

## **TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD AGENDA**

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.  
Common Council Chambers  
109 N. Main Street  
Oneida, NY 13421

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Acceptance of previous meetings minutes

Old Business

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Agenda Items:

1. Citizen Complaint – Parking in intersection Seneca/Bates, Seneca/W. Walnut, and North Lake/E. Elm. (Chief Lowell)
2. Citizen Complaint – Request for cross walks/stop lines at all intersecting side streets. (Chief Lowell)
3. Hood Trucks – Uptick again. (Common Councilor Andrea Hitchings)
4. Antiquated Traffic Lights – Request for traffic study on all traffic lights at intersections within the city. (Common Councilor Jim Szczerba)
5. Route 5 Dunkin Donuts blockage. (TSB President Burke)
6. Citizen Complaint - Boston Street near Philips Street.

New Business

**CITY OF ONEIDA**  
**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD**  
July 16, 2024  
2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS:

Chairman Bruce Burke  
Vice-Chairman Donald White  
Barbara Buehner  
Kathy Malinowski  
James Sweet  
Erwin Smith  
Brahim Zogby  
Michael Geer  
Brian Bortree  
Gary Laureti

IN ATTENDANCE

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ADVISORS:

Public Safety Commissioner Dave Jones  
Police Chief Steven Lowell  
Fire Department Assistant Chief Dennis Relyea  
City Engineer Jeff Rowe  
Traffic Advisor Shawn Palmer  
Police Lieutenant Ryan Warner

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OTHER PRESENT:

Vincent Bailey  
John Monaghan

The regular meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Bruce Burke.

Approval of April 16, 2024, Meeting Minutes Distributed for Review Prior to July 16, 2024, Meeting

Moved by: Dave Jones

Seconded by: Brian Bortree

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the regular meeting of April 16, 2024, are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 4 (Malinowski, Sweet, Smith, & Geer)

**MOTION CARRIED**

## OLD BUSINESS

### ❖ Overnight Parking on Allen Park Pl

Brahim wanted to revisit the topic due to missing the last meeting and wanted to present some new information he discovered. Brahim asked who had driven down the road and several members said they had. He let everyone know that all houses on the street all have access to a driveway, 1 was a shared driveway, contrary to what was said at the last meeting. Some residents of the houses choose to park in the road or use the driveway for camper storage but have access to a driveway. Brahim asked if the city should offer year-round street parking for those who don't want to use their driveway. Lt. Warner let the Board know that he drove down the street earlier in the day and that while some driveways are shared or small, all houses have a driveway. Gary Laureti asked if we knew why that road had the bump out, and no one knew why it was installed in the first place. AC Relyea agreed with the Board that Allen Park Place was a small narrow road and that the Fire Department would always prefer no street parking to make sure there is room for the trucks to get down roads. Melissa let the Board know that she emailed Nadine (the city attorney) after the meeting but has not heard back. Nadine was on vacation and then Brahim had expressed a desire to revisit this topic, so no change has occurred since the last meeting. There was a discussion on parking on side streets and how parking has historically been enforced. Owners should be aware of the parking when they buy the house and should make other arrangements if needed. The Board agreed to table changing the local law until the next meeting. They will reach out to residents and talk to them about their parking situations.

## AGENDA ITEMS

### 1. Right Hand Turning Lane by Oneida Hospital (Chief Lowell)

#### Discussion:

The area that we are discussing is Fields Dr. on the south side of Rt 5 going into the hospital parking lot. Lt. Warner gave more context on this issue that the road currently has white hash marks on the shoulder indicating that it is a no driving on the shoulder area. The hospital would like to turn those hashmarks into a dedicated right hand turn only lane. Lt Warner also said that that area is a hot spot for vehicle rear ends and side swipes coming down the hill. Rt 5 is a State controlled road, and the Traffic Safety Board cannot make any changes. We will send a letter to the business recommending they reach out to the State Department of Transportation.

