



PORTSMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

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City of Portsmouth
Traffic Committee
October 9, 2007

To: James D. Kalb

A Traffic Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 9, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in the Engineering Department Conference Area.

Committee Members Present:
David Thoroughman (for Chief)
Darlene Daub
Arlene Dever
Richard Grimm
John Grooms
Kerry Keating
Mike Penn

Committee Members Absent:
Jim Lodwick

Guests:
Alex Watts
Jerry Conklin
Jane Murray (and others)
Paul Ward

Captain Thoroughman opened the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

New Buisness:

- 0) Jerry Conklin came to the meeting and his issue is not on the agenda. He lives at 2719 Sherman. He stated that 300-350 cars a day are speeding on this street. He says they need speed limit signs because the hospital generates heavy traffic.

Captain Thoroughman advised that several years ago when this street opened to the hospital the Police Department monitored for speed. Captain Thoroughman advised that the legal speed limit in town, unless otherwise marked, is 25 mph. He will have officers pay particular attention to this area for speeding.

- 1) Jane Murray of 1920 Dorman presented concerns and suggestions for traffic on Dorman Drive. Residents of 1940 Dorman were present to support Ms. Murray and she also indicated she was speaking for an elderly woman unable to attend the meeting who lives at 1921 Dorman (Ms. Yeagle). Ms. Murray presented a chart showing traffic flow and streets in her neighborhood.

She stated property is being damaged by delivery trucks, etc. She indicated that she requested "No Truck Traffic" signs some time ago when Hill View was expanding, but no signs were erected. She indicated Dorman is very narrow, with no center lines, and no sidewalks or curbs. She is disturbed by the heavy traffic, dirt and noise from motorists. She sees large cement trucks (McGovney) and others taking, what she believes is a shortcut, up and down Dorman. She indicated she spoke with Chris Murphy and he agreed that no truck traffic should be on Dorman Drive unless making a local delivery. No trucks should be short-cutting from Route 23 to Route 52 via Dorman Drive. Ms. Murray also indicated excessive speed on Shawnee, and large cranes. She stated that motorists must change their behavior. She recommended we use development impact fees to lessen the burden of erecting signs and other infrastructure issues. She stated that Dorman was repaved 2 ½ years ago and she was told that was the first time they had ever milled. She suggested "traffic calming" and speed bumps to restrict traffic on Dorman. Ms. Murray stated she would like to participate in the process of correcting these problems. She stated we need to protect our neighborhoods. She stated she was able to get signs erected for her grass alley to keep vehicles from driving through. Captain Thoroughman advised he will have Sergeant J. R. Davis monitor this location and issue citations to semi tractor drivers and other illegal motorists. Ms. Murray provided a copy of her recommendations to the Committee (attached for the Mayor's review). Police patrol will be advised of violations in this area. The committee members will investigate this issue and discuss at the November meeting.

Back to Old Business:

- 1) Request from Judy Church (1719 Coles Boulevard) to erect a blinking light (Caution/Prepare to Stop), north of Coles Boulevard on Scioto Trail as you come into town. She says that semi tractors round the curve and often run that red light. She stated there was a fatal accident there some years ago, and she is concerned it will happen again.

Captain Thoroughman advised Sergeant J. R. Davis has been off work, but is now back, and he will have the Sergeant monitor this location. Richard Grimm stated he has observed this location and feels all signage is adequate. Richard Grimm made a motion to "Take No Action" on this issue, John Grooms seconded the motion and the motion carried.

New Business

- 2) Received letter from Mr. Edgar Bibbey of Hill View Retirement Center. He believes there should be a four-way stop at Gilbert and 28th to increase safety. He also believes there should be new striping on 17th Street between Grandview and Mabert Road.

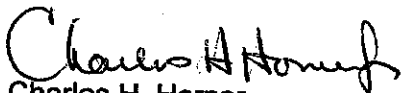
Richard Grimm moved to defer this issue to the November meeting when all can take a look and report. This was agreed to by all.

- 3) Received letter from Paul Ward of the Portsmouth Library (he was present to address his concern). He is requesting the curb on the south side of 5th Street be marked as a no-parking zone, for 25 feet from the alley by the playground of the elementary school. It is currently marked for only 5 feet. The bookmobile is no longer allowed to make a right turn out of the alley onto 5th. The bookmobile is unable to make a left turn because of insufficient space to make the turn needed. After the curb is marked as a no-parking zone, the library truck will be able to maneuver the turn as required by law.

