

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 24, 2025

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ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Tony Lopez; Commissioner Ronald Paladino; Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons; Commissioner Nate Sumpter (arrived at 4:03 PM)

STAFF: Deputy Chief Terry Blake; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore; Nathan Fankhanel, Junior Engineer, TMP; Ben Yeung, Senior Engineer, TMP; Mario Pizighelli, Stormwater Systems Manager, WPCA; Dan Stanton, Senior Engineer, DPW

OTHER: Justene Cyr, Eversource; Vincent Neri, Project Manager, Waters Construction

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. January 27, 2025

****COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVE THE PROPOSED FULL CLOSURES FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE SPECIAL EVENT

Mayor Rilling said this event has been held over the past 8-10 years and the route appears to be the same. He said if any of the commissioners would like to participate, they are more than welcome.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. APPROVE THE PROPOSED PARTIAL CLOSURES FOR O'NEILL'S 5K SPECIAL EVENT

Mr. Yeung said to his knowledge this is an annual event and is a 5K race that will take place on June 1st and will follow the same route that it has in recent years. The special event permit details state that there are no full road closures required for this event. Mayor Rilling said he attends the event each year and is an organized event.

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. APPROVE THE PROPOSED PARTIAL AND FULL CLOSURES ON FORT POINT STREET BETWEEN SOUTH SMITH STREET AND MOORE PLACE FOR EVERSOURCE 1028 LINE OUTAGE

Ms. Cyr said the purpose of the closure is to install their structure on Fort Point Street and request a single alternating lane closure from Monday through Sunday from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM and a full road closure from Monday through Thursday from 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM. The dates will range from May 5th to May 19th but there will be flexibility in that as they believe they may finish sooner.

Mayor Rilling asked if there would be police for traffic control the entire time even in the evening to the following morning. Ms. Cyr said “yes”.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said there have been road closures on this project before and asked if this is a reintroduction of that same project. Ms. Cyr said it is the same project with a different step in the construction schedule, so what was originally approved by the Traffic Authority prior was the foundation that is going to be drilled and will be the same plan that was used for the foundation and will be using it to install the structure a couple of months later.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said her concern was if there were any complaints or unforeseen details regarding traffic flow during the previous closures. Ms. Cyr said they were not able to drill the foundation back in November so part of the project was delayed until early March, as of now there have not been any compliance issues or police detour issues, and will do their best to have their outreach team engaged to be sure they are staying in compliance and making sure they have police detail present.

Mayor Rilling asked how people would know that the portion of the road is closed and are unable to take that route. Ms. Cyr said there will be detailed signs present but she will need to reconfirm with the outreach team that the signs will be placed on that street to be sure there is no conflict.

Mr. Yeung said that Eversource has presented a detour route for people traveling from the south to the north. Mayor Rilling requested that he coordinate with the police department to be sure they are satisfied with what has been proposed.

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. APPROVE THE PROPOSED PARTIAL CLOSURES FOR DRAINAGE WORK ON WEST AVENUE BETWEEN THE EXIT 15 I-95 NORTHBOUND ON-RAMP AND EXIT 15 I-95 SOUTHBOUND ON-RAMP

Mr. Yeung provided an overview of the project and said it is a state project to improve drainage along I-95 and involves the installation of a new drainage structure and Waters Construction is the state’s contractor on this project. Upon starting this phase of the project, they discovered there were some unforeseen utility conflicts below West Avenue and because of the complexity of the project, they are requesting to do both day and night work for the work zone that will be needed.

Mr. Neri said at the time the project was bid there were only three utilities in the West Avenue crossing and there are now seven so there are different site conditions that revealed unanticipated obstructions leading to a new drainage design which increased the complexity of the operation far beyond the original scope of work, and requires limits of operation to be expanded to both day and nighttime closures as the operation cannot be performed within the original allowed hours of operation. He said they plan to implement the already approved traffic control plan using them at night but then implement the modifications that Mr. Yeung and his team suggested during the day.

Mr. Yeung said that Waters Construction submitted their request for a change to the CTDOT which was relayed to TMP and DPW as the city's representatives on this project and provided some recommendations for improvements to their MPT plan because the traffic control plan was originally only approved for nighttime work. He said they coordinated this morning with CTDOT, the contractor, and Deputy Chief Blake on some of the conditions that would need to be fulfilled to proceed with the work.

Mayor Rilling asked what the dates of the closure will be and how long it will be in effect. Mr. Neri said they plan to mobilize back to the construction site on March 3rd however, the work on West Avenue will begin the week of March 10th, and anticipate approximately one month to complete, but there will always be at least one sidewalk open for pedestrians, and a minimum of one lane in each direction, and there will be no traffic control on the weekends because the road will be fully open on the weekends.

