

GREEN & COMPLETE STREETS ADVISORY COUNCIL



MAYOR JORGE O. ELORZA
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

May 18, 2022



Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Consent Agenda*
3. GCSC Review Procedure
4. Old Business
 - a) Revised 2022 Meeting Calendar
 - b) Sidewalk Snow Removal Working Group update
5. New Business
 - a) Traffic Calming Review: Elmcroft Ave*
6. Announcements, Staff Updates, and Public Comment

Asterisk indicates items listed as “for action”



ROLL CALL

Item #1



GCSC Members

Voting

- Will Cornwall
- Alana Deluty
- Kathleen Gannon
- Denise Greenidge
- Rosie Jaswal
- Doug Johnson
- Dina Quezada

Non-voting

- Alex Ellis (Planning)
- Liza Farr (DPW)
- Emily Koo
(Sustainability)
- Cpt. Luis SanLucas
(Public Safety)
- Doug Still (Forester)



CONSENT AGENDA

Item #2



Consent Agenda

- Make meetings more efficient by grouping items that need approval but don't merit discussion
- Today:
 - Accept: Minutes from 3/24/22 meeting
 - Continue: Review 2021 Annual Report on Green & Complete Streets Activities



GCSC REVIEW PROCEDURE

Item #3



GCSC web page



<https://www.providenceri.gov/planning/gcsc/>



Green and Complete Streets Advisory Council (GCSC)

ABOUT

Streets and sidewalks carry not only people and goods, but also various utilities and stormwater runoff. City streets also represent a sizeable portion of the city's overall land use, house many of its publicly managed trees, and serve as windows into the city for visitors and residents alike. City streets and sidewalks must serve people of all ages and abilities, while creating more mobility and independence for young people, seniors, and people with disabilities. They serve motorists, non-motorists, residents in wheelchairs, parents pushing strollers, kids biking and walking to school, and people who can't afford to use, or prefer not to use motor vehicles.

The City of Providence will develop a safe, reliable, equitable, efficient, inviting, integrated and connected multimodal transportation system that will promote access, mobility and health for all users and abutters, while also improving environmental quality and reducing polluted stormwater runoff. The City will create a connected network of right-of-way facilities accommodating all modes of travel to the maximum practical extent. This network will promote walking and biking on city streets and sidewalks, provide access to public transportation, beautify and shade the City's parks, schools, healthy food retail establishments, and reduce and treat polluted stormwater.

The **Green and Complete Streets Advisory Council** was created by ordinance in July 2021. Its responsibilities are to:

- Review projects during their development for compliance with Code of Ordinances Section 1. Chapter 23 Article VII – Green and Complete Streets and make recommendations as necessary
- Review applications for waivers or exceptions from the Ordinance
- Review and recommend traffic calming on any streets that are not automatically approved for traffic calming as described in the Ordinance
- Annually review City activities for compliance with the Ordinance and report to City Council and Administration

The Advisory Council replaces the **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission** and the **Traffic Calming Advisory Group**, which both previously met to oversee scopes now completed by the Advisory Council.

The Department of Planning and Development provides administrative support to the Advisory Council.

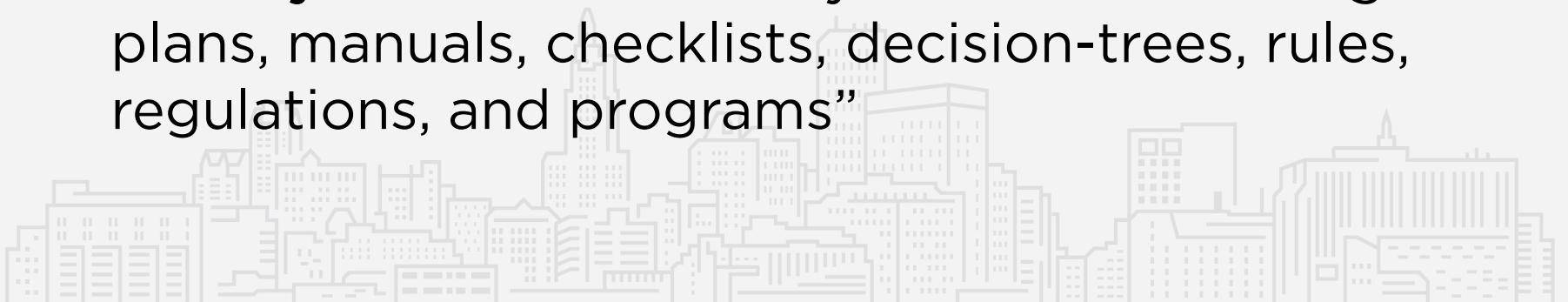
MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Advisory Council is described in the Ordinance as:

- The Director of Public Works or his/her designee who shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member,

