



City of Rochester, New Hampshire

CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

31 Wakefield Street • Rochester, NH 03867

(603) 332-1167

www.RochesterNH.net

November 8, 2017

TO: Public Safety Committee

REGARDING: Public Safety Committee Meeting

There will be a Public Safety Committee meeting on **November 15, 2017** at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.

AGENDA

1. Approve minutes from October 18, 2017
2. Public Input
3. Trinity Circle – parking concern
4. Quail Drive – speed limit sign and restricted truck access signage
5. Colby Street – crosswalk visibility (kept in committee)
6. Rt. 11 light – timing study (kept in committee)
7. Downtown crosswalk signage (kept in committee)
8. Strawberry/Cider Hill – dark corner (kept in committee)
9. Ebony Drive – Speed Issues (kept in committee)
10. Other

cc: Mayor and City Council
Chief Paul Toussaint
Deputy Chief Gary Boudreau
Mr. Michael Bezanson
Mr. Owen Friend-Gray
Ms. Laura Miller
Ms. Lisa Clark

Public Safety Committee
Rochester Public Works Department
October 18, 2017
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor Donald Hamann, Chair
Councilor Ray Barnett
Councilor Robert Gates
Councilor James Gray

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor Peter Lachapelle

OTHERS PRESENT

Peter Nourse, P.E. Director of City Services
Michael Bezanson, P.E., City Engineer
Dan Camara, GIS Technician
Deputy Chief Gary Boudreau, PD
Mark Klose, Fire Chief
Councilor Ray Varney
Councilor Sandra Keans
David Walker
Geoff Hamann
Helen Gouveia, Cocheco River Estates
Jerry Gouveia, Cocheco River Estates
Devs Dupuis, Cocheco River Estates
John Dupuis, Cocheco Rvier Estates
Barbara Liebfried, Cocheco River Estates
Bill Golonka, Cocheco River Estates
Johann Golonka. Cocheco River Estates
Virginia Chappell, Cocheco River Estates
Diana Dacke, Cocheco Rvier Estates
Ann Heisler, Cocheco River Estates
Leslie Heisler, Cocheco River Estates

Minutes

Councilor Hamann brought the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Route 11 Light-Timing Study

Item #6 was moved up on the agenda. Residents of Cocheco River Estates on Route 11 were present to discuss the safety issues present when turning out of Cocheco River Estates onto Route 11. Jerry Gouveia of Cocheco River Estates sent an email to Councilor Gray regarding the traffic on Route 11. He stated that living so close to both the Spaulding Turnpike and the new Ridge Marketplace

shopping plaza has been fantastic and convenient, but the traffic is bad. He would like a traffic signal at the intersection to allow opportunity to enter onto Route 11. Councilor Gray responded to the email stating that the installation of a traffic signal in this location would be expensive and to do it the State normally wants the road widened with two lanes of traffic on each side, turn lanes and someone to pay for the improvements. As the Ridge continues to develop the loop road is planned to continue behind the apartments on the other side of Route 11. When this happens the Planning Board will most likely require the upgrade to the road and the light to be installed. Some of the residents of Cocheco River Estates were present to voice their concerns with the traffic. Bill Golonka of Cocheco River Estates stated he cannot get out of the park taking a left hand turn. He said it is very difficult to turn; it might help if the red light coming off Route 11 was 16 seconds longer, and right now the light change is pretty quick. He said there is no gap between traffic. Reverend Ronald Webber stated that the housing unit adds to the traffic. He is afraid someone will die on the street especially as the Ridge expands. Councilor Gray stated that some of the things that were being talked about are Planning Board functions. With Phase 2 and 3 there are traffic signals planned near the loop road at Crane Drive and Nashoba Drive; however, at this time the traffic study doesn't indicate that a traffic signal is warranted for the Nashoba Drive intersection. Councilor Hamann asked Mr. Bezanson who has the jurisdiction in this area, State or the city. Mr. Bezanson said the State does. He said that he has sent written correspondence to the State regarding a traffic signal at the Nashoba Drive intersection, including the petition signed by the residents of Cocheco River Estates. Councilor Gray said the Police Department will compile the accident data for this intersection and a letter can be sent to the State. Mr. Gouveia thanked Councilor Gray and Councilor Hamann for letting them come to the Public Safety Committee to discuss the issue. Councilor Hamann said he could ask the Strafford Regional Planning Commission to help bridge the gap with the State. Councilor Gates asked if the timing was changed on the traffic light near the over pass would that be enough of a break in traffic. A majority of the residents said yes.

