



City of Rochester, New Hampshire

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

31 Wakefield Street • Rochester, NH 03867

(603) 332-1167

www.RochesterNH.net

October 14, 2020

TO: Public Safety Committee

REGARDING: Public Safety Committee Meeting

There will be a Public Safety Committee meeting on
October 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. – to be conducted
remotely

[Meeting preamble](#)

for City Meetings during COVID-19

City of Rochester, NH

There will be a Public Safety Committee Meeting held on October 21, 2020 at 6PM. This meeting will be broadcast on Cable 26 for Atlantic Broadband customers, and the meeting will streamed online at City's website WWW.Rochesternh.net.

Good Evening, as Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, I am declaring that an emergency exists and I am invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III (b). Federal, state, and local officials have determined that gatherings of 10 or more people pose a substantial risk to our community in its continuing efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. In concurring with their determination, I also find that this meeting is imperative to the continued operation of City government and services, which are vital to public safety and confidence during this emergency. As such, this meeting will be conducted without a quorum of this body physically present in the same location.

a.) **Public Input:** Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19, the City of Rochester will be taking extra steps to allow for public input, while still ensuring participant safety and social distancing. In lieu of attending the meeting, those wishing to share comments, when permitted, with the Public Safety Committee (Public Hearing and/or Workshop settings) are encouraged to do so by the following methods:

- **Mail:** Public Safety Committee, Rochester DPW 45 Old Dover Road
Rochester, NH 03867 (*must be received at least three full days prior to the anticipated meeting date*)
- **Email:** laura.miller@rochesternh.net (*must be received no later than 4:00 pm of meeting date*)
- **Voicemail:** 603-335-7569 (*must be received no later than 12:00 pm on said meeting date in order to be transcribed*)

Please include with your correspondence the intended meeting date for which you are submitting. *All correspondence will be included with the corresponding meeting packet (Addendum).*

In addition to the above listed public access information, **the City Council will be allowing the public to enter Council Chambers and speak in person during the Public Input portion of this meeting.** In an effort to adhere to CDC guidelines: enter only at the front Wakefield Street entrance and exit on the side closest to the police department and adhere to 6-foot social distancing while inside. Hand sanitizer and facemasks will be available at the Wakefield Street entrance. Participants will be admitted into Council Chambers one at a time to speak, and will exit directly thereafter. Please note; the seating in Council Chambers will not be available for the public during meetings.

At this time, I also welcome members of the public accessing this meeting by phone. The public can call-in to the below number using the conference code. This meeting will be set to allow the public to “listen-in” only, and there will be no public comment taken via conference line during the meeting.

Phone number: 857-444-0744 Conference code: 843095

b.) **Roll Call:** Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

Let’s start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their name (and/or ward), also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

(Additionally, Council members are required to state their name and ward each time they wish to speak.)

Let’s start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their name and ward, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law. Additionally, Committee members are required to state their name and ward each time they wish to speak.

AGENDA

1. Public Input
2. Hillcrest and Sunset Drive-Speeding Issues
3. Gonic Road/Oak Street/Colby Street Intersection-Turning Movement Concerns
4. Speeding Concerns- Cemetery Road
5. Old Milton Road (backside of Dunkin Donuts) Safety Concerns
6. Pleasant Street-Requesting a Barrier by the Railroad Tracks
7. Chamberlain/Franklin Street Intersection-Requesting “Do not Block Intersection” Sign
8. Church Street/Route 125 Intersection Safety Concerns
9. Discussion Regarding “15 Minute parking” signs Downtown
10. E911 Update
11. Emergency Management Update
12. Covid-19 Statistics Update
13. Other

cc: Mayor and City Council
Chief Paul Toussaint
Deputy Chief Gary Boudreau
Chief Mark Klose
Assistant Chief Tim Wilder
Mr. Michael Bezanson

Mr. Timothy Goldthwaite
Ms. Laura Miller
Ms. Lisa Clark

Frank,

Unfortunately I know exactly what you are talking about. I am one of the many that will go out of my way to avoid that intersection during certain hours.

I will forward your concern to the public safety committee, but the best possible outcome will be a plea to the state to address a lot of people's concerns. I know that it is a state controlled intersection but if the council as a whole gets behind a letter to NH-DOT we might get some changes.

