Staff Report: Mount Pleasant Avenue traffic calming – Mount Pleasant – Ward 5 (For Action)
Presented at May 15, 2019 BPAC meeting

Project Background
The City of Providence Department of Planning and Development seeks comments from the BPAC regarding design plans from the Rhode Island Department of Transportation for a traffic calming project on Mount Pleasant Ave. This will be a design level review of the project and will be the final review before the Commission.

The intersection of Mt Pleasant Ave with Chalkstone Ave is one of the 20 intersections in the city with the highest number of pedestrian collisions. The northern portions of Mt Pleasant are related to concerns in the neighborhood to its east (especially Cathedral Ave) about cut-through traffic.

This section of Mt Pleasant Ave is 40 ft between curbs, typically with 4 ft sidewalks separated from vehicular traffic by a 4 ft grassy buffer.

BPAC reviewed the concept of the project in March 2019, and in early May a neighborhood meeting was held to discuss the plans. In addition to the inclusion of a two-way urban trail on the west side of the street, the plans call for enhanced pedestrian crossings of Mt Pleasant Ave with traffic calming.
Cross sections of Mount Pleasant Ave

Current:

Proposed:

Staff Recommendations

- Replace raised crosswalks with at-grade crosswalks and advance speed lumps at Old Road, at Cathedral Ave, the central crosswalk at Mount Pleasant High School, and at Beaufort Street to bring the project within budget and to lessen the impact on emergency vehicles. Speed lumps have a comparable traffic calming effect to raised crosswalks while costing less and providing more flexibility for emergency vehicles.

- Remove the raised intersections at the intersections of Mount Pleasant Ave with Compton and Callan streets, and with Beaufort St.

- Provide better direction for bicyclists entering and exiting the two-way urban trail at Smith Street and at Chalkstone Ave.

- Include leading pedestrian intervals and automatic pedestrian recall at the intersection with Chalkstone Ave and College Rd.

Respectfully submitted by Alex Ellis.