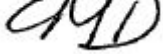


Christine McCall
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager 

FROM: Christine McCall, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

DATE: April 5, 2022

SUBJECT: MOTION OF 2/1/22 BY COUNCILOR GITSCHIER REQUESTING CITY MANAGER HAVE THE PROPER DEPARTMENT LOOK INTO INSTALLING A CROSSWALK ACROSS WESTFORD STREET FROM RUTLAND STREET TO TYLER PARK

This is a report of progress. It is strongly recommended that a municipality conduct a study for any proposed marked crosswalks at uncontrolled locations (intersections that are not controlled by signage or signalization) or midblock locations to determine if the placement of one is appropriate. The City is currently conducting a study to determine if a crosswalk is appropriate at the above location. The study is a combination of MUTCD warrants and guidelines used by other cities and towns in Massachusetts. The study will help us determine what the best location for the requested crosswalk is, as well as if any more safety treatments should be implemented. Components of the study include traffic speeds, traffic volumes, crash history, pedestrian crossing volumes and locations, sight distance, distance to nearest crosswalk, to name a few.

Data collection is in progress. To date, we have conducted pedestrian crossing volumes and noted that pedestrians crossed at Gertrude Ave at a higher rate than at Rutland. That said, we conducted our site visit during the week and when the weather was not particularly warm. The DPD is going to conduct pedestrian counts during warmer weather and on nights and weekends to ensure we choose the optimal location for the crosswalk. Additionally, after conducting traffic speeds at morning and evening peak times, the average speed was 35 MPH on this stretch of Westford Street. The highest speed documented on the stretch was 90 MPH. Given this information, we believe that the installation of a crosswalk in this area should be coupled with the installation of Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon (RRFB). RRFBs are pedestrian-actuated conspicuity enhancements used in combination with a pedestrian, school, or trail crossing warning sign to improve safety at uncontrolled, marked crosswalks.



The City will update the Council when the results of the study in the near future. If the study deems it appropriate for a crosswalk to be installed across Westford Street between Rutland Street and Tyler Park, the City will need to install ramps to make the crosswalk ADA compliant. When we provide an update to the Council on our final study results, we will include a full cost proposal for the RRFBs, ADA ramps, warning panels, and drainage assessment.

CMM/ah

cc: Alan Heredia, Assistant Transportation Engineer