TOWN OF ACTON
472 Main Street
Acton, Massachusetts, 01720
Telephone (978) 929-6630
Fax (978) 929-6340

Engineering Department

October 22, 2012

High Street and Audubon Drive Intersection Improvement Project

Members of the Board,

The Engineering Department is requesting a scenic road hearing under Town General Bylaw Chapter J (MGL Ch 40 Section 15C) for High Street at the intersection with Audubon Drive. This request is being made so that the Town can remove some existing public shade trees, regrade the road shoulder and relocate approximately 275 feet of the existing stone wall along the southeasterly corner of the intersection. This stone wall demarcates the road right of way and serves as a property boundary with Audubon Hill. The scope of the proposed work includes the following:

- Removing 8 public shade trees
- Relocating the stone wall to improve sight distances at the intersection
- Reconstructing a section of the existing sidewalk
- Loaming and seeding the disturbed areas.

To assess the existing traffic at the intersection, automatic traffic counters were set-up over a seven-day period on High Street by 77 High Street. The traffic count determined the average daily vehicle count for High Street at this location is about 5,299 vehicles per day and that the 85th percentile speed is about 40 mph. The posted speed limit along this section of High Street is 25 mph. The Massachusetts Highway Department Procedures for Speed Zoning, which applies to municipal streets, states the following:

> *"The speed at or below which 85% of the motorists travel is the principle value used for establishing speed zones. This is commonly referred to as the 85th percentile speed. This method is based on numerous studies that indicate that the majority of motorists are prudent and capable of selecting safe speeds. The 85th percentile speed is the national standard for establishing safe speed limits."*

The proposed work at the intersection will improve the sight distance for motorists stopped on Audubon Drive and turning onto High Street. I've attached a copy of the proposed plans and photos depicting the intersection.

Thank you

Corey York
Town Engineer / Director of Public Works

Cc: Steven Ledoux, Town Manager
Dean Charter, Tree Warden

Audubon Drive - sight line

- looking northerly (toward Main St)

Audubon Drive - sight line

-looking southerly (toward Rte 62)