



STONEHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
149 FRANKLIN STREET  
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02180  
781.279.3802

November 25, 2013

David Ragucci  
Town Administrator  
Town of Stoneham

RE: High School / Middle School Traffic Study

Dear David:

Nitsch Engineering was contracted by our project designer, Tappé Associates, to conduct a traffic study of the areas surrounding the Middle School (the Central / William / Pomeworth area) and the High School (off of Franklin Street) as part of the site selection process for the new Central Middle School. The study was issued in April 2011 and covered internal circulation, pick-up/drop-off operations, parking demand, intersection operations, and crash data at both locations.

The Existing Conditions report regarding traffic on Franklin Street includes the following:

“The intersection at the entrance to the existing High School site does not experience capacity issues. However, there is significant queuing during the afternoon drop-off period internal to the site. The addition of a new middle school on campus will exacerbate this problem.” (Executive Summary)

“The existing Stoneham High School is located on Franklin Place, off of Franklin Street in Stoneham, MA. Franklin Street runs in the east/west direction and connects Main Street in Stoneham (Route 28) to Main Street in Melrose. Main Street in Stoneham, Franklin Street, and Main Street in Melrose are all Urban Principal Arterials. This means that they are all high volume roadways that serve critical paths in the transportation network. However, Franklin Street is used more for through traffic, while Main Street (Route 28) contains a high number of local business, so traffic in that area drives more slowly, and is generally more congested.” (Page 2)

“During the site visit, significant queuing was observed at the intersection of Franklin Street / Franklin Place. This is an indication that there are an adequate number of lanes for a functional intersection, but inadequate storage for the queue. This could be mitigated by extending the queue length of the existing storage lanes, or by introducing additional lanes. Any additional traffic that is added to this site from the middle school relocation could potentially cause the LOS [Level of Service] at this intersection to worsen.” (Page 15)



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Page 2

“...Franklin Street can accommodate the additional traffic, but there is a need for greater storage turning into and out of Franklin Place. Introducing 585 students to this site may pose significant challenges to the existing infrastructure at this location.” (Page 17)

Partially in response to these findings, as any recommended improvements to Franklin Street were beyond the scope of the School Building Committee, the decision was made not to relocate the Middle School to the High School / Franklin Street site but to rebuild the school at the current Central/William/Pomeworth location.

Sincerely,

Les Olson  
Superintendent