

Public Safety Committee

Monday, May 22, 2023

Video of meeting can be found at <https://youtu.be/XvvkjoBfDAU>

Members present: Chairman Israel Rivera, Vice Chairwoman Kocayne Givner, Todd McGee

Other councilors present: Will Puello, Jose Maldonado Velez, David Bartley, Linda Vacon, Juan Anderson-Burgos, Tessa Murphy-Romboletti

Chairman Rivera_I called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

Councilor McGee made a motion to invite the City Engineer into the chambers. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Chairman Rivera_I stated that the meeting agenda was created by taking traffic orders from the last few years and asked the City Engineer to research and address them.

Councilor McGee asked if all 41 would be taken up.

Chairman Rivera_I stated that they could be packaged but would then be addressed individually.

Councilor McGee made a motion to suspend the necessary rules to remove items 1 through 41 as a package. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Kris Baker, City Engineer, stated that the intent with the meeting was to address many outstanding orders. He noted most were related to traffic safety. He then explained that a memo was provided to detail what the Department of Public Works (DPW) was doing for traffic safety in a broad overview, including funding sources being identified.

Admin note: [memo can be found here](#)

K. Baker stated that the memo addressed issues such as speed humps and raised crosswalks, and other lower cost options for traffic calming and safety measures such as crosswalk markings, edge lines, and corner extension bulbouts at crosswalks.

Chairman Rivera_I suggested that bulbouts at corners made more sense because it can often be difficult to see crosswalks pulling out into intersections.

K. Baker emphasized that with these bulbouts, it leads pedestrians to be waiting at the edge of the road, making it easier to see them. He added that they were also looking at rectangular flashing beacons with push buttons, more general signage ideas such as LED blinking signs, informational signs such as yield signs, traverse rumble strips that create a sound and vibration as vehicles drive over them.

Councilor Vacon suggested placing on Route 202.

Chairman Rivera_I noted they also help if someone is starting to fall asleep while driving.

K. Baker stated that MassDOT was discussing them in relation to a Safe Routes to School project at Lawrence School. He emphasized that he would be talking about cost throughout the memo, adding that he had provided current prices for all of the possible measures. He then stated that there were a couple critical intersections that repeatedly came up and were at the top of his priority list. He then explained that for these types of intersections, while he would normally try to get funding for studies outside of the Chapter 90 program, he would be seeking them for these. He noted that the intersection of West Franklin and Linden was on the state's top 200 list for crashes. He added that the entire corridor of Linden from Cabot to Mackenzie had several intersections that had come up repeatedly. He then stated that he planned a more in-depth look at this area. He added that a third area they would commit to studying was Cherry Street around Dale Street and Beaudoin Village. He then stated that he would plan vehicle and speed counts at several locations along Whiting Farms Road to determine good applications for traffic calming measures on that stretch. He further stated that he would collect traffic data on Beech Street near Linden and Portland. He then explained that he would plan to do the data collection in the coming fall and then proceed with one collection every year. He then referenced the memo, discussing that there were DPW projects either in design or under construction, including Complete Streets projects, road safety audits, raised crosswalks, signal replacement, intersection improvements, and sidewalks replacements. He also stated that there were additional projects detailed that they were still seeking funding for. He noted that applications were put in for ARPA funding, use of funds from cannabis impact fees, state grants, and CDBG funding. He then stated that this should provide a good framework for going through the agenda items.

Admin Asst Anderson-Burgos advised for the benefit of the public that they could find the City Engineer's memo on the meeting post on the city website.

Councilor Vacon commended Mr. Baker for following up on the orders. She then recognized that the nature of traffic orders required waiting for evaluations to take place. She also expressed an appreciation for taking a citywide view and developing a priority list. She

then suggested that ideas such as line marking might be effective for Whiting Farms Road because it was so wide open.

Chairman Rivera_I noted that there were two pieces to addressing these issues, the DPW/City Engineer piece as well as police and enforcement. He suggested that while this meeting was about addressing the mitigation measures to address traffic issues, another could look at things from the policing side of things.

Councilor Vacon thanked Mr. Baker for his work in addressing Ward 5 issues, adding that she would likely file an order to have the police place a speed radar.

Councilor Puello asked to clarify that all of the orders were taken up as a package.

Chairman Rivera_I stated that they were but would be voted on individually.

Councilor Puello asked to address item 18.

Chairman Rivera_I suggested that the items would be discussed one by one, offering to start with 18.

Councilor Puello stated he could wait until they get to that item.

(16:10)

Item 1: 6-1-21 ANDERSON-BURGOS -- Ordered, That the City Engineer evaluate and make suggestions to address the speeding on Beech St, specifically the stretch between Portland St and Linden St. The residents that live on the side streets are concerned when tuning on to Beech St. As a side note the Holyoke High School is across the street and this makes that section a hazard to the students as well as the pedestrians.

--->Complied with 3-0.

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that he would plan to collect speed and traffic count data at this location. He emphasized that there would not be a lot of options due to it being a 4 lane stretch of the road. He added that the Beech/Resnic light may have an impact, especially if it were to be reconstructed with a roundabout as part of a future MassDOT project.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos expressed his understanding that the public would have a chance to weigh in once the MassDOT was at the 25% concept level.