2. GIS presentation

Dan Camara, GIS Technician was present to give a GIS Presentation on asset management.

3. Approve Minutes from September 20, 2017

Councilor Gates made a motion to approve the September 20, 2017 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Barnett. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

4. Public Input

The only members of the public present for Public Input were present for the Route 11 light-timing study which was moved up on the agenda.

5. Stop Sign-Ashwood/Watson Drive

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau stated there were no accidents in 2016 and 1 in 2017. Councilor Hamann asked Councilor Gray if he thought a stop sign was needed since he lives in the area. He said the one accident was probably someone who ran the stop sign. Committee felt stop sign was not needed, no action taken.

6. Colby Street-Crosswalk Visibility

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Albert Small sent an email to Councilor Gray regarding the speeding being done on Main Street and Colby Street. He lives with his 7 children on Colby Street. There is a large amount of large truck traffic on Colby Street. In addition to these traffic concerns they are concerned with the lack of visibility of the crosswalk at Colby and Main Street. They are looking for signs similar to those that Dover uses at some of their crosswalks when you press a button and bright LED lights flash to catch the attention of drivers. He is also requesting truck traffic over 23000 GVRW be restricted from Colby Street. The police department will do a directed patrol. This was left in committee until next month to get the results of the directed patrol. Fire Chief Mark Klose asked if temporary pedestrian signs are used in crosswalks in Rochester and Mr. Bezanson said yes, during the warmer months there are several that are put in crosswalks throughout the City.

7. Myrtle Street-Speeding Concerns

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau said that he tried to get up to speed on Myrtle Street and it is a short street with a stop sign in the middle. There was no action taken on this request.

8. Downtown Crosswalk Signage

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said there is money for safety issues. The Public Works Department had a consultant look at the downtown area crosswalks. Some of the recommended changes were simple and some included moving concrete ramps. Several signs relating to the crosswalks were mentioned, including 3 signs for right turning vehicles and 35 locations for pedestrian signs. Mr. Bezanson stated he just introducing the topic this month and would bring more details to the committee next month.

Councilor Gray made a motion to place a stop sign and a no left turn sign on Crocker Court near City Hall going onto Wakefield Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion. Councilor Hamann asked about painting sign routes on the road. Mr. Bezanson said they've begun using a different crosswalk style recommended by the consultants called "Continental" style.

9. Strawberry/Cider Hill-Dark Corner

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. This request came from Councilor Keans, there is a dark corner in this area. Deputy Chief Boudreau said there is a light at the intersection and one at the right of the intersection but no street-light at the corner. Councilor Gray said to stay with the street-light policy which is every 3rd pole, 1 or both may have to move to stay within the criteria. This was kept in committee until next month; Mr. Bezanson will get an overview from Pictometry. .

10. Other

Parking Columbus Avenue

Councilor Hamann said that he was going to bring up the parking issue on Columbus Avenue, but Councilor Varney said not to worry about it, it was just because they were paving.

Handicap Parking at City Hall Parking Lot

Mr. Nourse, Director of City Services, said they will be repaving the City Hall parking lot in the future. There are 7 handicap spaces that are normally empty. He thinks there are more spaces than needed. Councilor Hamann said the 2 handicap spaces by the side door are coming out, so there will only be 3 in this area. Councilor Gray said the only handicap accessible area is the door by the

Annex. Councilor Gray said they should ask planning how many handicap spaces are needed. He also said there may be employees that may need to use the handicap spaces. Councilor Hamann said they should meet the minimum on handicap spots.