Review Procedure

- **Review of Conceptual & 30% Plans**
During project development, make recommendations to improve design
- **Waivers** from requirements of ordinance
Mode-specific, GCSC approves or denies
- **Traffic calming:** in edge cases, after traffic study, GCSC can recommend Traffic Engineer give “preliminary approval”
- **All City activities:** annually review “all existing plans, manuals, checklists, decision-trees, rules, regulations, and programs”



Hybrid meetings

- Executive Order 22-20 expired 3/31 so public bodies must meet in person
- Hybrid meetings
 - We need a quorum (4) of voting members in person
 - Only in-person attendees can vote
 - Anyone who does not need to be in-person encouraged to attend virtually pending future pandemic context



Flow of meeting

1. Chair introduces agenda item
2. Staff report
3. GCSC discussion pt. 1
4. Public comment
5. GCSC discussion pt. 2 & vote



Public comment

- Opportunity during each item & for general topics at end of meeting
- Put questions or comments in Q&A, staff or Chair will read them out
- If you would prefer to speak, use the “raise hand” feature (*9 on phone)
 - Wait for Chair to recognize you
 - Please keep comments to 2 minutes





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OLD BUSINESS

Item #4



AMENDED ANNUAL MEETING CALENDAR

Item #4a



May & June meetings shifted



- May 16 → Wednesday, May 18 @ 5:00 pm
- June 20 → Wednesday, June 15 @ 5:00 pm



SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Item #4b



Sidewalk Snow Clearance



- Letter sent to Public Works Director following 3/24 GCSC meeting requesting working group to improve procedures
- Working Group met 4/13



Sidewalk Snow Clearance



- Abutting property owners responsible for clearance within 8 hours after “first daylight following the end of any snowfall” (around 3:00 pm)
- Few \$25-\$500/day fines are issued
 - Largely about limited staff time of people who are allowed to issue fines, also inspectors



Sidewalk Snow Clearance

- DPW & Parks both straining capacity already
- Both DPW and Parking enforcement personnel difficult to assign to this
- We don't have broad inventory of where problems are, and it's difficult to collect that information equitably



Sidewalk Snow Clearance



- Consensus that proactive communications should be priority
- Should be targeted to specific areas, multimedia, and highlight why sidewalk snow clearance is important
- Police & Mayor's Center for City Services have each sent letters in the past, create a foundation to build on for scaled-up program.



Sidewalk Snow Clearance



- Potential to use new GIS capability & 311 to inventory priority locations
- Potential to also coordinate with Department of Inspections & Standards to coordinate with other rental property enforcement?





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NEW BUSINESS

Item #5



TRAFFIC CALMING REVIEW ELMCROFT AVE

Item #5a



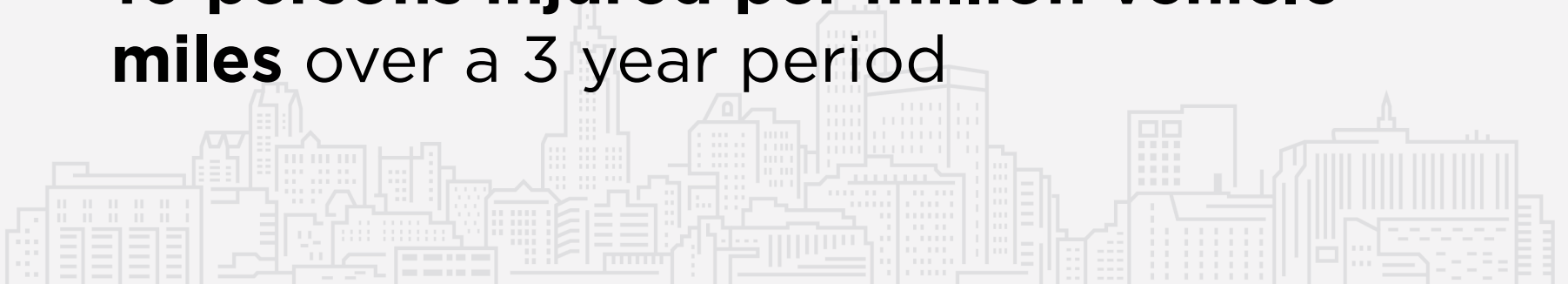
Traffic Calming Procedure

- Traffic studies are foundation of traffic calming
- One set of thresholds = automatic preliminary approval by Traffic Engineer
- Second, broader set of thresholds = GCSC can recommend preliminary approval to Traffic Engineer



