

**TOWN OF ACTON  
INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION**

Date: October 17, 2007

**To: John Murray**

**From: Engineering Department  
Bruce M. Stamski, P.E., Town Engineer/Director of Public Works**

**Subject: Maple Street Traffic Issues**

The Engineering Department has reviewed the suggestions for traffic calming on Maple Street made in an email by Ms. Carole Marcacci of 16 Orchard Drive. Her suggestion was that speed bumps similar to the one on Windsor Avenue should be considered.

To determine the extent of the problem we set out our traffic counters in two locations last week.

The One Way section of Maple Street (From Main Street to Stow Street) has a posted speed limit of 25mph. The 85% speed was determined to be 30mph. The total vehicles per day were 1,078. Most of these vehicles turn down Stow Street rather than continuing on the Two Way section of Maple Street.

The Two Way section of Maple Street (From Martin to Stow Street) also has a posted Speed limit of 25mph. The 85% speed was determined to be 25 mph heading toward Stow Street and 30 mph heading toward Martin Street. The total vehicles per day were 215.

There are 18 houses on the two way section plus one small business. The total trips per day (using standard trip generation tables) anticipated from the local neighborhood is in the vicinity of 180-190. With 215 trips per day recorded it appears that the through traffic is very limited (25-35 vehicles per day).

As part of this review we set up our counters on Windsor Avenue. Counters were set 150 feet off the bump on both sides and another 800+/- toward Central Street. The 85% speed entering and leaving the speed bump was 33 mph entering and 32 mph leaving. At the counters 800 feet away the 85% speed was 36-37 mph. In 1994 and in 1996 the Engineering Department determined the 85% speed in this area prior to installation of the speed bump to be 28 mph.

The Engineering Department does not recommend a Windsor Avenue type speed bump be installed at this location. Traffic is presently traveling slower than the speeds observed at the Windsor Avenue speed bump. In fact the traffic data suggests that the speed bump may be causing the speeds to increase on Windsor Avenue.

While the 85% speed is 5 mph faster than the posted speed limit, it does not appear to be excessive. I would suggest the Police Department continue to monitor the situation as a part of their overall traffic control program.

## Maryjane Kenney

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**From:** Carole [artemis7@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 02, 2007 7:11 PM  
**To:** Board of Selectmen  
**Subject:** Traffic on Maple Street in South Acton

Dear Selectmen and -women:

I am writing to suggest a possible improvement to Maple Street. Some weeks ago, I attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting that contained a discussion of the issue of safety and curtailing parking on Maple.

I appreciate your decision to eliminate some parking spaces on that street, for public safety's sake.

An additional concern was brought up by a Maple St. resident, who explained that when commuters arrive home from work at the South Acton Commuter Rail station, some will drive their cars very fast down Maple in an effort to get home quickly. There seemed to be great concern about this issue, so I am writing to offer my suggestion for possibly slowing traffic down on that street, so that commuters may be reminded to drive more slowly on their way home. I live on a relatively quiet street with many children, and at times some drivers speed up and down the street at 30 mph or even more. So, I too feel afraid for myself and all the children on the street that one day a speeding vehicle will hit one of us. At the Commuter Rail station this risk is greatly exacerbated because of the number of cars exiting the lot and driving down Maple St. to get home.

My suggestion is for the town to install a few wide "speed bumps" similar to those on Windsor Avenue, on (street) at regular intervals from Main Street to approximately the corner of (street) and Martin Street, or for a shorter distance down Maple. Keeping in mind that this is a public street, and not knowing the true cost of installing such speed bumps, I believe the wide speed bumps would help the speeding traffic issue without costing the Town inordinate sums of money. I would not mind paying my part in taxes for this additional safety feature on Maple St.

Thank you for reading this!

Sincerely,  
Carole Marcacci  
16 Orchard Drive

"Other than the war in Iraq , the Katrina disaster, the deficit, the CIA leak, torture, stopping stem cell research, homeland security, global warming and undercutting science, we've yet to really feel the negative effects of the George W. Bush administration" --  
Bill Moyers, Journalist

## Christine Joyce

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**From:** Frank Widmayer  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2007 1:14 PM  
**To:** Manager Department  
**Subject:** FW: Maple Street traffic issues and recommendation

Frank J. Widmayer III  
Chief of Police  
(978) 263-2911

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**From:** Robert Cowan  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2007 10:33 AM  
**To:** Frank Widmayer; Robert Cowan  
**Subject:** Maple Street traffic issues and recommendation

This report is in regards to Maple Street, and the reported traffic issues. There was a request to explore the need for speed bumps on the two way section of Maple St. There was a perception that there was a speeding issue on the street. The Acton Engineering Dept. conducted a speed count, and the following is the information that was gathered. The 85th percentile speed on the one way section of Maple St. was 30mph. The 85th percentile speed on the two way section of Maple St was 25mph traveling from Martin St, and 30mph traveling towards Martin St. The two way section of Maple St averaged 215 vehicles a day. The one way section of Maple St averaged 1078 vehicles a day. The worst time period for speeding vehicles was between the hours of 4pm-6pm, but even then the speeding was not dramatic. I have discussed this issue with the engineering dept., and the following is my recommendation.

Maple St is approximately one quarter of a mile in length, and the posted speed is 25mph. With the facts that were gathered from the speed count, indicate that there is no need for speed bumps, or a change in the speed limit.

Detective Robert L Cowan Jr

**Christine Joyce**

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**From:** Frank Widmayer  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2007 1:14 PM  
**To:** Manager Department  
**Subject:** FW: maple ST.

Frank J. Widmayer III  
Chief of Police  
(978) 263-2911

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**From:** Christopher Prehl  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2007 11:35 AM  
**To:** Frank Widmayer  
**Subject:** maple ST.

As you are aware the engineering dept. conducted a survey of the speeds on Maple St. The results did not uncover any large numbers on the speed issues that were raised. Maple ST. along with several other streets that surround the commuter parking lot experience a large number of travelers a certain times of the day. My suggestion for this area would be some additional speed enforcement be conducted in the area this as it has been in the past may give the residents more of a piece of mind that we are slowing the people down even if violations are not found. This street would not warrant the consideration or study of a potential speed bump especially with the results of the survey that was done and if a speed bump was granted for this street I feel that it would set a bad precedent that would open the door and start a trend for other busy streets in town.

Detective Christopher N. Prehl