Designated Parking Spots for the Fire Department

Fire Chief Klose said it was his understanding that there use to be designated parking for the Fire Department by the fence before the construction and wanted to know if this is something they want to bring back. He said there are 9 people to a shift and a majority of them use the City Hall parking lot. Councilor Gray said they could look in to a stacking arrangement, they don't need to assess their vehicles when they are on their shift. Fire Chief Klose said he would work with Mr. Nourse on the parking.

Rochester Housing Authority-Wyandotte Falls

Mr. Nourse said the Housing Authority would like no trespassing signs because the area has been cleared of brush and there is a retaining wall down below and the kids like to sled in the area and it's very dangerous. Deputy Chief Boudreau said this would be a low priority issue, by the time the police get there they would be gone.

Norway Plains Development

Mr. Nourse said the developer of Norway Plains road needed to extend the side walk. He stated that the crosswalk across the road needs to be blacked out immediately. It's very dangerous, there is no signal and it's inviting trouble. Councilor Gray said there is money for sidewalks in the budget. Councilor Hamann asked how much sidewalk was added. Mr. Nourse said 500 feet. Councilor Gray said the only way to get the crosswalk removed sooner is to talk to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Mr. Nourse said he was just letting the committee know it needs to be done immediately. Councilor Gray stated that the Commissioner has notified the Committee of a hazardous condition within 72 hours of the safety issue.

Prospect Street- Speed Trailer Data

Deputy Chief Boudreau had the results of the speed trailer on Prospect Street. The speed trailer was placed on Prospect Street from September 27 to October

15, 2017. The majority of the vehicles were going 21 to 30 mph, which was 47.9 percent. 40 percent of the vehicles were going 11 to 20 mph. 7 percent were going 31 to 40 percent and there was 3 vehicles going 31 to 50 mph.

Public Safety Festival

Fire Chief Klose wanted to mention that the first Public Safety Festival that the Fire Department put on was a huge success. It was attended by over 500 people. The burn cells and an antique fire truck was there, they also handed out free smoke detectors.

New Hampshire Association of Fire Chief Meeting.

Mr. Klose said that the City of Rochester hosted the NH Association of Fire Chief Meeting and was a great turn out and they are on the docket to host next October as well.

Change Setting on Traffic Lights near Cocheco River Estates

Councilor Gates asked if the traffic light settings could be changed to give Cocheco River Estates a little relief in getting out of there park. Mr. Bezanson will talk with the State of NH.

Ebony Drive-Speed Issues

Mr. Bezanson said that a request came in for a speed limit sign on Ebony Drive. Deputy Chief Boudreau will have a directed patrol done in the area.

Councilor Barnett made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 PM. Councilor Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary II.

From: [Donald Hamann](mailto:Donald.Hamann)
To: arwenjmeyer@gmail.com
Cc: [Caroline McCarley](#); [Donald Hamann](#); [Gary Boudreau](#); [Laura Miller](#); [Lisa Clark](#); [Michael Bezanson](#); [Paul Toussaint](#); [Public Safety Committee](#); [Samantha Rodgerson](#)
Subject: RE: [Rochester NH] Trinity Circle Parking Issues (Sent by Arwen Meyer, arwenjmeyer@gmail.com)
Date: Wednesday, November 08, 2017 8:07:48 AM

This item will be placed on the Safety Committee agenda on Nov 15th.

Donald J Hamann
Councilor Ward 4B
Rochester, NH 03867
603-332-9246
Donald.hamann@rochesternh.net

-----Original Message-----

From: vtsdmailer@vt-s.net [<mailto:vtsdmailer@vt-s.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2017 3:11 PM
To: Donald Hamann <donald.hamann@rochesternh.net>
Subject: [Rochester NH] Trinity Circle Parking Issues (Sent by Arwen Meyer, arwenjmeyer@gmail.com)

Hello dhamann,

Arwen Meyer (arwenjmeyer@gmail.com) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.rochesternh.net/users/dhamann/contact>) at Rochester NH.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.rochesternh.net/user/171/edit>.

