

**Westwood Planning Board
Meeting Minutes
January 29 2013
6:30 PM
Downey School Cafeteria**

Attendance & Call to Order:

Ch. Wiggin called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Present: Planning Board members Jack Wiggin, Steve Olanoff, Steve Rafsky, Bruce Montgomery and Chris Pfaff; Town Planner Nora Loughnane and Planning & Land Use Specialist Janice Barba, recorded the minutes.

Ch. Wiggin welcomed the proponent's team: John Twohig from Goulston & Storrs, Paul Cincotta from N.E. Development, and Ray Murphy from Eastern Development. Also present, Town Peer Review Consultants from Beta Engineering, led by Merrick Turner; Jeffrey Dirk, Tetra Tech/VAi traffic consultants for the proponent, and members of the Finance & Warrant Commission.

University Station Proposal – Design Refinement Work Session and Status Report on Proposed Zoning Bylaw – Focus on Traffic and Transportation

Proponent's Presentation by Tetra Tech VAI , Mr. Jeffrey Dirk

Highlights of Presentation –

- Identified 38 Study Area Intersections: Interchanges, Signalized Intersections, Un-signalized Intersections and Rotary Intersections. Traffic counts were done in June, August and then again in December.
- Identified Mitigation for the following locations in each town:

Westwood

1. Canton Street (Install traffic monitoring and traffic calming devices.)
2. Nahatan/Clapboardtree Streets
3. Route 1A/Everett Street/University Avenue
4. East Street Rotary

Canton

1. Dedham Street/Washington Street
2. Route 138/Washington Street
3. Route 138/Randolph Street
4. Route 138/Greenlodge Street
5. Dedham Street/Shawmut Road
6. Dedham Street/Elm Street

Norwood

1. Route 1/Everett Street/University Avenue
2. Neponset Circle

(All details on mitigation can be found in the presentation. See link at the end of this section.)

- Conceptual Improvement Plan:
 - University Avenue @ Blue Hill Drive/Greenlodge Street
 - University Avenue @ Canton Street/Dedham Street

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- Dedham Street Corridor

- Conceptual Plan – University Avenue
 - Option 1 Concept Plan: University Avenue/Canton Street with double right-turn lanes.
 - Option 2 Concept Plan: University Avenue/Canton Street with one-way restriction.

To view this presentation, follow this link:

<http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/index.cfm/pk/download/pid/28368/id/29901>

Peer Review Consultant's Presentation by BETA Engineering, Inc., Mr. Kien Ho

Highlights of Presentation:

Four Critical Objectives

- Traffic Generation and Trip Distribution Methodology
- Study Area
- Traffic Analysis Methodology, Operational Results
- On-Site and Off-Site Traffic Mitigations

Trip Generation and Trip Distribution

- Original Trip Generation Report, Oct. 2012
- Full Traffic Study, Nov. 2012
- Meetings/Extra Data Collection/Analysis
- Study Limits
- Extra Study Locations
- Standard ITE Methodology

University Avenue Operations

- Reviewed 2017 & 2022 Conditions
- 2022 Redistribution of Dedham Street Improvements
- A.M. Operations – Dedham Street Right Turn Lane
- P.M. Operations – Queues at Northerly End
- Saturday Operations – Queues at Northerly End
- Pedestrian Crossing

Dedham/Canton/University

- Option 1 & Option 2

Off-Site Operations

- Study Limits Appropriate
- Impacts and Issues Identified
- Canton/Norwood/MassDOT Jurisdictions

Mitigations

- Canton Street Mitigation Commitment
- Monitoring Process

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- Other Westwood Mitigations

Summary

- Moving in Right Direction
- More Work to be Done
- Community Input
- MassDOT Input

To view this presentation, follow this link:

<http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/index.cfm/pk/download/pid/28368/id/29894>

Board Questions & Comments:

- Is this traffic analysis based on having both MassDOT projects in place? (Yes. These improvements will dovetail the MassDOT projects.)
- Why Measure Mitigate? (To validate volume of traffic and modeling design to evaluate the mitigation.)
- Is measure mitigation being done now? (Yes. Examples include: Nahatan and Clapboardtree Streets, 1A & Everett/University Ave, and East Street Rotary. Safety studies are underway to identify problems and make recommendations for mitigation. Full design plans will be provided by the proponent to resolve problems in other mitigation areas.)
- When will mitigation take place for Canton/Everett/Forbes? (Speed and traffic volume data has been collected for these streets and this data will be measured to see if a deficiency is identified. The proponent has committed to implement mitigation measures.)
- Does the MassDOT own the intersection of Canton Street and University Avenue? (Mr. Bailey answered and said it is not owned by MassDOT but is a County road undergoing improvements by the state.)
- A board member who lives on Canton Street and therefore very familiar with it, expressed concerns about the traffic volume and speeding. He said that each issue needs to be addressed separately, immediately and has doubts about the measure-mitigate approach.
- Can public safety vehicles get through Blue Hill Drive? (Yes)
- Are there two points of entry on Blue Hill Drive and a new entrance on University Avenue? (Yes) Clarification is needed on this.
- Intersection of Canton Street & University Avenue is a concern. Is there only one lane of traffic between Canton and Harvard Street? (Yes) More movement to the northbound lanes is imperative and more study is need here.
- The new 95 northbound ramp is going to impact Canton Street and mitigation needs to be in place for this.
- A board member said the proponent needs to provide mitigation to Canton Street now, and it must be acceptable to the County Commissioners. (Mr. Cincotta said that \$350,000 has been targeted to be used right away for Canton Street speed issues. He said that the new 95 ramp opening is happening independently of the project and part of the MassDOT interchange projects. The Blue Hill ramp reconfiguration is not being driven by the University Station project.

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- A board member wants to be sure that the volume of traffic on Canton Street will not increase and believes that this is the town's one chance to get this right.
- Is the Blue Hill Drive exit adequate now? (No. The proponent will work with the state to create a cul-de-sac on Blue Hill Drive and create a dedicated off ramp to University Avenue. Both ends of the project corridor will be under construction and the proponent will construct University Avenue to meet up with them.)
- Will measure-mitigate techniques take place after the project is open? (Not necessarily. If there is a problem now, it may be resolved right away.)
- What percentage of trips will come from Blue Hill? (The majority of the trips.)
- A board member expressed doubt that a single lane can accommodate all trips off 128 south.
- What happens if the mitigation doesn't work?

Public Comments:

- C. McKeown, Project Manager University Station – The Norfolk County Commissioners have rejected the proponent's \$2.1 million for immediate traffic calming on Canton Street and requested the "measure-mitigate plan". The measure mitigate plan was not the proponent's idea. All along, the proponent supported immediate mitigation at Canton Street, driven by the neighborhood input process.
- On February 7th there will be another neighborhood meeting to address this matter.
- J. Harding, Forbes Road – Measure Mitigate has nothing to do with Forbes Road and it is unacceptable to the Canton, Everett, Forbes neighborhood. Measurement has already been done and no mitigation has taken place for ten years. He wants Phase 1 measures to be implemented now, the day after town meeting.
- D. Cronin, Lyons Drive – agrees with Mr. Harding's comments.
- Resident, 147 Forbes Road – Forbes Road was repaved and now traffic speed has been exacerbated.
- Resident, 170 Canton Street – Expressed concern about speed, volume, safety of children. Suggested no left turn.
- Resident, 69 Walker Road – has a pedestrian bridge over University Avenue been considered? (Has not been evaluated.)
- Resident, 181 Canton Street – prefers no cul-de-sac on Canton Street and suggested one-way for Smith Drive.
- Resident, 121 Smith Drive – is concerned about safety of children and increased litter; also suggested a one way for Smith Drive.
- J. Craine, 50 Blue Hill Drive – wants cul-de-sac to remain.
- M. Sullivan, Spellman Road – what is the daily estimated trips figure? (33,000)
- P. Peckinpugh, Whitewood Road – How many trucks deliveries will take place on a daily basis?
- Najib Habesch, BETA Engineering Neighborhood Liaison – informed the public that the Canton/Everett/Forbes neighbors will meet on February 7th at 6:30 p.m., at the Downey Cafeteria.

Motion/Action Taken:

None needed.

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Next Meetings:

Tuesday, February 5th at 6:30 p.m., Downey School cafeteria, 250 Downey Street.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Mr. Rafsky and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the board voted unanimously in favor to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:32 p.m.

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List of Documents, Materials and Exhibits

Presentation by Tetra Tech/VAi

Presentation by BETA Engineering