

Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2026

Chief Prouty called the meeting to order at 9:00.

Members Present: Chief Matt Prouty, Mayor Tom Donahue, DPW Commissioner Bob Protivansky, Assistant Engineer Ted Gillen, Associate Engineer Soupie Dethlefsen

Guests Present: Alexandria Perone, Alderman Peter Franzoni, Planning Administrator Ed Bove

Members Absent: Commander Whitehead, Business Manager Kelsie Boudreau, Brad LaFaso of LaFaso Electric

NEW BUSINESS –

1. 4-Section Flashing Yellow Arrow Traffic Signals

Assistant Engineer Gillen noted that traffic signals at intersections on Main Street and Crescent, Center, and Washington had been converted to 4-Section Flashing Yellow Arrow Traffic Signals. He suggested that the City conduct a study, develop a priority list, and determine costs associated with converting additional traffic signals improve pedestrian safety while also avoiding congestion. Chief Prouty stated that the change on the Crescent intersection had been positive.

OLD BUSINESS -

1. Traffic Signal Update

Assistant Engineer Gillen provided traffic signal updates for the City. Of note:

- At Strongs Avenue and Washington Street, they converted north/south signal timing to flashing yellow during overnight hours and repaired the push button to eliminate reoccurring issue with automatic pedestrian crossing phase.
- At North Main and Crescent, they installed the new signal head with flashing yellow arrow mentioned previously in the meeting.
- Leading pedestrian intervals were added to the following intersections:
 - North Main Street at Woodstock Avenue (North Main Crosswalk on North side of intersection)
 - North Main Street at Woodstock Avenue (Woodstock Avenue Crosswalk on East side of intersection)
 - South Main Street at Allen Street (South Main Crosswalk on South side of intersection)
 - South Main Street at Allen Street (Allen Street Crosswalk on East side of intersection)
- After July 1, a new blank-out sign will be installed at Park Street and South Main Street to control traffic turning southbound onto South Main Street. The blank-out sign will be in operation during the peak hours from 7 AM to 6 PM.

2. Rutland City Public Schools Traffic Concerns

Assistant Engineer Gillen sent a letter and needs to circle back with Superintendent Pam Reed to schedule a meeting. Alexandria Perone inquired about expectations for the school district, and Chief Prouty stated that the expectation is for the school district to take an active role in addressing traffic concerns rather than relying solely on the City.

There was a lengthy discussion about ongoing traffic concerns around schools, particularly Northwest, and about the potential use of a DPW parking lot next to the school. The parking lot in question is currently being used to stockpile excess materials. Assistant Engineer Gillen expressed concern that paving a new parking lot may not be the best use of available funding given the City's paving needs.

He also noted that parents line up increasingly early for student drop-off and pick-up, resulting in extended traffic impacts, but once kids are allowed in the building, it only takes six minutes to clear.

Additional discussion included traffic congestion on Church Street despite declining enrollment at the Intermediate School, increased parent drop-off activity, limited sidewalk infrastructure, and parking enforcement authority at the High School under Act 250.

Action item: Assistant Engineer Gillen will follow up with Superintendent Pam Reed and schedule a meeting regarding school traffic concerns.

3. Request to Install 25 MPH Speed Limit Signs on Porter Place

A decision was made not to deploy a Speed Cart on Porter Place and to wait until a City-wide assessment is completed before installing speed limit signs on Porter Place. The Mayor noted that he drove on Porter Place and believed the roadway was too short for vehicles to go over 25 MPH.

4. Pedestrian Crossing on North Main Street

Assistant Engineer Gillen stated that the City was not prepared to present drawings at this time but had spent time in the area. He noted the location originally requested technically meets guidelines for a pedestrian crossing, but it does not seem to be the most appropriate location. The engineering staff identified an area farther north with greater sight distance that could also accommodate a bus pull off. He stated that a proposal and drawings would be presented at a future meeting.

Other Old Business

Updates from DPW Engineer in regards to Old Business Items

Other Business

1. The Mayor noted that he observed an accident at the intersection of Washington and Main Street while the signal was being worked on and inquired about whether a blue light should be required. The Chief stated an officer had been assigned. The Mayor also asked if there had been a timing change, as people were having trouble crossing; he saw pedestrians pushing the button, but the light went through several cycles without changing. Assistant Engineer will research to determine if the light change caused an unintended consequence.
2. Alderman Peter Franzoni shared a resident's request for a replacement "No Outlet" sign to be placed on Edgerton. The sign that was there has been missing for approximately six months, and due to detours in the area, drivers are turning onto Edgerton Street and using the resident's driveway at the end of the street to turn around, which is impacting the stability of the sidewalk.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:41.

Submitted by Desarie Stone-Feliciano, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police