

**Vermont Traffic Committee
Approved Minutes of Meeting Held
April 25, 2019**

The Vermont Traffic Committee met on Thursday April 25, 2019. Committee Chair Joe Flynn called the meeting to order at 10:00 am in the VTrans Board Room, Davis Building, Montpelier, Vermont. The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 am.

Attendees:

Joe Flynn, Secretary of Transportation, Traffic Committee Chair
Wanda Minoli, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles,
Lt. Tara Thomas, Delegate for Commissioner of Public Safety, Traffic Committee Member
Tom McCormick, AAG, Traffic Committee Legal Advisor

Ian Degutis, VTrans Traffic Operations Engineer, Traffic Committee Coordinator

Todd Keyworth, North Hero Select Board Chair
Nicholas Boit, North Hero resident
Jacqueline Higgins, Williamstown Town Manager
Chris Dessereau, Williamstown resident
Bob Camp, owner Hero's Welcome
Walter Blasburg, owner North Hero House
Robert M. White, VTrans Right-of-Way Chief
Wayne Symonds, VTrans Chief Engineer

Marcos Miller, VTrans Traffic Operations
Tyler Guazzoni, VTrans Traffic Operations
Kristin Driscoll, VTrans Traffic Operations
Joshua Schultz, OSB Bureau Director, VTrans

Agenda Items Discussed

- **North Hero US-2, Speed Limit:** Mr. Degutis explained that the Town had requested a speed limit reduction in the village of North Hero last November, and that his initial response had been to delay the item until a proper engineering study could be performed during summertime conditions, but that the Agency had subsequently decided to recommend piloting a trial seasonal speed reduction and conducting an engineering study this summer while the trial speed limit is in effect to evaluate the effectiveness of the reduced speed limit and impacts on safety in the area. Ms. Driscoll described the proposed limits of the 25 mph speed zone, to be effective from May 15-September 15. Sec. Flynn introduced five emails from North Hero residents, addressed to Mr. Degutis, voicing opposition to the reduced speed limit into the record. Mr. Keyworth, North Hero Selectboard Chair, explained that the Selectboard was unanimous in support of safety improvements but not unanimously supportive of a reduced speed limit. Several residents in attendance spoke in support of the reduced speed limit, sharing their input on traffic volumes, pedestrian volumes, parking concerns (particularly near the driveway to the North Hero Inn) and other safety hazards they experience in this area, and shared a letter of support for the reduced

speed limit signed by Grand Isle County Sheriff Ray Allen. Commissioner Minoli and Lt. Thomas inquired about other improvements such as in-street signs, Radar Speed Feedback Signs (RSFS) and flashing beacons for the crosswalk, and how the Town has been handling enforcement. Sec. Flynn indicated that he will be asking Bureau Director Schultz to look into other improvements that can be made by the Agency in this area outside the purview of the Traffic Committee. Mr. Keyworth indicated that the Selectboard is not opposed to the trial reduction, and wants to emphasize that they are open to anything that can improve safety. There was discussion regarding the proposed limits of the 25 mph seasonal speed zone; Mr. Degutis explained that the boundaries of the zone were selected in part to minimize the number of signs that would need to be adjusted and that the limits of the zone would be considered as part of the evaluation of the speed zone. The Traffic Committee voted to accept the recommendation and establish a 25 mph speed zone from May 15, 2019 to September 15, 2019 with VTrans Traffic Operations to conduct a study of the speed zone and other safety improvements in the area, to be presented to the Committee when complete.

- **Williamstown VT-14, No Parking Zone:** Mr. Degutis introduced the item, which had been discussed and tabled at the May 2018 meeting of the Traffic Committee. Sec. Flynn asked VTrans Right of Way Chief Rob White to provide an overview of the right-of-way issues; Mr. White explained that the Agency had recently conducted a resurvey of this corridor to determine what the State's Right of Way is here; the resurvey determined the ROW to be four-rod. Mr. Degutis explained that Traffic Operations proposed pavement markings to be installed in addition to the No Parking signs, which have been laid out based on sight triangle requirements to provide adequate sight distance for Depot St. and are not based on the location of the right-of-way, and that these markings would also provide a clearer pathway for pedestrians extending beyond the sidewalk which currently terminates just south of the proposed No Parking zone. Chief Engineer Symonds reminded the group that the enforcement of state laws, such as that prohibiting parking of unregistered vehicles in the State Right-of-Way, is separate from the No Parking zone under consideration by the Traffic Committee. Mr. Dessereau inquired why No Parking was not being considered in other parts of town and in front of other businesses, Sec. Flynn stated that today's discussion was to consider this No Parking Zone, as had been requested by the Town, and not other issues that may exist in Williamstown. Mr. Dessereau indicated he is not opposed to the No Parking Zone but wants all businesses in town to be treated fairly. Sec. Flynn and Commissioner Minoli asked Ms. Higgins to confirm that the Town still stands by their request of last year; Ms. Higgins indicated they had been prepared to drop the request if other improvements were made to address the safety concern. Mr. White explained that, since the Right-of-Way has been found to be four-rod, a Section 1111 Permit for work in the State Right-of-Way would be needed to install planters, curb-stops or anything else inside the 4-rod limits, and that VTrans was amenable to such a permit. There was a discussion of the definition of a registered vehicle, which was tabled at the request of Chief Engineer Symonds pending further internal discussion. Mr. Symonds explained that the paint markings and curb stops were a preferable alternative to the Agency, rather than planters, because they do not impede pedestrian access. Sec. Flynn reiterated that the Committee wants to treat all business owners fairly in town and not to single out any individuals or businesses. Sec. Flynn stated for the record that any discussions about three- and four-rod rights-of-way in the Traffic Committee meeting do not constitute a concession of the State's surveyed and staked four-rod right-of-way. Mr. White indicated that the initial request was based on a safety need and that right-of-way and permitting

issues need to be worked out in another forum. Commissioner Minoli confirmed with Ms. Higgins that the town is not opposed to the No Parking zone, and with Mr. McCormick that the Committee has the authority to act on Traffic Operations' recommendation in the absence of an official request from the town. The Town has rescinded the request but does not oppose the action. The Traffic Committee voted to establish the No Parking Zone as proposed. Sec. Flynn asked that VTrans Permitting and Mr. Dessereau work together to get an 1111 permit and install curb stops to keep his cars out of the sightline.

Additional Agenda Items:

- Mr. Degutis gave a brief update of the rewrite of Traffic Committee rules, which is ongoing. He and Mr. McCormick hope to have something to the committee by their next meeting. Commissioner Minoli inquired how the rules would be bundled (a cost-saving measure when rewritten administrative rules are publicly warned) and whether these would be included with the large number of other rules DMV is in the process of rewriting. Mr. Degutis explained that the four Traffic Committee rules would be bundled together but not with other DMV rules.

Other Committee Items:

- Sec. Flynn shared an update regarding autonomous vehicle legislation, and the need to offer municipalities an opportunity to share their questions, comments and concerns with the Committee before such testing is approved. Mr. Degutis indicated that there is no need to change the administrative rules to allow this, and that he would work with Joe Segale to ensure municipalities get the opportunity to be heard in this forum.
- Mr. Degutis shared with the Committee that Traffic Operations is beginning to work on digitizing the Traffic Committee certs, which are an important and vulnerable record.