Tom Abbott

Get Outlook for iOS

On Sat, Aug 15, 2020 at 7:58 PM -0400, "Contact form at Rochester NH" <cmsmailer@civicplus.com> wrote:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello tabbott,

Frank Mitropoulos (fgmse1200@aol.com) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.rochesternh.net/users/tabbott/contact>) at Rochester NH.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.rochesternh.net/user/656/edit>.

Message:

Hi Tom, I have been a resident on Oak st. for 32 years and finally decided to voice my concern. The traffic lights on 125 and Oak are very dangerous , I have seen numerous near accidents and I myself instead of taking a left to head downtown will go straight onto Colby and down around the fire station. I tell family members to do the same to avoid that stressful intersection. I even know neighbors who avoid the intersection from 4 to 6 pm. If you've been a local guy then you must be familiar with the lights on West High and High sts. in Somersworth, they have 5 intersecting roads and manage to have dedicated lights for crossing traffic. Please feel free to call me at 833-1285 I will not answer a number I don't recognize so please leave a message.

Thank you, have great weekend.

Frank

To the Rochester NH Safety Committee,

I'm a new resident of Rochester and am writing to you with much concern over a situation I believe to be dangerous in my new neighborhood. Cemetery Road runs adjacent to Route 125 with Gear Rd at one end and Flagg Rd at the other, it is a nice little side street and a nice quiet neighborhood...except for one thing. Since moving here I have noted there are no posted speed limit signs on our road. I've driven the length of the road both ways to check because at any time, every day of the week starting at 7am all the way to midnight the traffic flow is quite frequent and almost every car, except for the residents, are traveling at a high rate of speed from both directions.

My observations over the last two months lead me to believe that people are using this road to both bypass having to go to the traffic light on Route 125 at the Flagg Road intersection and also to get to it because of how difficult it is to enter Route 125 from Gear Rd. Though my house is not far into Cemetery Rd. vehicles passing are already traveling very fast by the time they go by. I hear them turn onto the road and immediately hit the gas, sometimes hearing squealing tires, sometimes very loud exhaust sounds from a few of the regular cars but all at an accelerated speed for a residential neighborhood at best. The vast majority literally gain speed all the way down the road from either direction.

One of our neighbors has put out small roadside signs asking people to please go slow as there are kids playing there but apparently to no avail. I am concerned for everyone's safety, including the speeding drivers, as we have a public works facility on the road where large trucks come out of a shielded driveway area. Not to mention that it sounds like we all live directly on route 125 because of the heightened amount of high speed cut-through traffic.

The traffic flow is pretty consistent, literally somewhere between every 2-10 minutes most of the day, albeit a little heavier during commuter hours and in the later evening when it seems the loudest of the regular vehicles seem to go by. The type of vehicles speeding are across the board, cars, trucks, local business vehicles, delivery vehicles and motorcycles.

I'm not sure what the full solution is but I feel it will involve a multifaceted approach, not the least of which would include a traffic light at the intersection of Route 125 and Gear Road. Although it would not eliminate the problem on Cemetery Rd., it might be

one part of a larger effective solution and would perform a double-fold benefit. This would both possibly decrease a small amount of cut through traffic on Cemetery Rd and also allow local residents in the Gear Rd neighborhoods safe entrance onto and off from Route 125 which is currently a harrowing experience about 90% of the time. I generally have to go to Flagg road and utilize the traffic light there for safe entry, as probably do many other local residents *who use our street to get there*.

Posting speed limit signs, possibly in conjunction with a speed limit tracker and patrol car when available at the public works driveway, might be an initial part of the solution while others are being discussed and executed. This would allow some data collection for monitoring of speeds on the road and give an awareness to drivers that there may be an officer on the road.

Ultimately, only making a 'dead end street' or 'residents only street' would eliminate the current danger. Might this be accomplished with 'Do Not Enter' and 'Local Residents & Deliveries Only' signs along with posted fines signage at both ends of the street without having to block it off at one end? This would keep the road available for residents, deliveries and service vehicles as well as for trash collection and road maintenance.

