



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7 Twin Circle Drive, Arlington, MA 02474

To: Board of Selectmen, Arlington, Mass

From: Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Subject: Recommendations re Crosswalk on Broadway near Silk Street (Lahey Clinic)

Date: 14 December 2009

Background

A citizen requested a crosswalk on Broadway near Lahey Clinic. This area has the following characteristics:

- The nearest existing signalized crosswalks (at Cleveland Street and at Route 16) are approximately 600 feet away. There are no unsignalized crosswalks on Broadway in this immediate area.
- Average Daily Traffic on Broadway is in excess of 10,000 vehicles.
- The street has one lane in each direction, with on-street parking. The approximate width is 45 feet.
- Nearby land uses include Lahey Clinic and a fitness center, a cemetery, and a residential neighborhood
- Two pedestrian collisions, both at or near Marathon Street, were reported in the 13 years between 1990 and 2002.
- The number 87 bus serves Broadway. There are two stops on the segment between Marathon Street and Route 16.

Observations

Behavior on Broadway was observed for ½ hour (2:13 – 2:43 PM) on a Thursday afternoon, from the vantage point shown in Figure 2. During this period:

- 52 vehicles were seen entering or exiting the driveway of Lahey Arlington.
- Two inbound (eastbound) buses, and one westbound bus were seen. The eastbound buses did not stop at either the Silk or Sunnyside stops; the westbound bus stopped at Silk Street
- There were 18 gaps in traffic of at least 10 seconds duration, enough to enable an able-bodied pedestrian to cross. (The signal at Broadway and Route 16 creates significant gaps in westbound traffic.)
- Only 2 pedestrians crossed Broadway, one at Marathon and one at Silk Streets.

In inclement weather, a TAC member frequently rides the 87 bus during the AM peak period, and had seen light usage of the inbound Silk and Sunnyside stops, with 0, 1 and occasionally 2 passengers boarding. Frequency of inbound service during the AM peak is approximately 3 buses / hour.

Recommendation

A Federal report¹ suggests giving higher priority to locations where the number of pedestrians crossing is at least 20 pedestrians per peak hour (15 for children and elderly). Pedestrian usage here appears to be far below this criterion. Therefore, we recommend a crosswalk not be installed.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Smith – Working Group Lead
Edward Starr – Chair

¹ Pedestrian Facilities Users Guide: Providing Safety and Mobility, FHWA-RD-01-102, 2002

Transportation Advisory Committee Members:

Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, Steve Kurland, Officer Corey Rateau, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise,
Michael Rademacher, Scott Smith, Edward Starr, and Laura Wiener

Web site; www.tac.arlington.ma.us/



Figure 1 Lahey Clinic at 37 Broadway



Figure 2 Facing East on Broadway, from Marathon Street

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