### 2. No parking sign replacement on Madison St. (Vincent Bailey)

#### Discussion:

Vincent Bailey was present to present his case. Shawn Palmer let the Board know that the sign in question had been removed years ago after being knocked down and due to various reasons was delayed in being replaced. When replaced this year as part of a training from Bob Anderson prior to his retirement the signs were placed on the wrong side of the road. The signs have since been corrected. Mr. Bailey inquired about who authorized the sign replacement. There was no authorization from the Board because that was a replacement, and the sign was supposed to be there. Mr. Bailey inquired about the spots that were 'removed' and if it was necessary. AC Relyea stated that the

spots removed were not because of the needed turning radius for their trucks. Mr. Bailey would like to add an additional parking spot to help maximize parking for the 4 businesses that rent from his building. Brahim and Shawn confirmed that parking spaces have to be a standard size (roughly 22ft) as well as a certain distance from corners and they weren't sure if there was room there to add a 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bailey asked about changing the parking delineation from individual spaces to a plain parking lane like larger cities have. Dave Jones agreed that those parking lanes work in larger cities because they have to pay to park there, but Oneida does not have any pay for parking areas. The city wants to boost businesses and has no plans to charge to park downtown, nor ticket excessively in the downtown area. The signs were left unreplaced for so long as the budget for signs is only so large and other signs took precedence. Madison St. does not have their parking signs marked as the road is set to be top coated next year and will be marked following that. Dave Jones agreed that the process to change any parking spots is a lengthy one and the Traffic Safety Board will look into the spots and regulations. All of Madison St. is 2-hour parking only, but there are plenty of other parking areas around the building (Main St., Railroad St. Oneida St., Vanderbilt Parking Lot, Clinch Park Parking Lot, etc.). Dave Jones reiterated that the Traffic Safety Board will look into the parking issues in the area to help businesses, but at this point the signs on Madison St. are correct. No action is being taken right now, but the issue will be tabled until the next meeting in October.

### 3. Speed Limit Sign on Sylvan St. (Melissa Elias)

#### Discussion:

Lt. Warner let everyone know that no side street in Oneida has speed limit signs and if the road is not marked with a sign the speed is 30 miles per hour. The only side street marked is Allen Park Place with a 25-mph sign. Sylvan Street is typically busier during the school year when people are trying to circumvent the school. Lt Warner said that we can conduct a speed study in that area until the next meeting.

Moved by: Barbara Buehner

Seconded by: Dave Jones

**RESOLVED**, that, after discussion, a speed trailer and traffic speed study will be conducted on Sylvan St.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 4 (Malinowski, Sweet, Smith, & Geer)

### 4. Stop Ahead Road Painting at W. Walnut & Broad St. (Joe Todd)

#### Discussion:

Melissa clarified what Mr. Todd was asking for (Stop Ahead painted on all 4 roads leading into that intersection) and Bruce asked if this type of signage was anywhere else in the city. It was confirmed that the city does not have this signage. There was a discussion on the cost and time it would take to paint these as well as the precedence it would create around the city. Lt. Warner said that typically this intersection has not

had a high record of accidents. Studies have shown that those painted signs show a prevention of accidents but will not prevent any rolling stops. The police department will increase patrols in the area, but no signs will be painted on the roads.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ❖ North Broad Street Elementary School Building

##### Discussion:

North Broad Street Elementary School closed down at the end of the 2023-2024 school year and there was a question about what will be happening with the cross walk and signage around the building. Dave Jones recommended leaving all the signs as the building as the school district and BOCES signed a multiyear lease and will have different students and faculty in that building. There will actually be more faculty and employees in that building and he anticipates there will be more parking issues at the building as the parking lot is limited.

Next Meeting Tuesday October 15, 2024, at 2:00pm

Motion to adjourn by: Barbara Buehner

Seconded by: Brahim Zogby

The meeting is hereby adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Luck  
Traffic Safety Board Secretary

## Steve Lowell

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**From:** Andrea Hitchings  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 19, 2024 9:43 AM  
**To:** bburke81@twcny.rr.com  
**Cc:** David Jones; Steve Lowell  
**Subject:** Hood Truck Traffic

Good morning gentleman,

Per our conversation the other evening, I am reaching out to you as the Chairman of the Traffic Safety Board and also copying in Commissioner Jones and Chief Lowell.

