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TOWN OF DEDHAM
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

January 19, 2016

Mrs. Kim McKenna
27 Taylor Avenue
Dedham, MA 02026

RE: Traffic Calming Request Form #2014-001 – Taylor Avenue

Ms. McKenna,

Based upon the data presented in the Initial Traffic Evaluation dated 11/13/15 and the public meetings held to discuss this request with the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), the TAC is informing you that your Traffic Calming Request for Taylor Avenue is not being recommended for traditional traffic calming measures for the following reasons:

1. The 85th percentile speed was determined to be 1 to 5 miles per hour (mph) below the prima facie speed limit of 30 mph. The 85th percentile speed is the speed at or below which 85 percent of vehicles travel and is the national standard utilized to determine if the speed on a given roadway is in excess, at or below the speed limit. Eligibility requirements, as stated in the Town's Traffic Calming Policy, require a residential street to exhibit an 85th percentile speed in excess of 5 mph over the speed limit to be considered for traditional traffic calming measures.
2. The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) was determined to be 525 vehicles for the section from Dresser Avenue to Cedar Street and 228 vehicles for the section from Alden Street to Dresser Avenue. These ADTs are consistent with other residential streets with similar makeup and not considered to be excessive.
3. The crash data analyzed from 2004 – 2015 indicated that there were 4 crashes (0.33 crashes per year) over a 12 year period. There were no crashes that involved a pedestrian or bicyclist. This low number of crashes indicates there are no overriding roadway geometric safety issues in this area.

Although Taylor Avenue 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 Toys R’ Us, 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. 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.
- Create pamphlets or flyers that can be passed out in the neighborhood that discuss your concerns of speeding vehicles on Taylor Avenue making people aware that they should drive cautiously.
- Coordinate with the Police Department to see if they can place their mobile “Your Speed Is” sign on Taylor Avenue a couple of times throughout the year.

If you believe that the speeds and/or conditions on Taylor Avenue have become worse, you are eligible to submit another Traffic Calming Request one year from the date of this letter. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bethoney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "B".

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
Richard McCarthy, Town Planner
Jason Mammone, P.E., Director of Engineering