It is the recommendation of the Committee that the curb, on the south side of 5th Street be painted for 25 feet from the alley by the playground of the elementary school.

The next Traffic Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in the Engineering Office Conference Area.

All items before the Committee having been discussed, the meeting adjourned.


Charles H. Horner
Chief of Police

cc: ✓ City Council
Committee Members
Chris Murphy/Alex Watts
Captain Thoroughman

PUBLIC MEETING OF INTEREST

Discussion of pass-through traffic problems on Coles Blvd., Dorman Drive, Shawnee Road and Grandview Avenue

**City Traffic Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 9, 2007; 2:30 p.m.
2nd Floor, Engineering Office
Portsmouth Municipal Building, 2nd Street**

Our neighborhoods have become a pass-through for commercial traffic, employees and visitors at the various medical facilities that are proliferating in the residential neighborhoods of Portsmouth, and more importantly, as a major short cut between U.S. 23 and U.S. 52. This combined with the increased volume of traffic generally, have created unbearable noise, pollution, and danger to otherwise peaceful neighborhoods.

The 2 major arterial routes through Portsmouth shown on Google Maps are:

- 1) U.S. 23 and 52 and**
- 2) Coles Blvd. to Dorman Drive to Grandview**

Dorman Drive, a small street with no sidewalks or curbs, is used as a short cut by trucks and other commercial vehicles (AEP, dump trucks, non-emergency ambulances, lawn care companies, etc.) to New Boston, South Webster, Wheelersburg, etc. The small block of Dorman between Grandview and Coles/Shawnee is a mere 20' 6" (less than the width of my kitchen). Traveling it daily in huge succession are 18-wheelers, cement trucks and other large construction vehicles, along with trucks, commercial vans, cars, non-emergency ambulances, busses, and the list goes on.

Neither this block nor the entire street was designed for this volume or amount of traffic. It is a neighborhood street where children and adults walk, ride bikes, jog, push baby strollers, and walk their pets. We are daily in competition with huge volumes of all manner of vehicles...and many at excessive speeds.

Coles Blvd., Shawnee and all of Grandview are affected. The lower portion of Grandview is narrow with on-street parking. The increased traffic, noise, danger and pollution have become huge problems and were exacerbated with the construction of U.S. 23. Many more people found our neighborhoods to use as a cut through.

