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DEDHAM TOWN HALL
26 BRYANT STREET
DEDHAM, MA 02027
www.dedham-ma.gov



TOWN OF DEDHAM
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TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

December 16, 2015

Ms. Kara Lustig
214 River Street
Dedham, MA 02026

RE: Traffic Calming Request Form #2015-001 – River Street

Ms. Lustig,

Your Traffic Calming Request (TCR) submitted to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was reviewed at our 10/20/15 public meeting at which time we instructed the Director of Engineering to send out an invitation letter to you to invite you and any of your concerned neighbors to attend our recent public meeting held on 11/17/15. The Director of Engineering, at that meeting, told the TAC that you had called him to discuss your TCR since you were unable to attend the 11/17 meeting.

The Director of Engineering stated to us that you had concerns regarding the speed at which vehicles travel on River Street between Cedar Street and Whiting Avenue and the potential safety issues involving the pedestrians and bicyclists that also use that stretch of road. It was stated that the most important concern you had was about the vehicles that park completely on the sidewalk forcing pedestrians off the sidewalk and onto the busy roadway to get around the vehicle and back onto the sidewalk.

The Engineering Department assessed the speed of vehicles traveling along River Street within the concerned limits utilizing a radar recorder and determined that the combined 85th percentile speed for both directions of travel was 33 mph which is 3 mph over the posted speed limit of 30 mph for that section. 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.

Also, based upon the Town's Traffic Calming Policy, River Street does not qualify for traditional traffic calming measures since it is utilized as a major emergency response

route. Only residential neighborhood streets are eligible for traditional traffic calming measures.

Although River Street does not qualify for traditional traffic calming measures, the TAC does appreciate your concern regarding the way vehicles completely mount and park on the sidewalk. Should you see any vehicle on River Street park in such a way that inhibits a pedestrians use to the sidewalk forcing them onto the street, we strongly urge you to contact the Police Department. The Police Department should be able to investigate who the vehicle belongs to and educate them on how to properly park their vehicle.

If you believe that the speeds and/or conditions on River Street 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,



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