

Town of Wellesley Process for Traffic-Related Requests

Background

The Town periodically receives requests from residents to implement measures intended to reduce traffic volume or vehicular speeds; change traffic patterns; add traffic signs; add or modify crosswalks; or effect such other "traffic calming" measures as necessary to increase vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Intake of traffic-related requests

Any traffic-related requests should first be submitted in writing to the Police Department. The Police Department will make an initial determination of whether the situation warrants:

- Additional enforcement action;
- Improved signage, striping or other actions within the jurisdiction of the Police Department; or,
- Consideration of more substantive measures, in which case the Police Department will refer the issue to the Selectmen's office.

Traffic issues referred to the Selectmen's office

The Selectmen's office will periodically convene a meeting with the Police Department, DPW, Town Engineer and, as necessary, the Town's traffic consultant, to collaboratively review these issues. More specifically, this group will:

- Assess the merits of each issue.
- Prioritize the issues, primarily in terms of the public safety impact;
- Authorize further data gathering and analysis, within the constraints of the relevant budget;
- Identify potential solutions, including analysis of the cost and any implementation issues;
- Authorize the implementation of measures that do not warrant further public or Selectmen input, and which can be completed within the constraints of the existing budget; and,
- For those issues that warrant further public or Selectmen input, agree to a plan and timetable for soliciting such input.

The Executive Director will inform the Selectmen quarterly of the results of these meetings, if any.

Traffic guidelines

In evaluating proposed traffic measures, the Town adheres to the following guidelines:

- All recommendations concerning signage or engineering will conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).
- Regulatory speed limits cannot and will not be established or adjusted without approval from MassHighway.
- Due to adverse neighborhood impacts and incremental maintenance costs, the Town of Wellesley does not use artificial surface elevations, vertical elements or other obstacles in any roadway for the purpose of affecting vehicle speed.

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Public Hearing

The Selectmen shall hold a public hearing prior to the implementation of any significant, proposed traffic measure. The purpose of the public hearing is to solicit neighborhood input and gauge neighborhood support for any proposal.

Funding

Each year, the Selectmen will budget an amount for traffic-related matters. Such amount is intended to cover the cost of related engineering services (internal or external), and the cost of implementing traffic-related measures for which there is not another source of funding. It is anticipated that the study and/or implementation of certain traffic-related measures may need to be deferred until sufficient budget funds, or an alternative funding source, becomes available.