

Traffic Safety Committee, Meeting Minutes, December 19, 2025

Commander Whitehead called the meeting to order at 09:05 hours

Members Present: Commander Whitehead, Ted Gillen, Soupie Dethlefsen, Commissioner Bob Protivanski and Tom Donahue

Members Absent: Chief Brian Kilcullen and Brad LaFaso of Lafaso Electric

NEW BUSINESS - No new business

OLD BUSINESS -

Updates from DPW Engineer in regards to Old Business Items

1. School Zone's

Based on how the Ordinance reads, We have some concerns around the Intermediate School, as of recent. Do we need Flashing Beacons? We need to have School Speed Zone signs. Would have to put them up before you get to the Schools and around the Schools. Ted went through the MUTCD Manual and it says the State needs to adopt by January 1st of each year. Read Chapter 3, Traffic Ordinance, Subchapter 5, we proposed some language for a change to current ordinance. Commander Whitehead feels 25 mph is for where enforceability is. Keep general language, better for us, so we don't have to come back. Don't put an actual Speed limit #. Commander Whitehead asked if the ordinance meets with the statute. It was asked if he was meaning the current ordinance or proposed ordinance. Proposed. Wondering if maybe State Statute dictated what our ordinance says. To go under 25 mph, has to be designated as a downtown district. Not sure if it specifies that lights have to be flashing (flashing beacons) This is from Statute 1007. 19 VSA 921 is School Warning signs and 23 VSA 1025 is Speed Limit in school zones. Looks like we may have more work to do. It was asked if in the mean time if this can be referred to Charter & Ordinance. Sounds like we can do it without lights flashing. Fines would have to be doubled. Signs could be when kids are present, days of week, etc. It may be signs all over the Intermediate School. "When Children are Present" is more dynamic. There is a morning peak, afternoon peak and school events. Reinforces idea that School zones are areas to protect the kids. Summertime, you still want to respect the neighborhood and protect the children.

What if we don't designate it as a School zone, drop the Speed limit to 25 mph, wouldn't need all those signs. Short term, that's what they were looking for. What would be impact of dropping speed zone around schools (5 locations) NE, NW, Intermediate/Middle, High School and Allen Street School. We've talked about doing City wide assessment to cut speed down to 25 mph. We should be going slow in neighborhoods, around parks, around schools, anywhere near the downtown area. Ted said they could get the 25 mph's up real quick or get this to Charter & Ordinance, go back to the Board, etc. We have to go through these motions, may take 6-8 months. That will give a learning period for drivers, too. Can put out a Press Release. Can do an educational enforcement detail.

Winter Parking Ban is going well. Did 1 downtown cleanup.

Howe & Forest Street - It is pretty well lit. One pole is closer to Union Street that could have a light on it. Don't see any other changes that need to be made there.

Adjourned at 9:42 hours.

Submitted by Nora J. Moore, Records Clerk