K. Baker stated that was correct. He further clarified that there would be a public stakeholders meeting with an option for public comment.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that the order could be complied with, understanding that the community would be able to weigh in. He expressed a hope that once work was completed in 2027, it would help address the concerns in this order.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 1 has been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos suggested that any additional orders addressing the same area could also be complied with.

(19:00)

Item 2: 6-1-21 HERNANDEZ -- Ordered, Reach out to DPW/HPD to conduct a traffic study for the area, corner of Pine and Appleton Street, due to high speed travel and constant running of the Stop sign. Residents are concerned and have suggested that a camera could assist police department in identifying violators. In addition there is a problem with constant parking of vehicles in the alleyways between Pine and Walnut on the Appleton side street in which they conduct mechanical work and in summer time these illegally parked vehicles are utilized as launching pads for fireworks.

---> Recommended that a second stop sign on the left side be installed.

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Rivera_I noted that this was a two-part order only partially involving the City Engineer. He stated that he would reach out to former Councilor Hernandez to understand if this was still an issue and file a new order if necessary.

K. Baker suggested that a second stop be installed on Pine Street on the left hand side approaching Appleton so that it would be more visible. He added that another option would be increasing the current sign to a larger 36" sign or installed a solar powered flashing LED. He added that doubling the sign would be a good first idea, and then attempt another idea if the problem is not solved.

Chairman Rivera_I suggested that the double sign would be good to try.

Councilor McGee made a motion to approve item 2 and to install a double stop sign. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(21:05)

Item 3: 9-7-21 BARTLEY -- Due to concerns at Metcalf school, ordain, : right turn only' when exiting the parking area.

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Rivera_I stated that the sign was installed was appeared to have been complied with.

Councilor Bartley stated that he had nothing to add and that it could be complied with.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 3 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(21:45)

Item 4: 9-7-21 HERNANDEZ -- Ordered, Intersection at West Franklin and Linden has a crosswalk that is routinely ignored creating a dangerous circumstance for our pedestrians, can a study be conducted to place flashing lights and or a middle signage that creates urgency to stop for pedestrians. Traffic needs to slow down in our City.

--->Laid on the table.

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that this intersection was on the state's top 200 list and wanted more time to look at it. He added that the accidents alone would likely warrant it for an all way stop. He added that they may also look at bulbouts in conjunction with an all way stop.

Chairman Rivera_I suggested leaving it tabled until Mr. Baker looked more at it.

Councilor McGee made a motion to lay item 4 on the table. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(23:05)

Item 5: 9-7-21 HERNANDEZ -- Ordered, Clinton & Dwight street corner in need of crosswalk or light and some kind of bump out to keep cars from parking up to corner blocking visibility for pedestrians, currently pedestrians have to walk to almost the middle of street to see incoming traffic. Vehicles constantly park in the -No parking zone-, not being enforced nor ticketed.

-->Complied with, with a referral to the mayor to request funding for bulbouts.

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker recommended installing curb extensions as the likely best solution to shorten the amount of space for pedestrians to walk as well as making them more visible. He noted it was a dangerous corner. He noted the issue would be funding it. He clarified that he recommended the bulbouts.

Chairman Rivera_I asked if the recommendation could be approved but the order could remain tabled.

Councilor Givner asked if it would just happen once funding became available.

K. Baker emphasized that a funding source would need to be identified.

Councilor Bartley suggested that the order could be complied with and then referred to the mayor to identify funding. He recalled something similar done in 2013 to address a drainage system on Woodland Avenue.

Chairman Rivera_I made a motion that item 5 had been complied with, and be referred to the mayor for funding. Councilor McGee seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(25:15)

Item 6: 9-7-21 HERNANDEZ -- Ordered, The crosswalk that was installed in Hampden Street next to Stop and Shop, to address our pedestrians but most importantly our blind residents, is missing essential functions and it would be most beneficial that a Spring-loaded In-Street Pedestrian Crosswalk Sign be placed in the middle with lines repainted that instill urgency to the motorist that they need to stop, slow down to allow our pedestrians to safely arrive to the other side. Currently motorists continue to speed up that hill ignoring the initial beep. It would be most beneficial to have a light such as that in South Street in front of Elmwood towers. Motorists that do stop to yield to pedestrians are most of the times almost rear ended by other speeding motorists and at times they try to dodge the stopped vehicle and go around creating a very unsafe atmosphere for pedestrians that now are obliged to step back out of the way.

--->Complied with and refer to mayor for funding of bulbouts.

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker acknowledged that it was a dangerous corner with a long walk across the street as well as being located up a hill and around a turn. He noted that RRFB's (rectangular rapid flashing beacons) were installed as a mitigation measure but was unsure how well they were working. He then suggested that bulbouts could be installed. He also suggested that a pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB's) known as HAWK crossings could be installed as a newer way of mitigating issues. He explained that such a crossing included three lights as a more prominent signal. He then explained that this style of pedestrian beacons had a cost of \$75,000.

Councilor Givner noted that item 26 addressed the same location. She then explained that the problem was there were blind residents and because there was no light, they did not have a sound to help them know when to cross. She then asked for a solution for them.

K. Baker stated that lights were not usually installed for individual residents but were usually based on pedestrian volumes and should end up being safe for everyone, adding that pedestrian lights would have to be ADA accessible and there would be chirping sounds. He then emphasized that they could install that but would be a matter of finding a funding source.

Councilor Givner emphasized that there had been a few deaths at that location, including one person in a wheelchair. She added that it was also near a grocery store.

