



City of Beacon

Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

Agenda

September 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

1 Municipal Plaza,
Beacon, NY 12508

➤ Old Business

1. Liberty Street Speed Concerns
2. Verplanck Avenue Safety Concerns
3. Parking on Tioronda Avenue
4. Washington Avenue Traffic Control
5. Catherine Street and Teller Avenue Visibility

➤ New Business

1. Washington Avenue Speed Concerns

In attendance: Carolyn Bennet-Glauda; Lt. Confield; Highway Superintendent Michael Manzi;
Chief Lucchesi; David Jensen

Old Business

1. Liberty Street Speed Concerns

The following email was received:

I am writing with concern about the amount of speeding on Liberty Street. I live on the corner of Liberty and Stone Street. Personally, I have almost been hit several times when walking my dog in our neighborhood. I have also witnessed plenty of dangerous situations that others have been in – kids included.

I think there are a few key issues working together here and I would like to speak with the Committee on how to best move forward in coming up with a solution to make Liberty Street and the surrounding neighborhood a safer place to exist:

- There are no regular speed limit signs on the entirety of Liberty Street. The only signs that exist are outside of the 2 x schools that list the school speed limit and "end school speed limit"
- There is a one lane bridge on Liberty that often causes confusion and it's quite tight so people and cars are often quite close to each other
- A lack of sidewalks leads to people (kids/families going to school, runners, walkers, etc.) having to be in the road
- People come from Glenham and "cut through" the neighborhood to get to Main Street, often at high rates of speed and lack of care for being in a neighborhood setting.

June 26, 2025: The concerned individual attended the meeting and clarified that the specific time of day is primarily during morning commuter hours, and when school lets out. The Committee will follow up and see if any signage is missing in the area.

July 24, 2025: This agenda item will trail to the September 2025 meeting to address signage. The Committee suggested that signage that indicates the beginning of a school zone is needed or the area should be checked to see if overgrown brush is obscuring existing signage, as may have happened in years past.

September 25, 2025: Residents attended and expressed impatience regarding a potential East Main Street – Liberty Street crosswalk. The Committee expressed hesitation to recommend any crosswalk paint without curb cuts, inviting individuals to cross without a ramp to enter onto sidewalk infrastructure across the street. The City will check with the attorneys as to whether the City even has the option of adding painted crosswalk road markings without proper curb cuts on either side.

Regarding signage, the Committee noted that there are signs coming both ways and the Highway Department will evaluate if any brush has overgrown. Police Department had monitored the area and didn't observe high speeds.

2. Verplanck Avenue Safety Concerns

The following email was received:

I am a property owner on Verplanck Avenue. Although, I have been living in Beacon since 2014. I was finally able to purchase my home in 2022. So I've been living at this location for a little over three years. I would like to report the need for an additional stop sign on Verplanck Ave.

For the past year and a half, I have been fortunate to have an employer allowing me to work from home. During this time, I have observed two serious accidents and countless near misses at the corner of Verplanck and Schenck Avenue.

Drivers regularly attempt to skip traffic on Main Street and consequently drive extremely fast down Verplanck in the section between Fishkill Ave and Main Street. At the same time, drivers on Schenck Avenue make the wrong assumption that the intersection is a 4 Way Stop. As a result, there are frequently accidents or near misses. The near misses result in horns blaring and drivers screaming at each other.

In addition, there are no crosswalks at this intersection. However, I frequently see people walking on the sidewalks and crossing the street here, including myself. It is only a matter of time before a pedestrian is also injured or possibly killed. For example, if a pedestrian had been standing at the Southeast corner of Schenck and Verplanck in today's accident they would have been killed. See the attached photo. One of the drivers was taken away in an ambulance, regardless. This particular point is extremely concerning for me because I have a 5-year-old son living in my house next to this intersection.

I am requesting several things be done:

- First, there needs to be traffic enforcement on this section of the street, to ticket the speeding drivers. The last time there was an accident I requested this from a police officer. They told me in a fairly nasty tone, that everyone everywhere is flying by and that I needed to complain to you first. Now I am officially complaining. Please make sure that there is traffic enforcement on Verplanck between Fishkill Ave and Main Street.
- Second, please paint crosswalks at this intersection. People cross the intersection here several times an hour during daylight. I counted 2 pedestrians crossing Schenck in the time it took me to write this email.
- Please conduct a traffic study here to determine the necessity of installing a four-way stop sign.
- I am fairly confident that upon completing the assessment, that a need for a stop sign

will be determined, so please add one.

Thank you for taking the time to read this communication.

June 26, 2025: The Police Department will look at accident history for the area of concern. The Committee was hesitant to suggest adding a crosswalk at this particular intersection due to blind spots, and to rather encourage crossing at the nearby lighted intersection. The Committee also noted that a more holistic review of Verplanck would be more appropriate than an intersection-by-intersection analysis. This item will trail for further discussion at the next meeting.

July 24, 2025: This agenda item will trail for Police Department input.

September 25, 2025: The Police Department observed the area and didn't find unusual or high speeds or high volume of pedestrian crossing. The Committee noted the presence of storm drains where crosswalks could be as being problematic and reiterated the lighted crosswalk at Fishkill. The Committee declined to recommend adding a four-way stop at this location. This item will be removed from the agenda going forward.

