018 Mayor’s Night Out, it would seem the town is already taking action with School Zone signage, safety enhancements, and traffic enforcement. Would you please share specifics on what has been done already, so we have a better understanding on where we should focus our energy.

Additional focus items will be shared with the Commission as we move forward. However, Considering Spring Glen has been raising concerns to the Committee for years, we are eager to start seeing results.

We’d like the opportunity to discuss this letter, as well as introduce ourselves at the 3/9 meeting.

Thank you,
Kelly Branin
October 26, 2020

Dear Members of the Traffic Commission,

I am writing today to share some feedback on behalf of the Hamden Traffic Collaborative Committee, and also to relay some requests.

First, we want to thank you, and especially Acting Chief Sullivan, for the tremendous amount of work that has been done in the last few months in response to requests from citizens for traffic calming. We appreciate the speed with which requests are being handled; the new procedures you have created for communicating with citizens; the speed hump decision-making process that has been developed and its availability online; and the new online forms that help citizens understand how to work with the Commission.

These changes are making it much easier for citizens to know what to do and what to expect when they have traffic-related concerns. We think these steps toward increased transparency, efficiency, and responsiveness are terrific.

Second, we are writing to respectfully ask that you add to your November 9, 2020, agenda a letter submitted at the Commission’s March meeting by Hamden resident Kelly Branin. A copy of the letter is attached below.

Some of the issues outlined in Kelly’s letter were discussed briefly at the March 9 TA meeting, but other concerns remain or continue, and we would appreciate it if you would review the letter again.

We’d also like to expand a bit on some of the points in Kelly’s letter. In particular, we’d like to ask for the following:

1) **More “school zone” signs.** In her letter, Kelly requested the results of the 2018 School Zone Study. In addition, we wonder if additional signs are needed for Spring Glen School (Northbound (NB)), St. Rita’s School (Southbound (SB)), and both Hamden High and Hamden Hall (there appear to be no school-zone signs for either of these schools in place at present). We are also requesting that a school zone be established around The Children’s Center on Whitney.
2) **More 30 mph signs and permanent speed monitors.** We would like to request that permanent speed monitors, and also more 30 mph signs, be installed both NB and SB all along Whitney Avenue from the New Haven border to Skiff Street.

The shockingly high speeds displayed on the temporary speed monitors recently placed on Whitney in Spring Glen make it clear that many drivers either do not know the speed limit in this area, or do not care. Having more 30 mph signs and permanent speed monitors, together with the additional school zone signs mentioned above, should go a long way toward reminding drivers, both local and out-of-towners, about the legal limits and expectations for this entire stretch of Whitney, which is used not only by cars, trucks, and motorcycles, but also by bicyclists and many, many children, older folks, runners, and other pedestrians.

3) **A Traffic-Calming Study of Whitney from the New Haven border to Skiff Street.** We would like to respectfully request that a formal traffic-calming study of Whitney between the New Haven line and Skiff Street, like the studies that have been done for many other streets in town, be conducted as soon as possible. This stretch of roadway serves not only two of Hamden’s many iconic neighborhoods, but also a huge number of residents from elsewhere in town (and beyond). We are eager to see a comprehensive analysis of the traffic-related issues on this section of Whitney, and the recommendations a study might make to slow traffic down and improve the roadway’s safety for everyone who lives and travels here.

Thank you for considering these requests. And thanks for all you do to protect the safety of all who use Hamden’s streets -- pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers alike.

Sincerely,

Karlen Meinsen

Karlen Meinsen, Chair
The Hamden Traffic Collaborative Committee