Late Communications
For the following SC packet

Begin forwarded message:

From: Stephanie Pfieffer <spfieffer@wrentham.ma.us>
Subject: Letter to MassDOT re: Rte 140 @ KPHS Driveway
Date: August 10, 2017 at 3:29:23 PM EDT
To: "Elizabeth Zielinski " <zielinski@kingphilip.org>
Cc: Kendra Wisell-Ford <KWisell-Ford@wrentham.ma.us>, "Pacella, Lisa"
   <LPacella@wrentham.ma.us>

Good afternoon,

Attached please find a PDF copy of the letter Mr. Ketcham sent to the MassDOT regarding the safety of Rte 140 at the KPHS driveway which was discussed at the August 8 Board of Selectmen’s meeting.

Thank you,

Stephanie Pfieffer
Administrative Assistant
Town of Wrentham
spfieffer@wrentham.ma.us

Ph: 508-384-5400 ext 5435
Fx: 508-384-5403
August 9, 2017

Mary-Joe Perry
District Highway Director
Mass DOT District 5
1000 County Street
Taunton, MA 02780

Re: Route 140 and King Philip High School driveway, Wrentham MA

Dear Ms. Perry:

The Board of Selectmen, at their meeting of August 8, 2017, voted to request that you consider the placement of warning signs on Route 140 in the vicinity of the driveway to King Philip Regional High School in the Town of Wrentham.

We received a request from the King Philip Regional School District that signage be improved, copy attached. There was recently a particularly severe accident in that location. Our Police Department has reviewed the area. A copy of that report is attached. In the course of the discussion at our meeting it was expressed that the use of LED warning signs, which the town has installed with success on some locations in West Wrentham where inattentive driving has contributed to accidents, would have a similar effect in contributing to safety in this congested area. The volume of traffic through Wrentham has been observed to have greatly increased in recent years. The recent traffic count you performed on this section of Route 140 indicated an average weekday count of 10,600 vehicles.

The Board asks that you review the present conditions and install the LED warning signs as recommended in the report attached. The King Philip Regional School District has indicated that it will undertake several actions to improve safety which can be done on school property or neighboring private property including tree removal and the installation of new stop signs with LED flashing lights. Similar action by Mass DOT as to warning signs on the highway would, we believe, greatly enhance safety in this area.
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

William Ketcham
Town Administrator

WFK/slp

enclosures

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CC: Board of Selectmen
    Chief James Anderson
    Lt. George Labonte
    Superintendent Elizabeth Zielinski
    Principal Lisa Mobley
    Mr. Joseph Zahner
King Philip High School Intersection Assessment

A five year look back (1/1/2012-7/20/2017) at motor vehicle crashes occurring at the intersection of Franklin Street at William Daniel Way and the King Philip High School Entrance showed a result of fourteen. This represents less than 1% of the crashes over the entire town and 10% of crashes on Franklin Street. However, two of the crashes over the five year period were serious enough to result in a motor vehicle roll-over.

I have directed traffic in front of the high school on a number of occasions throughout my career and can confirm the intersection has safety concerns. The posted speed limit is 30mph, however, like on many roads, vehicles travel faster than the posted speed limit. The high school entrance is on a bend in the road which requires operator’s full attention as the intersection comes up quickly when traveling in either direction. Additionally, when traveling southbound on Franklin Street (Rt 140 south), there is an incline; reducing visibility of the intersection.

KPHS Head Groundskeeper Joe Zahner and I drove the length of roadway and intersections of the high school and noted some concerns:

1) Traveling northbound on Franklin Street (Rt 140 north), there is a sign that diagrams the intersection of Franklin Street at Shears Street, however, it is covered by a tree branch and is not visible. There is a “Slow School Zone” sign directly below (see picture). I would request the DPW to cut the branches to expose the sign and to reposition the “Slow School Zone” sign to the next telephone pole at a height which can be visible to motorists.

2) While at the stop line on William Daniel Way, facing across from the KPHS entrance, there is a tree trunk obstructing the view of vehicles traveling southbound on Franklin Street (Rt 140 south). (see picture). Mr. Zahner stated he has a verbal agreement with the resident whose property the tree is on that the school will pay for the removal of the tree.

For increased traffic safety at the main entrance of King Philip High School, particularly due to the prevalence of distracted driving, I support Mr. Zahner’s requested improvements of adding LED lighted signs prior to the intersection on both sides. I would recommend these signs state, “Crosswalk Ahead” or “Dangerous Intersection Ahead”. In my research of MV crashes, I determined the stops signs were not a factor in crashes, rather, it was when a vehicle attempted to turn into the lane of travel or across the lane of travel; therefore, I believe the current stop signs and flashing red light are adequate. It would expect the LED lighted signs to grab the attention of an operator causing them to pay more attention, slow down, or both, thus resulting in less crashes.
MEMORANDUM

TO: William Ketcham
FROM: Joe Zahner Jr
DATE: August 3, 2017
SUBJ: Signage at KPHS main entrance

As a response to our meeting held on August 3, 2017, the following improvements are required to increase traffic safety at the main entrance of King Philip High School and the intersection of Mass RT140 and William Daniels Way.

- Two new STOP signs with solar powered flashing LED lights
- Two new "Dangerous Intersection Ahead" signs with solar powered flashing LED lights

These upgrades are a proactive response to car accidents at this intersection and will increase awareness in the future. The KPRSD Administration are in support of these efforts.

Cc: Dr. Zielinski
    Dr Mobley