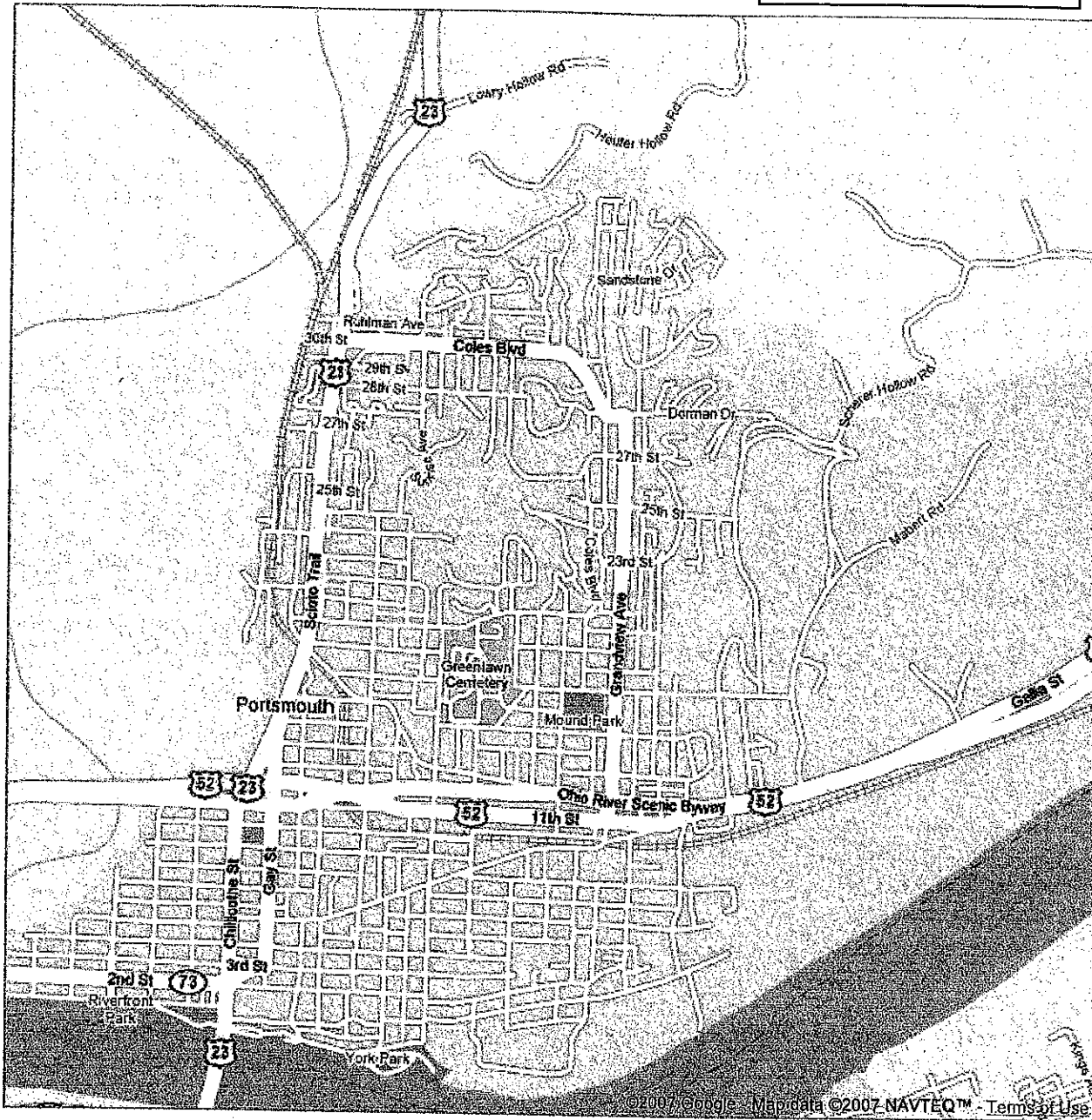
Reasonable options exist to help alleviate some of these traffic congestion, noise and danger problems. People must be forced to change driving habits and patterns. A description of the problems will be presented along with some reasonable solutions and "traffic calming measures" that can help protect our neighborhoods and property values and give us back some of the quality of life we have lost. Please consider attending and/or calling the City Engineering Office to offer your concern for our neighborhoods, 354-7557.

Jane Murray
1920 Dorman Drive; 353-5354

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS TO INCREASED TRAFFIC PROBLEMS AT COLES BLVD., SHAWNEE ROAD, DORMAN DRIVE AND GRANDVIEW AVENUE

1. Post NO THRU TRAFFIC – NO THRU TRUCKS signs at all entrances to neighborhoods off U.S. 23 and U.S. 52 to include but not be limited to Coles Blvd., Kinney's Lane, Grandview Avenue, and Mabert Road.
2. Prohibit truck/commercial traffic on Dorman Drive
3. To address the 1920 small block of Dorman Drive (between Grandview and Shawnee/Coles/North Hill) post LOCAL RESIDENT TRAFFIC ONLY on all streets and approaches to block – 25th and 27th Streets, Coles Blvd., North Hill Road, Shawnee Road, and the top side of Dorman at Thomas Avenue & redirect traffic to alternate route (e.g., Shawnee Rd., 27th Street, 25th Street, Thomas Avenue, etc.)
4. Install 2 or 3 speed bumps on small Dorman block.
5. Install speed bumps at the top of Dorman Drive to help divert traffic to Thomas Avenue.
6. Install a traffic control device (traffic light) at Coles/Shawnee/North Hill/Dorman intersection with very limited turn signal onto and off Dorman from all directions. Restrict turns to signaled turns only (i.e., have red after green arrow).
7. Assess, through traffic studies, what additional traffic control might be necessary at Grandview & 27th Street, Shawnee & 27th Street, Shawnee & 25th Street, Grandview & 25th Street, etc.

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