K. Baker acknowledged there was an issue there.

Councilor Bartley stated that he did not recall seeing signage in the area identifying to motorists that a blind person was in the area. He then recommended an order be filed to have the DPW install such a sign, perhaps on both sides of the street.

K. Baker stated that there may already be an older style sign in the area. He suggested it could be replaced with a more visible sign, adding that the current one may also be too far back from the crossing. He then asked what the committee wanted to pursue.

Councilor Givner stated that installing bulbouts and better signage was a good place to start.

Councilor McGee suggested voting on items 6 and 26 together.

Item 26: 10-4-22 GIVNER, TALLMAN -- Ordered, with special support from our blind residents and advocates, Order that a light signal with crossing sounds be installed at location of existing cross to Stop n Shop on Hampden St at Clinton Ave.
Request to City Engineer, DPW, and copy to Public Safety

---> Complied with and refer to mayor for funding of bulbouts.

Councilor McGee made a motion that items 6 and 26 had been complied with and be referred to the mayor for funding of bulbouts. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(31:35)

Item 7: 9-7-21 HERNANDEZ, TALLMAN -- Ordered, That DPW and or Holyoke Police department provide an update on what was the agreement when the Dunkin Donuts was built as to designate certain parking spaces for Eddie's Furniture located at 865 Hampden Street, to allow their delivery and Large cargo vehicles to have the necessary clearance to enter and exit safely from their lot. As it stands there are provisional handwritten no parking signs posted on cones that continually are being taken down thus preventing their business to function properly.

*Tabled 2-16-22

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Rivera_I noted that the memo explained that the agreement was discussed but never formally approved by either party.

K. Baker stated that in speaking with Jeff Burkott in the Planning Department, he understood that as it was private party, it would have been negotiated between the abutting owners. He added that a second phase of planned development on the Dunkin Donuts property had not happened. He emphasized that there was not much the city could do.

Councilor McGee stated that item 7 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(33:05)

Item 8: 9-7-21 HERNANDEZ, TALLMAN, MURPHY -- Ordered, A study to address a possible right turning only lane, Hampden right turn only onto Pleasant is the goal.

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Givner noted she had recently filed the same order.

K. Baker stated that there would need to be study and design done, noting that the signal had timing associated with it that would likely change if this was approved. He then expressed concern about the resulting queue length on Hampden Street becoming excessively long and changing the level of service for those driving through the light. He then noted that in looking at the accident data from the last 3 years, there were 15 total accidents. He added that to make it onto the state's top 200 list, the cutoff was 27 accidents. He also stated that they planned to replace that light as part of a total of 11 being replaced in the city. He then stated that he did not recommend the request due to the detrimental impact on traffic going through the light.

Councilor Givner noted that two signs had been recently added showing that Hampden Street becomes one lane after the light. She then emphasized that Hampden was already one lane coming up the hill, becoming two lanes near Stop & Shop, and then becoming one lane again going up to the highway. She then asked if it would make more sense to have one straight and right turning lane and one left turning lane. She then suggested that the accidents likely were due to vehicles trying to pass each other with only a few feet to try to pass.

K. Baker stated that this could be looked at.

Councilor Givner asked if there were different solutions being looked at for that corner with the planned change of the light.

K. Baker clarified that they were changing the equipment but not changing the functionality of the intersection. He reiterated that they could look at it, adding that intersection studies usually cost around \$8,000, which could include looking at traffic going up the hill, looking at the number of lanes, and different impacts.

Councilor Givner noted that there were new changes to the intersection, including a new church, a White Hut opening soon, and the fairly new Dunkin Donuts.

K. Baker stated that he would not recommend Chapter 90 funding so the funding would need to come from somewhere else.

Councilor Givner suggested that a new order may need to be filed as the existing orders were specific to a turning lane.

K. Baker recommended doing an engineering study. He then suggested that instead of just installing bulbouts at the crosswalk, they could look at the road going all the way up the hill. He reiterated that they would just need to find the funding.

Councilor Bartley asked for clarification of the City-Wide Traffic Signal Replacement Project mentioned in the memo.

K. Baker stated that this referred to 11 signals being replaced, noting that 9 had been completed. He explained that the remaining signal were Dwight and Pleasant as well as Lincoln and Pleasant.

Councilor Bartley asked that a communication be sent to the Council relative to the status of that project. He then asked if this was funding by MassDOT.

K. Baker stated that it was a city appropriation.

Councilor Vacon added that it was through a bond.

Councilor Bartley reiterated his request for an update on that.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 8 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(40:00)

Item 9: 10-19-21 MCGEE, TALLMAN -- Ordered, The DPW repair sidewalks on Hampden St. near 8 Williams St.

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that they were keeping a comprehensive list of sidewalk requests and were prioritizing them as well as noting potential funding sources to fix them. He then emphasized that as this was not the way he preferred to handle it, he was seeking funding to do a city-wide sidewalk condition study and ADA transition study. He then stated that they were done with projects that were city-funded and were relying on CDBG funding which was limited to eligible census tracts. He added that it also had to be eligible land uses, such as a residential use.

Chairman Rivera_I recalled that CDBG funding was used to rebuild a park using the demographic of those using it. He then asked if the same concept could be used for sidewalks.

K. Baker stated that playgrounds were different in that. He noted they were able to use those funds for a sidewalk going to Sav-a-lot because of the residents using that walk to go shop.