Commissioner Paladino asked if any businesses will be impacted and if so, what is being done to mitigate that. Mr. Yeung said TMP is working with CTDOT and Waters Construction on some conditions for them to proceed with this work and can make it a condition for them to do some outreach as part of this work, and TMP can also perform outreach to make sure it's clear.

E. APPROVE THE PROPOSED FULL CLOSURE AND DETOUR PLAN FOR DRAINAGE WORK ON FLAX HILL ROAD AT WASHINGTON STREET

Mr. Pizighelli said per the MS4 consent order they will be disconnecting a storm catch basin that is combined with the sanitary sewer, and to do so will need to cross over Flax Hill Road at the intersection of Washington Street and due to the amount of traffic it is recommended to close that intersection until the work is completed to ensure safety for both vehicular traffic, pedestrian traffic as well as the crew onsite. This will be daytime work and construction will begin at 7:00 AM and end at 3:30 PM, and police will be onsite at each end of the closures along with the detour signage. He said because there are residents within the Flax Hill area there will be local traffic only allowed through.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked when the work is planned to begin and how long it will take. Mr. Pizighelli said, depending on material procurement, the mobilization for this specific area will be one to two weeks but as far as the construction itself is concerned it will be two to three days. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked when the work would begin. Mr. Pizighelli said in the next week or two. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if the residents had been notified of the project and how it would impact them. Mr. Pizighelli said they have not notified the residents yet because they wanted to be sure the detour route that is being proposed today was approved before sending out notices to the residents. However, once the traffic detour is

approved, they plan on handing out notices at least 48 hours ahead of time at a minimum before mobilization. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said good consideration would be more than 48 hours' notice to the residents. Mr. Pizighelli said the earliest the work will start will be the week of March 3rd and the latest will be the week of March 10th and the timeline for the actual construction itself is approximately two to three days.

****COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

F. APPROVE THE PROPOSED FULL CLOSURE AND DETOUR PLAN FOR DRAINAGE WORK ON FLAX HILL ROAD BETWEEN SCRIBNER AVENUE AND ARBOR DRIVE/FRANCES AVENUE.

Mr. Pizighelli said this is a separate drainage project from the item that was just discussed with a separate contractor and the work will be taking place in the area between Scribner Avenue and Arbor Drive on Flax Hill Road. This drainage work is a precursor to a road reconstruction plan for sidewalks as well as paving for Flax Hill Road and will be doing a drainage rehabilitation project that will entail removing and replacing the existing drainage between Scribner Avenue and Arbor Drive. This closure is necessary because the drainage work that will be performed runs along the center line of the road. The estimated duration of the project is approximately one to one and a half months depending on weather conditions, but there is not a mobilization date scheduled as of yet as they are still in the final design phase but are looking to start the project at the end of April or early May.

Commissioner Sumpter requested the affected residents be notified more than 48 hours in advance of the project. Mr. Pizighelli just as in the previous item they held off on notifying the residents before the approval of the traffic plan and noted that all of the signage has not been included in the plan as of yet as it still needs to be finalized, but wanted to present the detour and closure plan to the Traffic Authority for approval, and once approved a more fine-tuned detour plan will be handed out to the residents well in advance of this project.

Commissioner Lopez asked how they would be sure the paving was going to be up to par. Mr. Pizighelli said the patchwork that will be done will be permanent pavement but again this is a precursor to a much larger project. Once the drainage is complete another crew will come in to do the sidewalk installation and once that is complete, they will be finalizing the curb-to-curb pavement of Flax Hill Road. Commissioner Lopez asked who would review that to determine if it is acceptable. Mr. Arias said the road will be resurfaced to the current standards for a typical paving project. He and another inspector will be on-site to ensure proper compaction of the trench, so they don't begin to settle before the final paving. Commissioner Lopez said he hopes the standards are held and reviewed because the paving has not been good with other contractors. Mr. Pizighelli said if the patch does fail the contractor is obligated to rehabilitate that patch and for the actual paving, and there is density and compaction testing done which is a more intense testing method but as far as patching, they do stress they it is compacted property and if it does fail the contractor is obligated to come back in a certain period to fix the patch.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

G. APPROVE THE OSTA LETTER FOR SPEED LIMIT CHANGES AND A SCHOOL ZONE ON FILLow STREET AT KENDALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. Fankhanel said this request is the same as any other school zone that has been requested in the past.

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

H. APPROVE THE TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL PLAN FOR NEWTOWN AVENUE & GRUMMAN AVENUE SIGNAL CHANGES TO BE SENT TO OSTA

Mr. Stanton said that road reconstruction is being done for complete streets on Grumman Avenue and the work extends into the state right of way and as such will be obtaining the right of way permit and improving the crosswalk at that location.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd