

## Traffic Safety Committee Minutes

Meeting held on Friday, June 18, 2021 at 9:00am

Persons in Virtual Attendance: Chief Kilcullen, Commander Delpha, James Rotondo and Devon Neary

Absent: Ted Gillen and Brad LaFaso from LaFaso Electric

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by Chief Kilcullen

New Business:

### 1 - Traffic safety concern at the corner of South Street and Forest Street – Sarah Roy

Chief Kilcullen mentioned there have been roughly six accidents at this location. On average there are 1.2 crashes per year at this location. Chief believes there is just a stop sign. Do the number of crashes justify additional signage? What do you think, Jim? We could probably go through every intersection in the City & find crashes have occurred there. Commander Delpha mentioned that 2 crashes weren't related to stop sign issues, so that would leave 4 accidents in 5 years as having occurred here. Jim mentioned that this isn't an expensive fix if we decide to do this. We could put up 2 way stop signs or cross traffic doesn't stop. It was decided to take a look and see which of these signs would work best at this location and to install them. Chief mentioned that we can address this issue with other intersections as they come up.

### 2 - Request to address the fact that there isn't a Stop sign at the top of Grant Avenue

It is a T intersection as you come up Grant Avenue to Nichols Street. There's no sort of traffic control here. It's a very steep hill. Chief mentioned that he likes to have a traffic control sign at intersections. He mentioned that he's seen Yield signs at places where we'd like a stop sign. Particularly in Winter, it may be difficult with road conditions to stop. He asked Jim what his thoughts were. Jim agrees that there should be a Stop sign at this intersection and also mentioned that he feels that we have way too many yield signs in the City. Public Works need to do their job and keep the road safe. If cars can't stop in Winter and have to roll through, he feels a Stop sign is the better option than a yield sign. Devon also agreed with putting a stop sign up here. He said that the sight lines look fine. Chief asked Jim if the Stop sign would be put on Grant Avenue and not on Nichols Street. Jim said Yes, it would be put on Grant Avenue. Chief asked if there was anything more to discuss regarding this. No.

### 3 - Speed limit on Killington Avenue

Chief mentioned that he received a letter from a resident on Killington Avenue identifying 3 Particular vehicles that speed on Killington Avenue. Chief asked Commander Delpha if he made contact with the owners of the vehicles? No. Chief mentioned that we've had a bit of transition with Kevin Blongy leaving. We'll get a speed cart up here to collect data. Devon mentioned that he lives on the One way end and most of the traffic is cut through traffic. He hears a few hot road vehicles around the same time each evening. Chief mentioned that we had the speed detection device up there last year on Killington Avenue but that the latest correspondence hasn't been on the One way block. Devon thinks it's from the East Street intersection up. Chief mentioned that we will put the speed cart up there and do enforcement.

### Non Agenda Item

Jim added an item to the Agenda. He mentioned receiving a phone call from Mike Moran and that he lives on Park Avenue, is handicapped and concerned with some things. Several handicap people live in the area. He is concerned with Traffic speed as the Maple Village is located near Pine Street location. He would like to have a wheelchair and blind person sign put on Park Avenue. Jim indicated wanting to talk to Mike Moran to see what will have the most effect. Chief mentioned that he is in favor of putting one of these signs up at this location. We just need to find proper placement. He asked where the blind person lives. Jim mentioned that he will have DPW take a look at sidewalk sections. Maybe we can factor some installation of more sidewalk next year. The goal is to get people off the road and on the sidewalk. Devon mentioned at the East part near Maples, if they can't access West part, they will have mobility issues. Commander Delpha mentioned there is a bus stop, there. Chief mentioned that if Jim Needs the Police to be involved

RHS Pop up - On April 28, 2021, Chief Kilcullen, Commander Delpha, Jim Rotondo and Devon Neary did a walk through at the Rutland High School. Chief Kilcullen mentioned that he sent an email regarding curb cuts to Giovanni Falco by mistake, that was intended to go to Jim Rotondo. Chief Kilcullen mentioned he didn't know if RHS even needs permission from us to use it. Bottom line is the curb cut is there, we don't even know that it's an approved curb cut anyway. Devon mentioned that according to State Law on town controlled highways, they have ultimate authority over access management. It says that's a Class 1 town highway, the City does control that curb cut. Jody mentioned that he was just telling Devon and as he told Gio yesterday, they would never open that curb cut without Chief Kilcullen's permission. Chief thanked him and said that we appreciate that and that's what we kind of wanted to talk about today. We didn't have

any, as far as the Committee goes, we didn't have any new business but we wanted to talk about some Old Business. Specifically, this project and specifically the pop up. So, just wanted to get an idea of what you had in mind for the pop up. We didn't really have a sense of what would be happening and what you're looking to do that week and we wanted to make sure and see if we had any concerns with it.