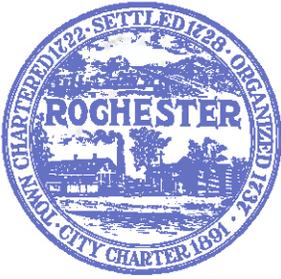
Message:

Dear Sir,

I am writing to to you in hopes of getting Trinity Circle changed to a parking on one side of the street only. My name is Arwen Meyer and I live at 44A Trinity Circle. We have lived here for about 9 years and have watched the parking situation here grow from a nuisance to now a safety issue. There have been several more homes added this year and traffic seems to have doubled.

Many residents don't park in their driveway instead opting to park up and down both sides of the street. We have very nice high granite curbing on this street so most people park quite a bit away from the curbs. In the evenings when most people are home, the road is turned into a single lane. I have serious concerns that this would greatly impede fire trucks or ambulances getting past, not to mention fire hydrants are being blocked. I have spoken to the mail carriers who seem fed up and have stated they are not going to deliver mail to houses that have their mail boxes blocked by parked cars. All of our mailboxes are on one side of the street so if one is blocked four homes may not receive mail. Last year during the winter several people still parked on the road and the plows had to work around them. With the increase in cars this year, I'm sure that will be a bigger problem for the plows this winter. Lastly, as a resident, I find it really hard to back out of my driveways with cars parked directly behind me and at both edges. I think all of this would be greatly improved if we only allowed street parking on one side. I have called the public works office and asked that this issue be brought up at the public safety meeting. I am hoping to gain your support with solving this issue. I plan to follow up this email with some photos as soon as I am able. I am looking forward to your response and thank you for you help.

Regards,
Arwen Meyer
44A Trinity Circle, Rochester NH, 03939
603.973.2129



City of Rochester, New Hampshire

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

www.rochesternh.net

45 Old Dover Road • Rochester, NH 03867
(603) 332-4096 Fax (603) 335-4352

William Lambert
Administrator, Bureau of Traffic
New Hampshire Department of Transportation
7 Hazen Dr.
Concord, NH 03302-0483

Dear Mr. Lambert,

I write to you to relay a great safety concern I have with the intersection of Route 11/Farmington Road and Nashoba Drive in Rochester. Nashoba Drive is the egress and entrance for Cocheco Estates, a one hundred and fifty-plus unit mobile home park. During peak hours of traffic, it is extremely difficult for motorists to depart the park to turn onto Route 11 EB. Additionally, directly across Route 11 is the Northgate apartment complex. Departures from this complex WB on Route 11 are extremely difficult at peak traffic loads.

Recently at the City's Public Safety Committee, about twenty residents of Cocheco Estates were present to express their safety concerns. I have observed peak a.m. and p.m. and weekend traffic loads on this stretch of Route 11 between the Spaulding Turnpike and Little Falls Bridge Road and verify these concerns. Indeed on certain weekends traffic becomes backed up onto the Spaulding Turnpike. The convergence of traffic coming off of the Spaulding and off of North Main Street into one WB lane shortly west of the interchange creates a funnel effect. This contributes towards a near steady stream of WB traffic which is very difficult to join from Nashoba Drive, and extremely difficult to cross.

I write to see if NHDOT may perhaps improve this situation by modifying the signal timing for the two signals at the Spaulding interchange. One signal controls traffic coming off NB Spaulding onto Route 11 WB and traffic coming off of North Main Street onto Route 11 WB. The other signal controls traffic coming off of SB Spaulding onto WB Route 11. Perhaps also NHDOT could review the signal warrants for the Route 11/Nashoba Drive intersection.