Chairman Rivera_I noted that people who go to Mayer Field could use those sidewalks to get there.

K. Baker stated that every proposed location goes through OCD (Office of Community Development) and is reviewed through HUD (Housing and Urban Development) guidelines on a case by case basis.

Councilor Vacon noted that almost everything in Ward 5 was old asphalt, adding that she and Mr. baker had a conversation about how best to address those areas. She then asked if funding would become part of a master plan.

K. Baker stated that it would become part of a comprehensive plan. He added that they would try to look at as many areas as they could with a consultant within the confines of the budget the department had. He added that those areas would be integrated into their online pavement management system.

Councilor Vacon asked what would be notable enough to report in terms of wear and damage to sidewalks.

K. Baker suggested providing a list of anything found and the department could go out and assess the condition.

Councilor Vacon stated that she had been looking at conditions on a house by house basis.

K. Baker stated that they tend to look at longer stretches as it was much cheaper. He suggested providing nearby intersections or mile parkers.

Councilor Vacon asked if quarter mile distances would be adequate.

K. Baker stated that it would.

Councilor Bartley suggested using the project at Mayer Field as a template, noting that 2 raised crosswalks as well as improvements to the park itself had positive impacts on traffic as well as on the neighborhood. He then emphasized the improvements to the sidewalk at the High Street and I-391 interchange. He further emphasized the differences these improvements make for conscientious homeowners.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 9 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(48:25)

Item 10: 1-18-22 ANDERSON-BURGOS -- Ordered that the DPW change the size of the "no turn on red" signs located on the corner of Hillside Ave and Cherry St. The current signs are too small, making drivers unaware of them.
Refer to Public Safety, copy to DPW

--->Recommend that the stop sign size be adjusted based on the Engineer recommendations.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Bartley agreed that the signs were unusually small at this location. He noted the recommendation was to replace the signs with larger ones if directed by the Council.

K. Baker stated that he would first ensure that the existing signs were the standard 24" x 30" and then they could go larger from there.

Chairman Rivera_I asked to clarify that the motion would be to adjust the size based on what was already there.

K. Baker assured that the signs would be larger.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos asked if the process would be to adopt the change once the order reached the City Council after Mr. Baker looks at the signs.

Councilor Vacon suggested that it would be to adopt the engineer's recommendation.

Councilor McGee made a motion to adopt the recommendation of a larger sign. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(51:05)

Item 11: 1-18-22 ANDERSON-BURGOS -- Ordered that the sidewalk in front of 211 West Franklin St be repaired. The roots from the tree in front of the house has raised the sidewalk making it difficult to transport their disabled child.
Refer to Public Safety, copy to DPW

--->Laid on the table.

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Rivera_I noted that the memo explained the location had been added to the comprehensive list.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos noted that the memo spoke on seeking funding from a Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act grant, adding that he believed this was appropriate since the child was disabled. He then asked what steps would be required to apply for the grant.

K. Baker clarified that the grant was a Planning grant and would only fund the condition assessment and the ADA transition plan but not the construction component. He then explained that they only had construction money from CDBG. He suggested that they may be able to mill it down to a level surface before trying to replace it.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos asked to meet with Mr. Baker at the location to talk about the options.

Councilor McGee made a motion to lay item 11 on the table. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(53:15)

Item 12: 1-18-23 BARTLEY -- That the DPW fully plow, sand, salt all of Ogden St. Receive, adopt, refer to DPW with copy to Public Safety.

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Rivera_I noted that the item was already complied with, per the engineer's memo.

Councilor Bartley stated that he had nothing additional to add.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 12 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(53:45)

Item 13: 3-1-22 PUELLO -- Ordered, That the city engineer draft the costs and feasibility of installing two raised crosswalks on Main Street adjacent to Springdale Park.

--->Laid on the table.

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that the location was in flux. He stated that while the residents were in favor of replacing the damaged signal, it was outdated so the existing electrical equipment could not be used and an entirely new signal would need to be installed. He then stated that

the cost estimate for a new signal was \$260,000 to \$260,000. He added that traffic counts did not warrant a signal but a decision had not been made. He noted that a project, the Springdale Corridor Project, was in the works using MassTrails grant money. He recommended turning the intersection into a stop intersection and use the project to do a raised intersection. He also recommended an RRFB be installed until the raised intersection could be completed. He then suggesting tabling the order until a decision was made about their plan.

Councilor Puello asked to clarify if the suggestion was to turn it into a 4-way stop.

K. Baker clarified that Main Street would be a throughway while Vernon would have a stop sign.

Councilor Puello stated that the main concern of citizens was coming out of Vernon with vehicles on Main Street driving too fast, adding that there was also a blind spot. He suggested that a 4-way may be a much cheaper way to address the issue. He then asked for more explanation as to why the everything needed to be replaced, including the sidewalks, because the signal was old.

K. Baker stated that if an intersection is substantially upgraded, they had to be made ADA accessible per state regulations. He analogized that it was much like when a building is updated, it would also have to be made ADA accessible.

Councilor Puello expressed that while it was frustrating but understood the importance.

K. Baker stated that with the way the light was hit, it could not be repaired.

Councilor Puello reiterated his suggestion of turning it into a 4-way stop.

Councilor Puello stated that it was a good idea.

