CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
June 16, 2025

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via e-mail in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Ben Yeung at byeung@norwalkct.gov to provide written comments prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE:	Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Tony Lopez; Commissioner Ronald Paladino; Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons; Commissioner Nate Sumpter
STAFF:	Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Joseph Dinho; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore; Garrett Bolella, Asst. Director, TMP Ben Yeung, Senior Engineer, TMP.
OTHERS:	Jerry Allen; Kislene Bosse Belizaire; Drew Seath; Caroline Kieltyka; Justene Cyr

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Rilling called the roll, and all those listed in the attendance were present.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. APPROVE THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 19, 2025

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION- COMMISSIONER SUMPTER.**

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. ROWAYTON 5K- RACE TO THE ICE

Mr. Allen provided a brief overview of the event and said a fundraiser for his son's hockey team will hold a 5K run that will start and end at the community center.

Mayor Rilling asked if the police department had any concerns. Chief Walsh said, “No, they do not.”

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. KINGDOM RESTORATION BLOCK PARTY

Ms. Belizaire provided a brief overview of the event and road closures for the block party and has partnered with several churches in the area. Signage will be posted in advance to inform the neighborhood of the event so they can move their cars accordingly.

Commissioner Lopez asked what advanced notice the business will be given. Ms. Belizaire said they have partnered with Mount Zion and Matthew's Church, so if there is concern with parking, they will be opening their parking lot, so there will be parking available for the vendors, and if need be, on the day of the event, the businesses can utilize the parking areas. Commissioner Lopez asked if the businesses would have advanced notice of the event. Ms. Belizaire said that traditionally, the city would issue no parking signs, which would be installed before the event. There will also be parking available on the street, and Mount Zion has graciously allowed parking in their lot, so as not to cause congestion with the street parking.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said that even though the churches offer parking spaces for their vendors, the businesses will always be there. She does not think three days' notice is enough time, and she believes that the flyers for the event should be given directly to them, and they should speak with them. Ms. Belizaire said that once the event is approved, she intends to visit the business owners and speak with them about the event, and she hopes they will also be partners. Commissioner Lopez requested that as much advance notice be given as possible so the businesses can prepare if they need to.

Mayor Rilling asked if the police department had any concerns. Chief Walsh said, "No, they do not."

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. PINE POINT LABOR DAY PARTY

Mr. Seath provided a brief overview of the event and said the Pine Point area of Norwalk has had a summer party for over 20 years and is requesting the same road closures as in the past, and to reroute the traffic to other roads in the Pine Point area. The roads will be closed at 4:00 PM and opened by 10:00 PM.

Commissioner Sumpter asked if there would be police present. Mr. Seath said they use a private security company.

Commissioner Lopez asked if liquor would be served at the event. Mr. Seath said none that the association will supply.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. CT DOT-RAILROAD CROSSING REHAB- NEW CANAAN AVENUE

Ms. Kieltyka provided a detailed overview of the project and road closures and said Metro-North needs to replace the highway rail crossing infrastructure at New Canaan Avenue. The entire crossing must be removed and replaced to replace these components and provide a smooth surface for vehicular traffic. This will require a full closure of New Canaan Avenue for the duration of the work, which is projected to take five days and is scheduled from August 1st through August 5th. Replacement of the infrastructure at these railroad crossings is unlike other highway roadwork, where temporary lane closures can suffice while maintaining a reduced traffic flow. While the road closures for the crossing replacements are a considerable inconvenience to the traveling public, they understand. It is also an inconvenience to local businesses, transit services, and emergency services, and all the affected stakeholders will be notified in advance to have the opportunity to plan for these closures. The traffic and engineering team has experience in these crossing and detour plans for many roadways.

Ms. Kieltyka noted that this will be one of three crossings being replaced on the line. To support the replacement of this crossing, as well as the Kent Road crossing in Wilton and the South Kent crossing in Bethel, the Danbury line will be fully closed from August 1st through August 17th.

Ms. Kieltyka presented the three detour routes and said the main detour route is to utilize route 123 (Main Street, Cross Street,Belden Ave,) and route 809 (Riverside Avenue) which all of the roadways are under state maintenance and authority and will provide appropriate detours for all vehicles that would typically utilize New Canaan Avenue. She also presented a local road option utilizing Grand Street, Catherine Street, Main Street, and the intersections are signalized. The traffic engineer has recommended having an officer at the intersection of Tindall and Grand Street. These roads are all owned and maintained by the city, so the utilization of these detours would be under the city's authority and would need approval to be posted as a secondary detour for this route. The third detour is the pedestrian detour which would utilize Tindall Avenue, Grand Street, and Catherine and Main Street are also being offered. The Traffic Authority would also require the city to post this detour. She mentioned the railroad crossing in Wilton at Kent Road, where the detour dips into Norwalk on Old Belden Hill Road and Grist Mill Road. Wilton has provided a daily traffic count of 2600, so the Traffic Authority would also be required from the city to post the local portion of this route. Detour signage will be installed in advance by CTDOT or Metro-North and will remain covered until the detour is in place. Once in place, CTDOT will monitor the traffic flow through the detour and be prepared to add any additional signage if any issues are observed.

Ms. Kieltyka said police details are typically worked out with the Connecticut State Police, MTAPD, or the municipality for the protection at the work site based upon the agreed staffing.