At today's meeting, Jody Sabatase mentioned that Giovanni and his daughter, Emelia are having trouble signing in to our meeting. He just needs to call his daughter and he'll be right back. Jody mentioned to Chief Kilcullen that he wasn't sure if he knew this or Jim because he doesn't know how the line of communication works with the Board but when I got elected to the Board, I did get appointed to this committee. Chief acknowledged. Devon said so whenever you guys want to schedule a meeting or so, obviously I'd want to be there but Jody mentioned that he would like to join in on any meetings regarding this. So, just to keep that feather in your cap. Chief said that sounds good.

Jody Sabatase mentioned that Gio and Emelia weren't able to sign in to our Zoom meeting and mentioned that the RHS Pop up will be the week of June 7<sup>th</sup>. Chief Kilcullen mentioned to them that before they got on, that we had no New Business on our Agenda but we wanted to bring up some Old Business and talk specifically the plans for the Pop Up week of June 7<sup>th</sup>. So, if you could talk to us about what you're looking to do, what exactly, what sort of activity will take place that week because when Jim and he had spoken and we didn't have a real good sense on what you're looking to do that week. Giovanni asked if he could have 30 seconds so he can go get a laptop from somewhere else. Chief said sure. Jody said for them to go ahead. Jody can't wait until we can do this in person. Devon said that what he'll do is give us a recap and Gio can fill in anything he didn't cover. So, basically, we're looking for on campus pop up, only. So, what we're hoping is that Glenn Scott will have the crosswalks painted on campus and the lines drawn on campus. Then, we're going to have an Entrance only and an Exit only from the student parking lot and that is about the gist of the Pop up. Chief said that's good, so in terms of the potential, the look at the exit onto Woodstock, that's not part of this and he thought there was some sort of evaluation of the crosswalk, moving the crosswalk down to Harrington. I thought that was part of it. Devon said he thinks that they're looking to do that but logistically in listening to the Chief's concerns and Jim's concerns, he doesn't think that is going to be possible. Chief said that's kind of what we wanted to talk about We certainly have real concerns about opening up the exit onto Woodstock without some major modifications West of Stratton. He is glad that we're not there yet but we have to continue to talk about that internally and see what we can come up with on that before that happens. He also said that as long as this is limited to On Campus, we certainly don't have any concerns. Devon said that he's hoping with the Congressional appropriations that we applied for that once we do that Engineering Study of the traffic and stuff with that money. He said he's hoping that then, they'll approach the crosswalk and the opening of the Exit. Chief said that sounds good. If for some reason we aren't awarded that money, Devon thinks that there are other money sources out there that could fund an engineering study for that area. He

agrees with Chief Kilcullen. It's pretty complicated and certainly puts the city at a big risk, liability wise but it's certainly not something that can't happen. As long as it's totally studied and the feasibility is evaluated, then I think it would be ok.

Devon said the Harrington Avenue piece, that one he has more of an issue with. It's already a 4 way stop. If we're concerned with line of sight, that would indicate that people aren't currently stopping for the stop signs at this intersection. To him, any intersection that is a full stop should be a candidate for a crosswalk. Thinks that what they could propose down the road or this Summer, the RPC could certainly do a study of that intersection, do a turning movement count for a day or two and really get an idea of what the risk to a pedestrian would be if a crosswalk was there. Legally, in Vermont, in and of the United States, any intersection that is a full stop is a legal crosswalk as long as it's not on an Interstate highway and obviously, there's not a stop sign on an Interstate. I think we can look at that piece, a little bit closer. Devon asked Jody if there were any notes about the pop up closer to Stratton Road to do with that intersection of the school and all. Jody said not that he knows of. He said when Gio gets here, we'll ask. I will say this, though. They did put an additional signage with warning that's about 25 feet before that stop sign a yellow sign with an arrow that says, "stop ahead". So, whoever put that in, Thank you for that piece. They also put the red collar on the pole, as well which is a nice add on. Chief said especially, not that the kids are out there too much at night but it really adds so much reflectivity to it. We did the same thing at the Stratton Road/Killington Avenue intersection. Devon also noticed at the River Street intersection, there was a red collar put on this pole. Chief thinks that Jim Rotondo is starting to have his department use these more. Devon mentioned that that's something we should consider, is doubling up on the stop signs, front and back so that you see them as you're approaching, with the collars as well. It's amazing having double signs, how much visible that becomes to a driver. Devon mentioned the other thing with the alternative exit that he hasn't done yet is that he needs to dig up the Act 250 permit to see if it was a condition of the permit to close the Woodstock Avenue exit from the Rutland High School. That could change this completely.

Chief welcomed Giovanni back and he apologized for their delay in signing on to our meeting. Giovanni mentioned that he wasn't sure what we had talked about but said that he will start with the Pop up.

Giovanni mentioned that he is working with Jonathan from Locomotion. The dates for the pop up are the week of June 7<sup>th</sup>. On June 6, 2021, they will set up this pop up and run for the whole week. They are implementing some changes that were recommended at a previous meeting to see if they're effective and productive and create or reduce congestion. The changes would be to the Student parking lot. They are creating one exit and one entrance, rather than using for both. Will put in lines, crosswalks and stop bars. The other thing we would like to do is to open alternative exit. I know that's the hardest thing to be decided. However, Giovanni stated that President Schillinger is going to work with Officer LaGuardia if they get to open the alternative

exit so there is an official there to make sure people are turning right only. Will have students doing car counting to see where cars are going. He mentioned how we have talked about having the environmental study and they included that in their Grant application. To start that process, he felt it would be good to have some data. He mentioned that he noticed the new, "stop ahead" sign on Stratton Road. Will do curb extensions at main entrance of school, teacher parking lot, student parking lot. Giovanni asked Chief if he had any questions so far, regarding these things. Chief mentioned that he has no issues with on campus items. He also mentioned that we are not in a position now to use the alternative exit at this time. We're not quite there yet, in terms of opening this exit up. It can't be part of the pop up. He asked Giovanni Falco what he had in mind for Harrington Avenue. Giovanni mentioned moving the crosswalk to this location, from it's current location on Stratton Road at the entrance to the high school. He mentioned that it reduces the amount of time the Officer needs to stop cars for pedestrians to cross and kids are already crossing at this location. Chief Kilcullen stated that we can take action on this and that he's always had an issue with mid-block crosswalks. Implementing a cross walk at Harrington Avenue/Stratton Road location can happen quicker than opening up the Woodstock Avenue exit.

Giovanni asked what the environmental study would look like. Giovanni thinks that getting raw data would work to open for the week of June 7<sup>th</sup> or for half of the week.

Chief mentioned that we're not in a position to open it and just see what is going to happen. Chief thinks that there would have to be some modifications if that were ever to happen. I think it's problematic. Chief doesn't think they would ever just open it up and see what happens. Chief asked Devon if he could maybe talk about the scope of a possible study. Devon said he tends to agree and really wants to study this well but there's some really big implications. He said he has some reservations as well. A study could really be a number of things so it would really depend on what information we would like to get out of it. It's good to know that if that were to happen, that the school resource officer would help to facilitate and monitor that situation. With that being said, he's like to something more formal come out of that study from an Engineering Professional or consultant to really consider all the variables. Thinks there needs to be more safety measures installed to make sure there wasn't a negative conflict with traffic on Woodstock Avenue. He mentioned that all of Class 1 roads in Rutland City are looking to be paved in 2024. We really need to reconfigure Woodstock Avenue. This would be the ultimate opportunity to open the alternative exit. It will probably take these next 3 years to make sure all Act 250 conditions can be satisfied as well.

Chief mentioned that he likes the idea of the Road diet on Woodstock Avenue. He asked Commander Delpha if he remembered how the traffic was when the test run was done in 2014 mentioned that depending on the time of day, but straight lane traffic was pretty congested. Devon mentioned that as far as pop up goes, if you get the scope too big, it can be a lot to control. If we focus on "on campus" focus and maybe look at Harrington Avenue crosswalk as part of pop up or consider doing Harrington Avenue crosswalk as a separate issue. Chief Kilcullen mentioned that focus needs to be "on campus" for now. He also mentioned that he will talk to Jim next

week when he returns. He will also have Jim look at the placement of the stop sign at the Harrington Avenue intersection. Chief mentioned that the Exit on Woodstock Avenue is a long term issue. We will have a decision on Harrington Avenue before next meeting.

Devon mentioned that there is a Vtrans/bike grant available and he doesn't think the City is making an application. He asked how many speed carts we have. Chief responded that we have 1 and have 2 that are pole mounted. Devon mentioned that we could make application for a \$50K grant for flashing beacons at the school. We could also look at getting another speed cart.

Meeting adjourned at 09:35 am by Chief Kilcullen.