Councilor Bartley emphasized the point about the MassDOT project. He stated that it would be a radical change starting from the Holyoke and West Springfield border and going all the way through Springdale to Vernon Street and Springdale Park. He emphasized that it was a massive change that would have to be approved by the City Council. He noted that it was currently only at a 10% design. He expressed concern about shutting down a full lane of traffic to make way for cyclists. He also expressed concern that the state would eliminate a lot of parking spaces for residents.

Councilor McGee made a motion to lay item 13 on the table. Chairman Rivera_I seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(1:02:05)

Item 14: 3-15-22 PUELLO -- Ordered, That the City engineer draft the feasibility and associated costs of a raised crosswalk adjacent to 401 Main Street.

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that this was included in a project for 3 locations of raised crosswalks along Main Street that they were using cannabis impact funding for. He stated they would be between Cabot and Spring, at the Spring Street intersection, and at Hamilton, adding that they would be construction later in the year or early the following year.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 14 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Councilor Puello expressed that he had hoped many other unfunded traffic improvement projects could have used cannabis impact fee money.

(1:03:50)

Item 15: 4-5-22 ANDERSON-BURGOS, JOURDAIN, PUELLO -- Ordered, that the public safety committee invite in relevant departments to address safety concerns at the intersection of Beech St and West Franklin. A resident recently lost her life crossing the street, and other residents have also expressed concerns. What can prevent future tragedies? What are the state's plans and timeline? What can be done in the meantime? Invite in Mayor Garcia, HPD, DPW, HG&E, MassDOT.

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that this was on the state's top 200 list. He then explained that MassDOT had undertaken a design and construction plan for reconstruction of the intersection. He then stated that the city would have some input but reiterated that it would be a MassDOT project. He added that there would be time for public input once it reached the 25% design level. He also added that it was planned for 2027.

Chairman Rivera_I suggested that it was complied with.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos agreed.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 15 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(1:05:05)

Item 16: 4-5-22 MURPHY-ROMBOLETTI -- Ordered, That the City Engineer look into whether installation of a traffic light at the intersection of 141 and Bemis Rd is necessary in order to mitigate traffic concerns and potential accidents.

*Tabled 6-27-22, 8-8-22

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that they did a study at the intersection based on the 8 warrants required to recommend a signal. He then stated that none of the 8 warrants were met and it was not recommended.

Councilor Murphy-Romboletti stated that the feedback was helpful and thanked him for the time put into it.

K. Baker stated that the memo showed the full analysis, including data and determinations.

Councilor Bartley stated that even though the engineer did not support this, he found it to be a valid attempt to get a result. He suggested contacted Cpt Cruz as often as necessary to have a cruiser posted there.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 16 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(1:07:15)

Item 17: 4-19-22 ANDERSON-BURGOS -- Ordered that the police department provide the city council with a report of the intersections with the highest rates of accidents. A discussion of safety concerns would be helped by having a broader picture of problem areas instead of discussing individual issues. Refer to Public Safety and copy HPD

*Tabled 6-27-22

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Rivera_I stated that while the Police Department was not present, the memo did offer feedback that the state maintained a website showing the top crash locations in the state.

K. Baker stated that it was a public site. He added that it provided more information than just crash locations, including pedestrian incident clustering. He also noted crash data from the last 20 years can be downloaded from MassDOT.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that the intent of the order was to identify problematic streets for the purposes of redesigning or rethinking high impact areas. He then asked if MassDOT looked at high crash sites when determining where to improve city streets.

K. Baker stated that for signalized intersections, cities are normally obligated to design projects and then try to get them on the state's tip to pay for it. He then explained that for intersections such as the Beech/Resnic/West Franklin that were on the top 200 list, MassDOT was taking on the cost of redesigning it and paying for the construction.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that he found the order to be complied with.

Councilor Bartley suggested that the link be posted on the city website.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 17 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(1:11:00)

Item 18: 5-3-22 ANDERSON-BURGOS -- Ordered, that SLOW CHILDREN AT PLAY signs be placed on at both ends of Locust St between West Franklin St and MacKenzie Ave.

*Tabled 6-27-22

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that these signs were no longer used and were not shown to be effective.

Councilor Vacon asked what existing signs could be replaced with, such as one located at the end of Bray Park Drive and Evergreen.

K. Baker stated that he was recommending replacing that with a stop sign. He then explained that they were working to remove those signs. He noted that they could imply that there aren't children living in other places.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos suggested that the order could be complied with and that any existing such signs be removed from around the city. He suggested that the signs give the impression that it's safe to play in the street when it really would not be.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 18 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(1:13:00)

Item 19: 6-21-22 VACON -- Ordered, that the city engineer evaluate the area of Cherry & Dale Streets for speed calming measures and the PD enforce speed limits. Pedestrians and drivers are reporting drivers traveling at high speeds failing to stop for the crosswalk and causing dangerous situations for drivers entering Cherry Street from Dale St. and driveways on Cherry St.

*Tabled 8-8-22

--->Complied with

Councilor Vacon suggested that items 19, 28, and 41 could be discussed together.

Item 28: 11-1-22 MURPHY-ROMBOLETTI -- Ordered that the City Engineer explore options for traffic mitigation on Whiting Farms Rd, specifically at the crosswalks on Farnum and Tokeneke, to ensure that drivers stop for pedestrians utilizing the crosswalks.

--->Complied with

Item 41: 6-21-22 VACON -- Ordered, that our City Engineer recommend traffic calming measures for Whiting Farms Rd. Constituents are reporting drivers operating their vehicles in an unsafe manner.