I know, when I was secretary to the board, that this topic was one that we talked about at length at many meetings. We had conversations with Hood, had Hood come to the meetings, and successfully placed new signs on Route 5 with the assistance of the state DOT, to name a few. PD patrol also played an active role in trying to educate the drivers.

I have received several complaints from people in my ward that the truck activity has increased again going down Seneca to Summit to Broad and Seneca to Belmont to Broad. I know that the truck drivers don't have much choice once they pass the Broad St turn on Route 5- the next turn is Seneca St. We also know that many of the drivers do not speak or read English, so the signs placed might not be as effective as we hoped. We will never be able to eliminate the trucks in this area completely, but it seems to be happening more frequently again.

I don't know what the answer is. This has been going on for years. Maybe we can have another conversation with Hood? If you recall one of the issues was that their navigation was not up to date. Could this be the issue again? Maybe Hood can share a map or memo outlining the route with their trucking companies to share with the drivers as an added layer over and above the navigation systems they use. I don't think more signage is the answer, but if we put a sign on Seneca Street that bans trucks, that is another layer. But again, if they missed the sign on Route 5, they have no choice but to turn around on Seneca otherwise they will end up on Sayles Street, which isn't safe either. I feel for the drivers too when they have to drive down Seneca St and make the sharp turn on either Summit or Belmont. It is not something that they intended to do, so I really think that they need to be better educated on the area and that starts with the communication coming from Hood.

I will help in any way but will leave it to all of you to discuss at the next meeting in October. Please let me know when the next meeting is, and I will plan to attend.

Thank you for your help with this matter.

All the best,  
Andrea Hitchings  
City of Oneida

## **Steve Lowell**

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**From:** Jim Szczerba  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2024 2:33 PM  
**To:** Jeff Rowe; Steve Lowell  
**Cc:** Steve Laureti; Andrea Hitchings; Rob Winchell; William Pagano; Tom Simchik; Rick Rossi  
**Subject:** Traffic Lights

We have discussed this before, but want to bring it to the forefront again, regarding removal of antiquated traffic lights.

The City of Sherrill removed both of their lights in town after a study and why can't we do the same?

This would be a cost saving move and there are intersections that don't seem the need for these lights.

Can this be brought up before the traffic board and can we get information where all the lights in Oneida are located.

I would appreciate any input on this matter.

Thank you,

**Jim Szczerba**  
**Ward One Councilmen**  
City of Oneida  
109 North Main Street  
Oneida, NY 13421  
315.813.4230  
[jszczerba@oneidacityny.gov](mailto:jszczerba@oneidacityny.gov)

## **Steve Lowell**

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**From:** Sandy Lopera  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2024 5:55 PM  
**To:** Steve Lowell; Bob Burnett  
**Subject:** Facebook Comment

### **Robert A Eaton**

Is there anything that can be done about the constant unsafe parking that happens on the corner of Boston Street near Phillips Street? Both the house on the inside of the corner as well as the outside of the corner regularly have vehicles parked on a blind corner. The house on the inside even installed a second driveway that exits directly into the bend, I'm SURE that codes department would not authorize such an unsafe driveway.

**Sandy LaPera**  
**City Clerk**  
109 N. Main Street  
Oneida, NY 13421  
315-363-7378  
Fax 315-363-9558  
slapera@oneidacityny.gov

## Steve Lowell

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**From:** Monique Ludwig  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2024 1:17 PM  
**To:** Steve Lowell  
**Subject:** Seneca St. Elementary

Hey,

I know a resident had mentioned it this week during a meeting but the parking and/or standing on both sides of Seneca St in front of the elementary school is crazy. It's a two-lane road but not a wide one and you're lucky if cars take turns going down the road one-at-a-time. I live on Seneca St (348) and to drive that way towards 5 is nuts anywhere from 7AM-4PM (generally 4).

There are some signs that say no parking on this side or that side, but people don't seem to care. I know it's a matter of resources and signage but it's nuts! lol

Thank you,

**Monique A. Ludwig**  
Deputy City Clerk  
109 N. Main St.  
Oneida, NY 13421  
Ph: 315-363-7378 x. 129