GCSC Traffic Calming Thresholds

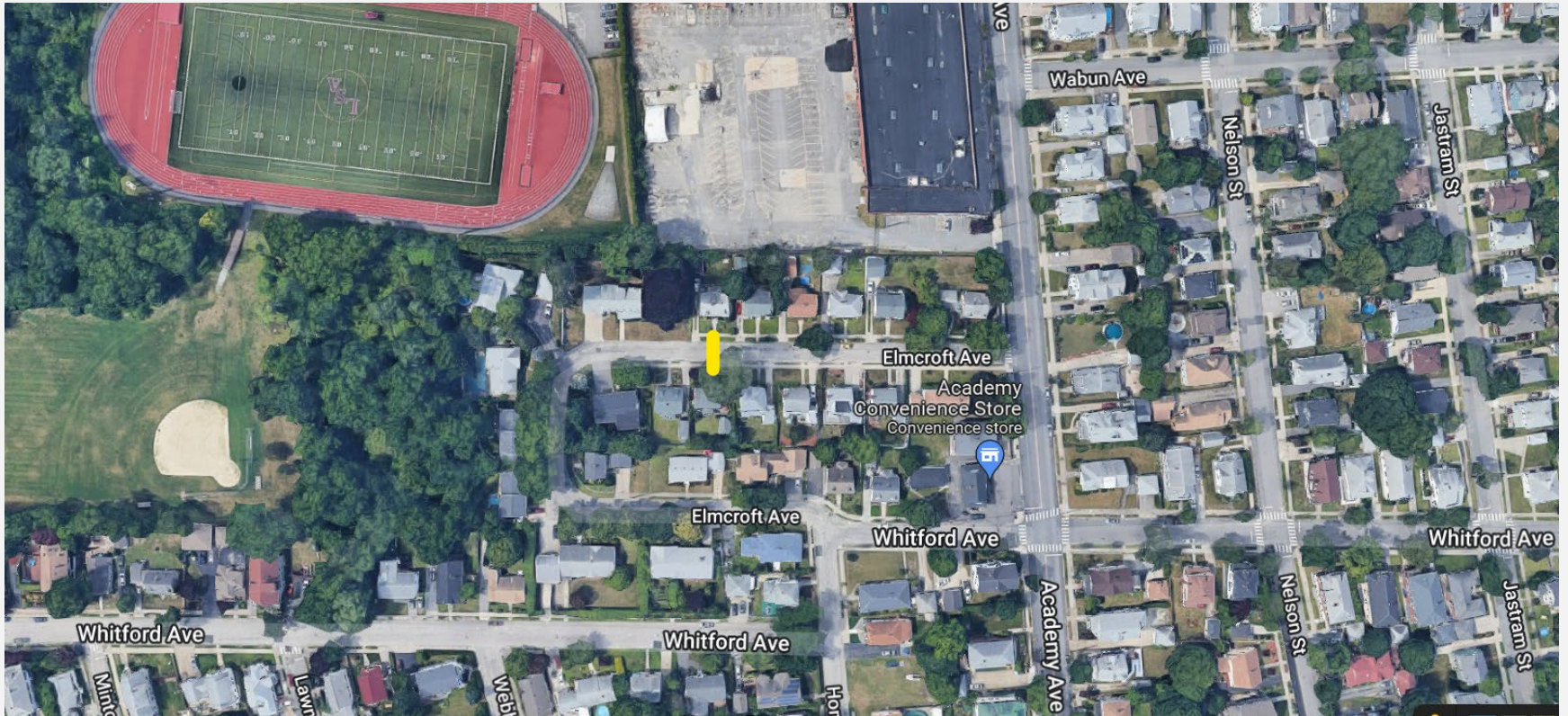
- **5% of motor vehicles traveling faster than 30 mph** over the study period on a local or collector road
- **2000 motor vehicles average daily traffic** on a local or collector road
- **10 collisions per million vehicle miles** over a 3 year period
- **10 persons injured per million vehicle miles** over a 3 year period



Elmcroft Ave

La Salle Academy

↑ To Smith Street



↓ To Chalkstone Ave



Elmcroft Ave data

- Percent of motor vehicles traveling faster than 30 mph: **4%** (5% threshold)
- Number of motor vehicles average daily traffic: **111 vehicles/day** (2000 threshold)
- Number of collisions per million vehicle miles: 1 collision = **43 collisions/million vehicle miles** (10 threshold)
- Number of persons injured per million vehicle miles: **0 injuries** (10/million vehicle miles threshold)



Staff Recommendation

- Denial
- Low traffic & low/moderate speeding
- Low-traffic streets can lead to single collisions having dramatic impact on per-million-vehicle-miles collisions



ANNOUNCEMENTS, STAFF UPDATES, PUBLIC COMMENT

Item #6



Construction Updates



- **Broad St:** curb ramps now, paving north of Potters Ave in June, rest of street later in summer
- **Dean St:** Path paved, waiting on signal improvements to complete remaining work
- **Gotham Greens path:** Path paved, finishing touches expected in June





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THANK YOU

City of Providence