*Tabled 8-8-22

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that these areas would be looked at as part of the speed and vehicle count or the more detailed intersection analysis.

Councilor Vacon asked for a tentative timeline for when that would be done so that she could report back to constituents.

K. Baker stated that the speed counts and date would be collected in the fall, likely October. He then stated that the recommendations from the intersection studies could all be completed as a package over the winter.

Councilor Vacon suggested that all of the orders here could be complied with.

Councilor McGee made a motion that items 19, 28 and 41 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(1:15:40)

Item 20: 6-21-22 VACON -- Ordered, that the radar speed feedback sign be placed on Cherry Street near the curve (Beaudoin Village side of road) when approaching the intersection at Dale. Pedestrians have reported nearly being hit by drivers while in the crosswalk.

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Vacon stated that she was unsure if the radar had been done in the past year and that the order could be complied with. She added that she would plan to file a new order.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 20 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(1:16:20)

Item 21: 6-21-22 ANDERSON-BURGOS -- Ordered, That the DPW install a raised crosswalk at the intersection of Linden St and West Franklin St. Vehicles coming down Linden St are not coming to a complete stop.

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that this was his top priority intersection, noting it was the only unsignalized intersection on the top 200 list.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos suggested that the trouble starts at the intersection with Beech Street, with backups sometimes leading to traffic not flowing well.

K. Baker stated that the analysis was likely correct, but that he had not yet had a chance to watch it.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that as a resident living near this location, he observed this to be the case. He then stated that he believed the order could be complied with.

Councilor Givner made a motion that item 21 had been complied with. Chairman Rivera_I seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-1.

(1:18:02)

Item 22: 6-21-22 MALDONADO VELEZ -- Ordered, that the city engineer study the intersection of Hamilton Street and Main Street in the hopes of adding safety measures. Some problems at this intersection have been "very dangerous to cross the street even with the marked crosswalk" and "dangerous when taking a left turn from Hamilton onto Main

Street". Any recommendations to how we can improve the safety at this intersection would be great!

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Rivera_I stated that some of this appeared to have been addressed with the discussion of item 14.

Councilor Maldonado Velez stated that he filed the order after speaking with workers and volunteers at Nueva Esperanza. He added that he had since began working in the area and observed how much something needed to be done in that corridor. He suggested repainting would help. He emphasized that it was a walkable part of the city and needed to be as safe as possible.

Chairman Rivera_I stated that item 27 should be discussed with this item.

Item 27: 10-4-22 RIVERA_J, MALDONADO VELEZ -- Ordered, that we install raised crosswalks, or other calming measures, on Main Street between Hamilton Street & Sargeant Street and Cabot Street & Spring Street.
Refer to Public Safety.

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Rivera_I stated that in the discussion of item 14, the city engineer spoke on using cannabis impact funds to install raised crosswalks to mitigate the issue.

Chairman Rivera_I made a motion that items 22 and 27 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-1.

(1:21:05)

Item 23: 8-2-22 BARTLEY -- Ordered, Due to neighbor concerns, the city engineer review accident reports at the intersection of Linden and Hampshire Streets and, if needed, recommend traffic safety improvements at what now is a 3-way stop. Refer to public safety and copy to city engineer for a report in 60 days time.

--->Complied with

Councilor Vacon stated that this could be taken up item 32.

Item 32: 12-6-22 BARTLEY -- Ordered, The DPW, HPD and City Engineer report to City Council with its efforts to improve traffic safety at the corners of Linden/Hampshire Sts. and Linden/Locust Sts. as residents report speeding, accidents, and many instances of running the stop signs. Please produce any accident reports for the last two years for these intersections and send as a communication. Receive and refer to Public Safety; copies to DPW, HPD and Engineer.

*Tabled 1-10-23

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that the accident reports were attached to the memo. He then stated that the corridor of Linden Street from Cabot to Mackenzie would be looked at.

Councilor Bartley stated that the items could be considered complied with pending further discussion.

Councilor McGee made a motion that items 23 and 32 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(1:23:00)

Item 24: 8-2-22 BARTLEY -- Ordered, DPW repaint the crosswalk on Hillside Ave near Coit. Receive and refer to DPW. Copy to Public Safety.

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Rivera_I asked if this could be approved.

Councilor Bartley suggested that there may be another step.

K. Baker stated that maintenance items could be addressed directly by reaching out to the DPW and having them turned into work orders without needing to file orders. He suggested that it created a lot of extra paperwork.

Councilor Bartley noted that when he first joined the City Council, he was advised to make the calls but then file the orders to cover himself. He then stated that this was a way to show constituents publicly that they had followed up on their concerns. He noted that on this order, he had followed up with DPW but it had not been painted in 8 years. He suggested that the order could be complied and forwarded to the DPW to get it on their schedule.

K. Baker suggested that there could be a better way to address these matters than filing orders.

Councilor Givner stated that she had been told by the DPW that their funding for painting had run out pretty early in the year. She emphasized that the Council can ask for things but they just end up on a list of things to be done if the funding is not there to do it.

Councilor Vacon emphasized that this was a public safety issues, adding that money not in the budget had been spent on things that were not public safety issues. She suggested that the money sometimes needed to be found. She added that councilors sometimes file orders because otherwise constituents don't believe anything has been done about their concerns. She added that when that does not work, citizen petitions could be the next step.