An related concern that I have is with pedestrian safety along Route 11 between the Spaulding interchange and Little Falls Bridge Road. I observe pedestrian traffic often along this stretch that does not have sidewalks or a crosswalk. These common pedestrians are probably residents in the area that do not have motorized vehicles. The peak hour pedestrian crossing of Route 11 is perilous. Perhaps with a signal warrant review, a crosswalk at Route 11/Nashoba Drive with dedicated pedestrian phase could be looked at. I would like to discuss with you any options there may be to improving this situation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter C. Nourse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter C. Nourse PE
Director of City Services



**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



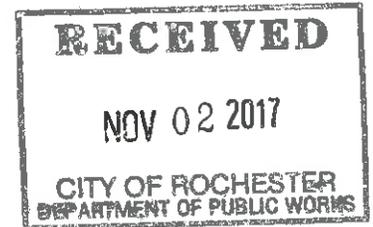
**Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner**

**William Cass, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner**

October 30, 2017

Mr. Peter C. Nourse, PE
Director of City Services
45 Old Dover Road
Rochester, NH 03867

Re: Request for traffic signals
NH Route 11 at Nashoba Drive



Dear Mr. Nourse:

I received your letter regarding the intersection of NH Route 11 and Nashoba Drive. As you may be aware, this intersection has been brought to our attention in the past, most recently in April, 2016 by Mr. Michael Bezanson.

We have explained to the residents of Coheco Estates, see attached letter from 2011, that the installation of traffic signals, if warranted, at a private drive or roadway would be the responsibility of the property owner. This responsibility would include completion of the traffic signal warrant analysis to a) demonstrate that traffic signal control met the objective warrants described in the MUTCD and b) determine that traffic signal control would be the best alternative for the subject intersection.

As you know, the Traffic Impact Study for the Granite Ridge development included this intersection as part of their analysis of the traffic impact of the development and determined that neither Traffic Signal Warrant 1 nor 2 were fully met, though they were both relatively close. The study recognized that there would be significant delay from Nashoba Drive during peak traffic periods that would only be mitigated by the installation of a traffic signal.

The Department of Transportation, through the access permit process, can require traffic generators such as the Granite Ridge development to mitigate their impact to traffic on state highways. That authority is limited with regard to improving intersections outside of their frontage, especially if additional right of way is required. The local planning board has much broader authority through the site plan approval process.

You indicated that you have observed pedestrian traffic along NH 11 in this area, noting that there are no sidewalks or crosswalks. The construction and maintenance of sidewalks would be the city's responsibility. If interested, you could contact the Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance (BPCA), (603) 271-3345, and/or Highway Maintenance District 6, (603) 868-1133 to discuss the various ways that this could be accomplished, including funding options.



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



November 14, 2011

CHRISTOPHER D. CLEMENT, SR.
COMMISSIONER

JEFF BRILLHART, P.E.
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Leon W. Sanfacon
Cocheco River Estates
29 Senaca Street
Rochester NH 03867-5167

Re: NH Route 11 @ Nashoba Drive, Rochester

Dear Mr. Sanfacon:

Your letter requesting traffic signals at the subject intersection was forwarded to my attention.

I can appreciate your concerns with the traffic along this segment of NH Route 11. It is certainly an important commercial corridor between the seacoast and New Hampshire's popular Lakes Region. In order to consider installing traffic signals at the subject drives, a traffic study would need to be completed to determine if traffic signals were warranted. Since both drives lead to private developments, the traffic study and the construction of the traffic signals, if warranted, would be the responsibility of one or both property owners. I have copied Cocheco River Estates so that they are aware of your concern.

I am aware that there is some potential development along this corridor that may include some improvements along the highway that may address the issues you raised.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

William R. Lambert, P.E.
Traffic Engineer/Administrator

WRL/jla

cc: Christopher Clement, Commissioner
Lyle W. Knowlton, Director of Operations
Doug DePorter, Engineer, District 6
Cocheco River Estates
TrackIt # 1295

S:\TOWNFILES\Rochester\NH Route 11 at Nashoba Dr, Rochester.doc