3. Parking on Tioronda Avenue

The following email was received:

Can the Committee please review Tioronda between Main and Vine. Traffic is terrible on the weekends. Suggestion could be No Parking on the East side from our sign by the house and along the east side until Wolcott.

June 26, 2025: This item will trail to the July meeting.

July 24, 2025: The Committee discussed whether increased enforcement on weekends may be appropriate/necessary. Specifically on the side of the roadway towards the creek. The Committee also discussed whether it may be helpful to add hashing in the area of the intersection of Tioronda and Van Nydeck. This item will trail for further discussion.

September 25, 2025 Update:

The following additional email was received:

I wanted to reach out about a potential safety improvement at the intersection of Vine St. and Tioronda Ave. I've noticed for a while that cars coming from the right on Tioronda Ave. are really hard to see when turning from Vine St.

The combination of the hill angle, how fast cars move on that road, and the house on the corner creates quite a blind spot that makes me nervous every time I navigate that intersection, which I was having to do more often with all the roadworks on Teller over the summer. I

noticed there's road work happening on that stretch right now, and I was wondering if it might be possible to install a traffic mirror? It would really help drivers see oncoming traffic from Tioronda.

September 25, 2025: The Police Department confirmed that enforcement and ticketing of illegally parked vehicles has been taking place. However, behavior still occurring. The Committee reiterated its position that traffic mirrors cause other problems and declined to recommend such. The Committee recommended hashing the already codified parking distance restrictions from the intersection to mitigate blind spots created by parking within said distance. The Highway Department noted that this would take place in November.

4. Washington Avenue Traffic Control

A resident attended the meeting and raised concerns about speed along Washington Avenue requesting improvements to help mitigate such and noting that the speed sign near St. Joachim's and between Barb's Butcher and the City limits is hidden.

The Committee noted that DPW can put up additional signage, as needed, and that the moveable speed reader sign can be rotated to the area at some point (perhaps in a couple of months).

The resident requested a budget item to put in a permanent speed reader sign. The Committee noted that they had suggested a line in the annual budget to gradually work through priority areas for permanent speed reader signage.

July 24, 2025: This item will trail for further discussion with the Highway Department regarding signage.

September 25, 2025: The Highway Department noted that the signage had not been added to date, but would be in the near future. The Police Department noted that they are aware of speed concerns in the area and confirmed that it is an existing and regular post for officers to monitor. The Committee noted that issues along Washington are probably beyond the scope of this Committee and could be considered for future capital projects. The Police will consider moving the portable speed reading sign to the area in the future and the Committee recommended budgeting for additional similar signs.

5. Catherine Street and Teller Avenue Visibility

The following email was received:

Can the Traffic Safety Committee consider what I and others believe is a sight-related safety issue at the intersection of Catherine Street and Teller Avenue?

It's hard for a vehicle attempting to enter Teller Ave to see oncoming traffic without nosing out

due to (1) the orientation of the streets - i.e., Catherine Street is like the shaft of an arrow with both directions of Teller forming the arrowhead, and (2) the wall abutting the sidewalk on the south side of Catherine Street.

A possible solution is a traffic mirror (convex?) which could be placed on an existing pole on the east side of Teller - but not sure that is a preferred solution. I do believe something is needed there to protect both vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists from a hazardous situation.

July 24, 2025: The Committee reiterate its long-standing opposition to traffic mirrors as not being a viable option due to other issues that they cause. They discussed how the walls approaching the intersection do have impacts on visibility, but also noted that this is not a high-volume street. They suggested beginning with considering if there are enforcement issues with the bushes. This item will trail for further discussion.

September 25, 2025: The City will get feedback from the Building Department to relay to the Committee for the October meeting.

New Business

1. Washington Avenue Speed Concerns

The following email was received:

I live on Washington Ave with my family, across from St. Joachim's cemetery. A few years ago, I made a valiant attempt for a stop sign at Liberty St. and Washington after a series of accidents near to my house. I am re-upping my efforts.

It's been great seeing the new stop sign at Barb's, and also more recently at Tillot. These things really help so much! Koudos! However further down Washington, east of Tillot, across from the cemeteries near Liberty St, is still very heavily settled with families, and elderly folks, and there is even less shoulder, which makes it more dangerous than any other section of Washington Ave. Many people walk, jog and ride bikes on this road. Molly experienced the danger of Washington herself, going door to door yesterday.

Drivers pick up speed coming over the hill heading toward town from Fishkill, and fly until they get to the first stop sign now on Tillot. It's deadly! And something really needs to be done about it. My 11-year-old is not allowed to walk or ride her bike on Washington Ave, which is such a shame. I feel like I risk my life every time I do. All of my neighbors are in total agreement. We want to help do something to slow the traffic down from Liberty onward. The fact is that there have been more people in Beacon since the pandemic, both driving and walking. And this section of Washington Ave is densely settled and should be considered the same as in town.

We need to consider either a stop sign or speed bump at Liberty and Washington to help slow

the traffic down, otherwise someone is going to get hurt.

September 25, 2025: This item will be merged with the existing Washington Avenue agenda item. Police enforcement will continue and the Department will look to rotate the portable speed reader sign to the area, as able to do so.

Next meeting: October 23, 2025