Councilor Givner noted that funding is always being moved around. She then suggested that funds should be available to transfer for emergency needs like this.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 24 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

K. Baker noted that costs of regular paint was provided on the first page of the memo.

(1:27:35)

Item 25: 8-2-22 MCGEE -- Order that the city engineer review the inner section of Yale and Park Slope to determine what options are available (i.e. new signage) to help slow traffic in the area.

---> Recommend that the order be adopted to approve the installation of an informational sign at the Engineer's recommendation.

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that after evaluating this the previous year, he found the traffic volumes were not high enough to meet the stop warrants and he was not recommending turning it into a stop intersection. He also suggested an informational sign such as a yield could be used to slow people down.

Councilor McGee asked if a new order needed to be filed.

K. Baker stated that could be done now if that's the desired solution.

Councilor McGee stated they were looking for anything that could help.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 25 be approved for the installation of an informational sign at the Engineer's recommendation. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

(1:28:50)

Item 29: 11-15-22 BARTLEY -- The City Engineer provide an update to a future Public Safety meeting on the status of funding repairs at the crosswalk at the main gate to H.C.C.
(This has been pending since at least 2017.)

*Tabled 1-10-23

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that the concept would suggest removing the current beacon and install RRFB's as well as rework the median. He added that they would also need to have ADA sidewalk ramps installed on each side of the crosswalk and additional sidewalk work on the campus side to feed into the existing sidewalks. He estimated that the cost would be \$120,000 to \$175,000.

Councilor Bartley stated that this was good news but a funding source would need to be identified. He then Mr. Baker if he had spoken with the mayor on this or if he would plan to.

K. Baker stated that he had not planned to, but first planned to provide his recommendation to see if this was what the Council wanted to pursue. He then asked Councilor Bartley if he had spoken with anyone at HCC or if he should do that.

Councilor Bartley stated that HCC was in flux, making it difficult to know who to confer with. He suggested this may not get much traction with many other things happening there. He then stated that the order could be complied with and that a follow up order could be filed to get a funding source. He expressed a hope that MassDOT could help as it was a state road.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 29 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Chairman Rivera_I stated that he needed to leave, and Councilor Givner would chair the rest of the meeting.

(1:32:00)

Item 30: 11-15-22 BARTLEY -- Ordered, The Mayor and community development dept fund the following projects with either CDBG or ARPA funds: Repair Sidewalk on east side of Queen St. between Coit St and Queen St. and Build/Repair Sidewalk on west side of High St. from Norfolk St. to Parenteau Dr.; repave Merrick Ave.; repair sidewalk on south-side of Hampden St. between Nonotuck and Pleasant Sts. with the section near Thorpe Ave. (W-4) in need of immediate attention.

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that all locations were on the comprehensive list. He noted that some may not be CDBG eligible. He added that he had learned sidewalks were not an eligible activity for ARPA funds. He noted that the city would need to appropriate for sidewalks that were not in CDBG eligible locations.

Councilor Bartley noted that 2 of these locations had already been done, the Norfolk to Parenteau stretch as well as the work on Merrick Avenue. He noted that no calls had been received following the work but it was great it finally got done. He then noted that the other locations were in really rough shape and should be prioritized. He suggested that the order could be complied with as the work was getting there.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 30 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-1.

(1:35:35)

Item 31: 11-15-22 BARTLEY, PUELLO -- Ordered, City Engineer consider the following road improvements on Main St. in Springdale: in lieu of replacing the traffic light, install a raised crosswalk and solar-powered pedestrian signal. Copy to Mayor, Community Development, HFD Commissioners and Alarm Division.

--->Laid on the table.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Givner suggested that this was covered in item 13.

Councilor Bartley noted the recommendation was alternative solutions in lieu of a \$265,000 traffic light. He suggested that a raised crosswalk and a pedestrian signal would likely go a long way to addressing resident concerns.

K. Baker noted that item 13 had been tabled.

Councilor Puello thanked Councilor Bartley for his help to work on this matter.

Councilor McGee made a motion to lay item 31 on the table. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-1.

(1:37:50)

Item 33: 12-20-22 JOURDAIN, BARTLEY -- Ordered, That the City Engineer review the opportunity to put a raised sidewalk(s) in front of Blessed Sacrament School on Westfield Rd and report back to the City Council on our ability to do that. These were placed in front of Mayer Field on this street and should also be considered here as well for child safety.

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that they had a Shared Streets grant with MassDOT and were able to change the scope given that the raised crosswalks proposed for Appleton would not work. He added that they shifted that to Kane Road as well as the Blessed Sacrament raised crosswalks. He stated that they just needed to wait for the birds to come back.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 33 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-1.

(1:39:00)

Item 34: 1-3-23 From Barbara Blodgett, re: letter sent to Mayor Joshua A. Garcia addressing speeding on Hillside Avenue & Speeding within the City of Holyoke.

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that he had many conversations with Ms. Blodgett and noted some of the issues were general issues with speeding throughout the city. He then stated that speed studies were done on Hillside and found that the 85th percentile did not exceed 30 miles per hour and therefore speed humps were not recommended. He noted it had been discussed in the Ordinance Committee as a result of a petition.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 34 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-1.

(1:40:35)

Item 35: 1-17-23 PUELLO -- Ordered, That the city engineer please explore the feasibility of installing a divider(s) at the top of Saint Vincent street. Concerns have been raised about vehicles being able to turn safely.