Typically, one or two police cruisers with officers are placed at the construction site, and the CTDOT suggested post locations at the east and west ends of the crossing. If they get the authority for the local road detour, the CTDOT traffic engineering team suggests an officer at the uncontrolled Grand Street intersection to assist with guiding traffic. Metro-North PD will contact the Norwalk Police Department to coordinate further with the police for this project. Also, the work site area will be protected with reflective barricades, traffic barrels, and other visible devices to warn the public of the removal of the track roadway services, and appropriate signage will warn pedestrians of the sidewalk closures and direct them to the posted pedestrian detour route if authorized by the authority.

Ms. Kieltyka said the CTDOT will utilize an email chain throughout the project's life, including all municipal emergency service providers, transit, trucking associations, and railroad stakeholders. The email will be updated to provide real-time project information, and they will be sure to share the road closures with the Norwalkct.gov distribution list within their communications. Their commissioner's communications office will produce a detailed press release explaining the project, alerting potential traffic delays, and providing customers with a care contact for people with questions. The press release will also encourage people who do not have immediate business on Main Avenue or New Canaan Avenue to plan for alternate routes. They will also engage with the city's outreach person to be sure the city has the most up-to-date information to share. Two weeks before the project, signage will be installed at the crossing to alert the public of the start date and duration of the closure. Temporary variable messaging signs will also be placed strategically before the closure to warn the public of the pending closures.

Mayor Rilling asked if there would be law enforcement traffic control seven days a week and 24 hours per day for the whole five days. Ms. Kieltyka said, "Yes, Metro-North will contact the Norwalk Police.

Chief Walsh asked about the messaging for commuters who use Merritt Parkway and cut across Main Avenue to get onto I-95. Ms. Kieltyka said their traffic engineering team is looking at the detour signage for that, and in addition to any traffic signage, there will be outreach to detour traffic away from that area. Chief Walsh requested that she share the information with the Press Information Officer so they can message the residents.

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

E. EVERSOURCE-NEW TRANSMISSION LINE FOUNDATIONS WORK-FORT POINT STREET AT S. S. SMITH STREET

Ms. Cyr provided an overview of the project and said they finished their work in May of this year. Still, when their engineering team inspected the area, they noticed some areas needed some re-tensioning, so they will need to go back in July under another outage and reclip some of the

areas that need additional work. The area that will be impacted is between July 8th and July 10th, with approximately one and a half days of disruption. The work hours will be between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM, and will need a single lane closure, much like they have requested in the past, and there will be police at the detour. The outreach team will update their website and reach out a week in advance at a minimum.

Mayor Rilling asked if the police department had any concerns. Chief Walsh said, "No, they do not".

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

F. TMP-BURNELL BLVD. CONVERSION TO TWO-WAY BETWEEN BELDEN AVENUE AND RIVER ROAD

Mr. Bolella said this project is to prepare for the next phase, which will take place from where the construction is today up Main Street and throughout Burnell Blvd. The proposal is to convert the one block of the roadway on Burnell Blvd. to two-way operations. It is one-way westbound today, and the current bridge on Burnell Blvd. operates two-way, and this proposal is to make the roadway consistent throughout its entirety. One of the historical and previous challenges was that this road needed to be one-way to the Norwalk Transit District and the operations of the single pulse point, which served the entire city. Since then, the Norwalk Transit District has gone through a comprehensive operations analysis and developed a vision for the future, and TMP has been coordinating closely with them. Part of that vision for the future is not to have one single pulse point across the city, but to move to several much smaller hubs throughout the city, reducing the footprint of the pulse point that operates on Burnell Blvd. They have also had conversations with the Transit District regarding the benefits of two-way operations. They are moving forward with a smaller, sleeker, size and scale operation which will allow the pulse point not to have to be configured as it is today, which is buses all pulling in at the same time at an angle and in the future will be able to pull in on the northerly or southerly curb which will allow them the redesign of the greater Wall Street area with this two-way street as well as significantly improving transit operations. The Transit District is looking to implement their new route operations in early August, so TMP is seeking to move forward with this project conversion even though the phase II of construction of this roadway will not occur until the fall of 2026. This conversion will benefit the community, provide redundancy in the network, and provide access to the Yankee Doodle Garage.

Mayor Rilling said this has been a long discussion consistent with the city's vision for the Wall Street area.

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

G. TMP- SPEED LIMIT CHANGE FROM 30 MPH TO 25 MPH ON VARIOUS WALL STREET NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS

Mr. Yeung said, building on what Mr. Bolella just told us about the Wall Street Master Plan and the vision of the area, it is only fitting that we ensure we do everything we can to make the Wall Street neighborhood a low-speed, traffic-calmed, and pedestrian and cyclist-friendly neighborhood. Wall Street is already set to 25 MPH from Belden Avenue west to East Avenue and Park Street. The adjacent neighborhood streets (Main Street, High Street, Knight Street, and Burnell Blvd.) are not signed. We don't currently have any speed limit signs, but we would like to establish a speed limit lower than the default of 30 MPH. The request is to ask OSTA to install a 25 MPH speed limit on the streets he had just mentioned.

Commissioner Lopez asked if the speed limit on River Street will be increased or kept the same. Mr. Yeung said the street will not be signed and the speed limit will be 25 MPH, but in the long term, it will potentially establish a lower speed limit through a pedestrian safety zone. Mr. Bolella suggested that TMP sign the street as part of this request to provide consistency within the neighborhood at 25 MPH. Still, to Mr. Yeung's point, there is a possibility of looking at this area as a pedestrian safety action zone in the future, but none have been approved in the state, and that would require a lengthy application process.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd