



# TOWN OF FRANKLIN

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Franklin Municipal Building  
257 Fisher Street  
Franklin, MA 02038-3026

February 29, 2024

Bruce Hunchard, Chairman  
Franklin Zoning Board of Appeals  
Town of Franklin  
355 East Central Street  
Franklin, MA 02038

**RE: Comprehensive Permit Application – 121 Grove Street  
Traffic Impact & Access Study Review**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members:

After receiving the full October 2023 Traffic Impact & Access Study for the proposed 330 multifamily unit housing development located at 121 Grove St last week, I was able to review the study and offer the following comments:

1. The Project Impact Statement indicates that the proposed community is projected to generate an estimated 43 new school age children. There should be an area within the site to accommodate school bus pickups and drop-offs. This area may be centrally located near the clubhouse, however it should be designed for the appropriate vehicle path and turn radii for buses. This area can also be used for the projected GATRA GO on-demand service that is recommended in the study.
2. The turning movement counts and intersection capacity analyses that were performed for the study only included weekday morning and evening peak hours. We recommend that Saturday midday peak hours also be evaluated, especially taking into consideration the traffic generated by the athletic fields and recreational areas during events at the nearby Beaver Pond located on Beaver St.
3. Table 1 describes the existing traffic volumes on Grove St and references automatic traffic recorder (ATR) counts that were collected in May 2022, but the ATR data that was collected was not included in the appendices and there is no reference as to where, when, and for how long the data was collected. This information should be submitted for review.
4. There is no mention or assessment of vehicle speeds along Grove Street. Existing speed data needs to be collected and evaluated, especially as it relates to traffic and pedestrian safety along this section of the Grove St corridor.

5. The sight distance analysis was noted to be based on the posted speed of 40 mph. Sight Distance should be reevaluated based on the 85% speeds as determined by collected speed data.
6. Existing heavy truck volumes along Grove St have also been omitted in the traffic study and should be taken into consideration along with the speed data as noted above.
7. The study indicates that there are no roadway improvement projects planned within the study area beyond general maintenance, however the DPW is currently working with its contractor to construct a multi-use path at the southern end of Grove St from Washington St to the SNETT trail and further beyond to the intersection at Old Grove St. The Town's ultimate goal is to enhance bicycle and pedestrian access along the corridor by extending the multi-use trail to the entrance of the State Forest across from Beaver St and eventually connect to the Beaver Pond Recreational Area.

This section of Grove Street was designated by the Town as the South Grove Street Economic Opportunity Area in 2010 to promote the Industrial zoned parcels in the area. While a significant amount of industrial properties have been built up over time, which have come with a high volume of heavy truck traffic, the addition of these 330 housing units will have the effect of transitioning from a heavily used industrial area to a more residential area.

In order to provide for safer pedestrian and bicycle access to accommodate this transition, consideration needs to be given to traffic calming along this section of Grove Street and turning movement improvements at the proposed site driveway, possibly in the form of median islands and turn lanes, as well as providing for greater non-vehicular connectivity.

Specific improvement recommendations should be made in conjunction with the review of the missing data noted in the above comments. While the project proponent has shown construction of the multi-use path along the frontage of their site, consideration should also be given to extending this access beyond the site to provide the additional needed connectivity in line with the Town's goals for this area.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Michael Maglio, P.E.  
Town Engineer

cc: Jamie Hellen, CEO/Town Administrator  
Gus Brown, Building Commissioner