--->Laid on the table.

Councilor McGee stated that items 35 and 36 could be discussed together.

Item 36: 1-17-23 PUELLO -- Ordered, That the city engineer please explore the feasibility or repairing the raised crossed walk on West Franklin and Magnolia Ave. Concerns have been raised about its effectiveness.

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that for 35, he asked the DPW to put in a center line at the top to delineate lanes and to cut the vegetation. He then suggested tabling the item to see if that addresses the issue.

Councilor Puello thanked Mr. Baker for the suggestion.

Councilor McGee made a motion to lay item 35 on the table. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-1.

K. Baker stated that item 36 was just about repairing raised crosswalks. He stated that it had been cut through as part of a Holyoke Water Works project and that it would be fixed soon. He added that with the way the road was sloped, there was a maximum cross slope allowed on a crosswalk which led to a reduced effectiveness because it ended up becoming like a ramp.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 36 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-1.

(1:43:45)

Item 37: 2-7-23 ANDERSON-BURGOS -- Ordered, That a flashing stop sign be installed to replace the current standard stop sign located on Magnolia Ave going up Portland St. Cars are speeding and ignoring the current stop sign. (Refer to Public Safety copy to DPW)

--->Approved

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that the requested stop signs have a cost of \$3,200. He added that the LED solar powered stop signs also require ongoing maintenance to keep them functioning. He also stated that he did not recommend them in residential neighborhoods because they can be a nuisance for nearby homes. He noted that they were high powered lights all around the sign blinking at 50-60 times a minute.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that the location of the current sign was next to a bush that was completely blocking the house to the right of it. He added that the houses to the left were up on a hill and would likely not see the lights. He recognized the concern about the nuisance, noting that one such sign on Hillside had received a complaint about the lights from a resident.

K. Baker stated that this was not in the current budget but finding \$3,200 could be manageable.

Councilor Givner noted that in looking at a map, there appeared to be houses all around there. She then asked Councilor Anderson-Burgos if he had spoken with residents.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos stated that those conversations are where this order came from.

Councilor McGee made a motion to approve item 37. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-1.

(1:47:20)

Item 38: 2-7-23 ANDERSON-BURGOS -- Ordered that the DPW place a "STOP SIGN AHEAD" on the G&E pole #8 near 59 Magnolia Avenue. (Refer to Public Safety copy to DPW)

--->Approved

DISCUSSION:

K. Baker stated that they could do this. He noted that they were no longer permitted to put signs on HG&E poles. He then stated that this could be installed 200 feet from the intersection on a separate sign post.

Councilor Vacon asked why they could not post on HG&E poles.

K. Baker stated that it had been a request from HG&E to stop but he did not know why. He suggested that it may be due to trouble painting their poles.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos speculated that it may be due to sometimes needing to relocate poles.

Councilor McGee made a motion to approve item 38. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-1.

(1:48:55)

Item 39: 2-7-23 GIVNER -- Ordered, With Community support, That all four way intersections include either red blinking lights or solar powered stop signs, AND that any new stop signs installed include solar powered lighting.
-To DPW / Copy to public safety.

--->Complied with

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Givner stated that she understood the point about cost.

K. Baker emphasized that cost was one issue. He added that it would be close to \$13,000 per intersection throughout the city, not including the time for DPW laborers to install them. He also added that there would also be maintenance issues and intensity concerns. He suggested that each location should be looked at individually. He added that these should be saved for places that really needed them, places with a lot of non-compliance of stop signs. He suggested bringing up specific intersections on an individual basis.

Councilor McGee made a motion that item 39 had been complied with. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-1.

(1:50:30)

Item 40: 2-21-23 ANDERSON-BURGOS -- Ordered, that the City Engineer provide feedback to address traffic safety issues at the intersection of Linden, Anderson, and MacKenzie. Drivers have been observed frequently driving through, often speeding through the stop sign on Linden. Recently a vehicle hit a house right at that corner.

--->Laid on the table

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Anderson-Burgos noted that since he bought a nearby house in 2012, he had observed that this was an issue. He stated that cars coming from Linden often do not stop but drive straight through. He stated that he had nearly been hit many times. He then stated that he was motivated to file the order after a car recently drove through it, went over the curb, and the house.

K. Baker stated that it had been good to look at all of these orders together as many themes emerged from it. He added that the corridor of Linden Street was one main concern that would be getting detailed analyses in the near future.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos asked if he was referring to the MassDOT project planned for 2027.

K. Baker clarified that this was different. He explained that the intersection of Linden and West Franklin would be one study, and then the corridor from Linden from Cabot to Mackenzie would be another more detailed study.

Councilor Givner emphasized that Linden and West Franklin was in the top 5% of crash clusters in the state.

Councilor Anderson-Burgos suggested that this not be complied with until there is feedback on next steps.

K. Baker stated that on these 3 detailed studies, he hoped to have speed data in the fall and then get engineers working on it.

Councilor McGee made a motion to lay item 40 on the table. Councilor Givner seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-1.

Councilor Vacon commended Mr. Baker for taking a comprehensive look at the orders, adding that it had been worth the wait to see the priorities which would lead to better results.

Councilor Givner stated that it was also good to see that there were obvious patterns emerging, as well as to see where data could be found in order to share that with constituents.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM