



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Arlington Planning Department, 730 Massachusetts Ave,
Arlington MA, c/o Daniel Amstutz.

Date: October 12, 2022.
To: Select Board.
From: Transportation Advisory Committee.
Subject: Traffic Concerns – Overlook Rd vehicle speeds

1. Background

In November, 2021, the Office of the Select Board referred the email request of a resident “Subject: Overlook Road Petition for Traffic Calming Measures” to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) for consideration. The resident wrote with concern that Overlook Rd between Washington St and Summer St has become a major pass through with drivers speeding. He requested speed bumps and speed signs of 20mph. Shoji Takahashi of TAC met with the resident in front of his Overlook Rd residence on the afternoon of December 21, 2021, to discuss his observations and concerns.

2. Existing Conditions

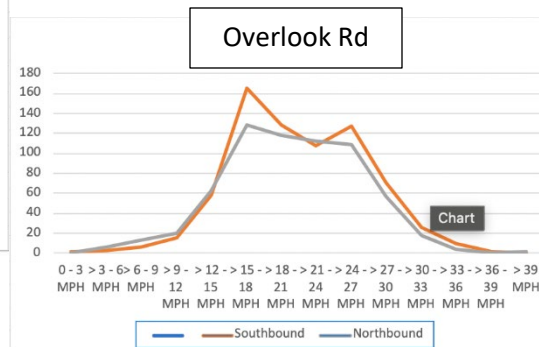
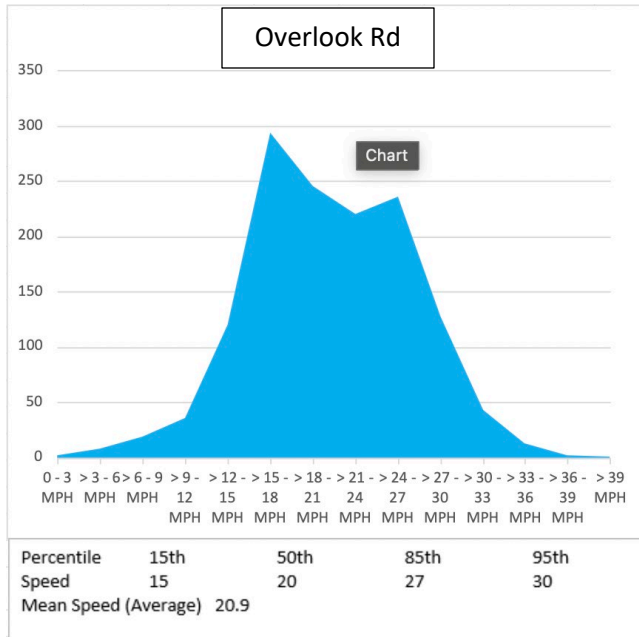
This section of Overlook Rd between Summer St (across from the Burns Arena) and Washington St is steep with a curb-curb roadway width of approximately 24'. There are granite curbs and concrete sidewalks on both sides, and the road surface and sidewalks are in good condition. Automobiles may be parked on the roadway on both sides. The speed limit on this roadway is the Town wide speed limit of 25 mph (unposted).

MassDOT IMPACT crash database shows three crashes on this stretch of Overlook Rd between 2016 – 2022. The three crashes occurred in the curve south of the intersection with Peter Tufts Rd and property damage only. (Two were collisions with parked vehicle; and one was a single-vehicle collision with a fixed object.)

There have been no complaints to Arlington Police Department on speeding on this stretch of Overlook Rd.

TAC contracted with Accurate Counts to obtain traffic speed and volume data. Data were collected on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 10 and May 11, 2022, using road tubes placed at a fire hydrant opposite 49 Overlook Rd. Arlington public schools were in session, and the weather was clear. The average speed was 21 mph with the 85th percentile at 27 mph and the 95th percentile at 30 mph. AADT, a measure of traffic

volume, was 1,369, which is about one vehicle per minute over the course of a day, and about 1.5 per minute during peak times.



3. Recommendations

TAC reviewed the traffic speed and volume data., and concluded that there is no significant speeding on the road. Corey Rateau of APD notes that one must adjust and give a tolerance for variances in uncalibrated speedometers in motor vehicles, and many of the drivers going slightly over the speed limit would not be ticketed.

The resident’s request for lowering the speed limit to 20 mph cannot be justified as this stretch of roadway will not meet the standards for a School Zone or Safety Zone. Adding a speed bump or other infrastructure is not warranted at this time based on the traffic data obtained.

TAC recommends that the Select Board take no action at this time. Arlington Police Department was asked to add Overlook Rd to the rotation for speed enforcement as the resident has observed fast-moving vehicles.