Given my own nature and working in security I suspect there would be a number of people who would try to use the road anyway unless they were stopped and ticketed when they first try to, but I feel the message would become clear if it were initially and occasionally enforced. At the very least it would decrease the amount of traffic. I am not against blocking one end to make it a dead end street but I realize others may not, it would present its own set of issues and would be a last resort measure.

Forgive my attempts at solutions, I'm certainly not qualified to know what is possible or the most effective so I don't know what the entire scope needs to be. I know something needs to change as this situation presents an imminent danger for everyone. I put my trust in you as our City of Rochester Safety Committee to be able to come up with a good overarching, effective and lasting solution for our neighborhoods with the least amount of disruption possible for the residents of Cemetery Road and adjacent roads before someone is injured or worse. I am confident you will give it serious consideration.

DO NOT READ ALOUD:

I do not give permission for my name or address to be publicly known. I appreciate your discretion keeping this information confidential. I'm new to the area and would not want myself or my daughter to be put in a vulnerable position with anyone possibly upset by any changes that may be made to help alleviate this safety issue.

Thank you very much for your time and attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Laura Miller

Subject: FW: Pleasant Street - Public Safety Meeting
Attachments: IMG_0178.jpg; IMG_0179.jpg

From: Peter Lachapelle <peter.lachapelle@rochesternh.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 1:37 PM
To: Blaine Cox <blaine.cox@rochesternh.net>; Donald Hamann <donald.hamann@rochesternh.net>
Subject: Pleasant Street - Public Safety Meeting

Hi Blaine / Don,

I spoke with a resident that lives on Pleasant Street, she is asking for the City to put up some type of barrier that will prevent folks from walking up the railroad tracks and coming onto Pleasant Street right in front of her house. Not sure we can do anything, but told her I would bring this up at the next Public Safety meeting. I've attached a couple of pictures one from the road and the other from the railroad tracks.

Not sure who puts the agenda together, but could one of you forward it to the correct person so it's added to the agenda?

Thanks,
Pete



Laura Miller

From: Claire Blanchette
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2020 1:06 PM
To: Laura Miller
Subject: Public Safety Comm. Issue

Good Afternoon Laura,

Brian Brown is a Crossing Guard at the Chamberlain/Franklin Street intersection for the school. He is concerned about the intersection for when parents & school buses are waiting for the school to open, blocking thru way for the other oncoming traffic (ones that are not waiting for school or emergency vehicles). Would like to know if can get a sign or write in the road "DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION". His contact number is 973-6548. Thank you and have a nice day. BE SAFE

Claire Blanchette
Secretary II
Rochester, DPW
603-335-7553
claire.blanchette@rochesternh.net

Laura Miller

Subject: FW: [External] [Rochester NH] Church st/Rt 125 intersection SAFETY!!!!!!! (Sent by kathy I doherty, kathy_doherty@comcast.net)

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 9:20 AM

To: Blaine Cox <blaine.cox@rochesternh.net>

Subject: [External] [Rochester NH] Church st/Rt 125 intersection SAFETY!!!!!!! (Sent by kathy I doherty, kathy_doherty@comcast.net)

Message:

We have lived at 67 Church st for 25 years and are experiencing many dangerous accidents at the intersection onto RT 125. Many are landing onto our property causing us great concern when we are out just mowing our lawn.

There are 2 stop signs that are totally ignored by the majority of cars passing through. At least 10 times a day we are hearing horns blowing then we wait for the crash. All we would like to see is maybe jersey barriers or a guard rail to protect us on our property. If you stationed an officer on church st to fine the drivers that run the stop signs, it would pay for itself in 2 weeks.

Thank you for your attention.

Kathy Doherty

67 Church st

Rochester NH 03839

603 973-3361

Laura Miller

From: Jennifer Marsh
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 12:28 PM
To: Laura Miller
Subject: Public Safety Committee

Topic: Downtown "15 minute parking" signs

Example: replace the town truck with 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM



Let me know if you need anything else. Again, this is just a discussion once we remove the barriers downtown.

Jenn



Jennifer Marsh
Economic Development Specialist
City of Rochester
33 Wakefield Street
Rochester, NH 03867
Direct: (603) 335-7522 Fax: (603) 330-0027



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