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TOWN OF DEDHAM  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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January 9, 2019

Mrs. Maureen Magane  
28 Lower East Street  
Dedham, MA 02026

**RE: Traffic Calming Request Form #2018-001 – Lower East Street**

Mrs. Magane,

Based upon the results of the data presented to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) at their public meeting held on 11/13/18, the TAC is informing you that the Traffic Calming Request for Lower East Street is not being recommended for traditional traffic calming measures.

The TAC met on 11/13/18 to discuss the results of the ballot mailed to the property owners on Lower East Street (called the "Affected Area") and the property owners on Bonad Road, Willis Street, Sumner Street, Winter Street and the westerly side of Washington Street (called the "Adjacent To Affected Area"). The ballot was generated by the TAC as a result of the TAC voting to recommend the proposed traffic calming measures to be installed as described in the Engineering Department's Traffic Calming Needs Assessment report dated 6/30/18, at their public meeting held on 08/14/18.

All the ballots were mailed out via certified mail on 9/26/18. Each ballot included a self-addressed stamped envelope for the ballot to be returned in and clearly listed a return date of 10/12/18. A total of 63 ballots were mailed to property owners of which 26 ballots were mailed to the property owners within the "Affected Area" and 37 ballots were mailed to the property owners within the "Adjacent To Affected Area". Of the ballots mailed, a total of 9 ballots were returned to the Engineering Department as being "Undeliverable". Three (3) of these were from the "Affected Area" and six (6) were from the "Adjacent To Affected Area". These undeliverable ballots were not counted as part of the 63 total ballots mailed.

Some of the ballots were returned to the Engineering Department after several attempts by the USPS to deliver the certified mailings to the property owners. These ballots were returned to the Engineering Department a day or two following the ballot return date of

10/12/18. The Engineering Department hand delivered each of these returned ballots to the respective property owner's mailbox with an additional letter attached to the ballot apologizing for any inconvenience with the certified mailing process and extended the ballot return date to 11/2/18.

The Engineering Department was still accepting returned ballots up to the date of our meeting held on 11/13/18. Only 1 ballot was returned following the extended ballot return date of 11/2/18 and 0 ballots have been returned following the 11/13/18 meeting up to the date of this letter.

According to the latest version of the Town's Traffic Calming Policy, if the TAC votes to recommend a traffic calming project, ballots will be sent to the property owners on the street ("Affected Area") and within the affected area ("Adjacent To Affected Area"). A traffic calming project would be placed on the priority list for capital funding if at least 75% of the "Affected Area" and 60% of the "Adjacent To Affected Area" are in favor of the project.

A total of 26 ballots were returned of which 11 ballots were returned from the "Affected Area" and 15 ballots were returned from the "Adjacent To Affected Area". Based upon the amount of ballots mailed to each area and the number of ballots returned, only 48% of the total ballots were returned from each area. The results of the ballots were not even analyzed since the percentages of ballots returned was well below the required minimum percentages of ballots needed just to be in favor of the project.

It is the opinion of the TAC that the lack of ballot participation from the property owners signifies that the majority of the property owners do not consider Lower East Street having traffic issues significant enough to warrant the construction of traditional traffic calming measures.

Although Lower East Street does not qualify for traditional traffic calming measures, the TAC would like to provide you with some options for low-cost traffic calming measures that can be utilized by you and your neighborhood. These low cost measures when utilized properly have shown reductions in vehicular speeds.

- Purchasing a Step2 Kid Alert Visual Warning System – These can be purchased at Wal-Mart, Amazon.com and other similar retail and online stores for about \$25 to \$35. The Step2 Kid should be placed at the end of your driveway so it is visible to motorists. This should only be placed out during times when kids are actually outside playing in their yards. By having it out all the time, it will reduce its effectiveness. Studies have shown that when used properly, it usually aids in the reduction of vehicle speeds.



*Photo of Step 2 Kid Alert*

- Work with your neighbors to park your cars on either side of the street in a staggered fashion as to reduce the openness of the roadway while still allowing for the safe passage of emergency response vehicles (i.e. Police, Ambulance, Fire Engine). This measure physically narrows the roadway making the motorist slow down to negotiate by the parked vehicles.
- Coordinate with the Police Department to see if they can place their mobile “Your Speed Is” sign on Lower East Street a couple of times throughout the year.
- Continued traffic enforcement by the Police Department for vehicles exceeding the speed limit of 25 miles per hour.
- Based upon the volume of vehicles traveling on Lower East Street, the DPW will be installing a double yellow center line with edgeline striping along the length of Lower East Street. The travel lanes widths in both directions will be striped to be 10 feet. The reduced travel lane width may aid in a slight reduction in the 85 percentile speed limit.

Although the TAC is not recommending this project, you are eligible for future consideration, but must wait 1 year before a traffic calming request can be resubmitted. Please feel free to contact the Director of Engineering, Jason Mammone, P.E., at 781-751-9352 should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Bethoney.

John Bethoney, Chairman

Cc: Board of Selectman  
James Kern, Town Manager  
Nancy A. Baker, Assistant Town Manager  
Michael D’Entremont, Chief of Police  
Joseph Flanagan, Director of Public Works  
Jason Mammone, P.E., Director of Engineering