



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 9, 2021
To: John Coderre, Town Administrator
From: Scott D. Charpentier, P.E., Public Works Director
Copy: Becca Meekins, Assistant Town Administrator
Fred Litchfield, P.E., Town Engineer

Subject: Bartlett Street Traffic Concerns Update

Town Staff have been working diligently to assist the residents of the Bartlett Street neighborhood with their traffic concerns, specifically related to truck traffic serving the adjacent industrial zone. This memorandum serves to provide a status update related to these concerns.

Concern: Tractor trailer trucks have been parking on Bartlett Street across from the driveway for 200 Bartlett Street.

Response: The Board of Selectmen (BOS) approved at their January 11, 2021 meeting a no parking zone for both sides of the entire length of Bartlett Street. The regulatory signs have been installed and the parking prohibition is now enforceable.

Concern: What is the status of the Amazon traffic mitigation funds and what will they be used for?

Response: Amazon has approved approximately \$80,000 in mitigation funds for the Town of Northborough. Payment is currently being processed by Amazon and is expected to be received by the Town within the next few weeks. Traffic mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Layout and install bicycle lanes on Bartlett Street from the Town Line approximately to Algonquin Regional High School (ARHS). This was identified by Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission as a recommended means of traffic calming.
- Procure and install solar powered pedestrian activated rapid flashing beacons at the ARHS crosswalk and the recreational trail crosswalk.
- Install additional traffic signs at the intersection of Bartlett Street and Lyman Street.
- Construct a concrete wheelchair ramp and landing at the Maple Street side of the ARHS crosswalk.
- Conduct a traffic engineering speed study for the segment of Bartlett Street in the ARHS area.

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Concern: Can the town install a safety speed zone around ARHS?

Response: While on the surface the request may seem reasonable, speed limits are established to provide a means to promote safe and efficient traffic flow and not intended to serve as a consequential deterrent to any specific user group. Safety zone speed limit zones are the only regulatory speed limits that municipalities can adopt on town owned ways without approval of MassDOT. However, as professional engineers, both the DPW Director and Town Engineer are not prepared to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they adopt safety zone speed limits without first obtaining an engineering study. Although MassDOT does not specifically require an engineering study for the adoption of a safety zone, they do require one for speed limits under their jurisdiction as well as many other traffic regulations municipalities can adopt. It's prudent engineering practice to perform the appropriate professional study upon which a decision may be made. We have reached out to a traffic engineering consultant for assistance in the preparation of the engineering study. We also believe a properly prepared engineering study will give the Police Department adequate means of support for any traffic violations which may be challenged in court.

Concern: What is being done for traffic studies along Bartlett Street?

Response: The Town has scheduled CMRPC to collect traffic counts in the coming month on the segment of Bartlett Street between Route 20 and Lyman Street. In addition, a traffic engineering consultant will prepare an engineer study on vehicle speeds in the ARHS segment of Bartlett Street beginning in May. Amazon has committed to fund a post-occupancy traffic study which will be implemented by a town engaged traffic engineering consultant. This work will begin when the facility is fully operational which is projected to be in early July.

Concern: When will Amazon be installing the permanent entrance sign as well as the directional signs across the street from their driveway?

Response: Amazon informed the Town that the permanent entrance sign is scheduled for delivery later this month. Town staff met with Amazon on March 22, 2021 to discuss the process of sign installation across from the driveway. They were provided with the require permit documentation. Amazon is currently working on the details of the permit submission.

Concern: Residents need a better means of communicating traffic concerns to Town staff.

Response: The Public Works Department developed and released in late February a dedicated transportation safety webpage which includes a citizen reporting portal. Concerns raised and the provided responses are then posted on this webpage.