



Police Department

Town of Upton, Massachusetts



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TO: Chief Michael J. Bradley
FROM: Lieutenant Michael D. Benjamin *MB*
REF: Traffic Impact, 47 Main Street
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The narrative that follows is in response to the Land Use and Inspectional Service's request for comments concerning the proposed 68 new housing units at 47 Main Street, and the project's impact on the transportation infrastructure relative to public safety.

While Vanasse & Associate's Transportation Impact Assessment (hereafter VAI) provides for the safe accommodation of the project within the existing transportation infrastructure, public safety concerns remain relative to the Fiske Avenue intersection, the driveway location at 47 Main Street, and inadequate parking at 47 Main Street.

Fiske Avenue Intersection

Fiske Avenue at Main Street is a particularly difficult intersection to enter from Fiske Avenue, given its physical characteristics, traffic volume and speed. The intersection accommodates an elementary school, staff, busing, parents, and after-school activities, as well as residential traffic from Fiske Avenue and two adjoining residential subdivisions. Fiske Avenue is also a busy cut-through between two primary roads; Hartford Avenue and Main Street.

It is concerning that VAI didn't include this intersection as a key intersection in its examination of existing and projected traffic operations (both with and without the proposed development) near the project site. A final concern is vehicle queuing in the afternoons on Main Street from *Memorial School parent pickup*; the added burden of vehicle traffic from the project would tend to compound safety risks related to such queuing.

Driveway Location

The position of the proposed driveway, located on a blind curve with only 50 yards of clear view to the north, will make it difficult for drivers to safely enter southbound traffic on Main Street. And the driveway's intersection with Pickering Funeral Home parking on Main Street present

line-of-sight problems for drivers entering Main Street from the driveway at 47 Main Street, heightening potential for traffic conflicts and crashes.

School Street at Main Street is a similar blind intersection just south of the proposed driveway which has been problematic in terms of motor vehicle crashes (drivers on School Street have difficulty safely entering northbound traffic on Main Street due to lack of clear view to the south). According to our local data, Main Street had more crashes than all other roads in town between 2017 and 2020. Further, 60 % of the crashes were at intersections, and 18 percent of crashes were at the School Street and Main Street intersection.

While VAI acknowledges an above average crash rate at School Street and Main Street, and provides that MassDOT is 'advancing improvements' at this intersection to enhance safety, the additional burden of vehicle traffic created by the project presently would only serve to increase crashes at this intersection given the linear relationship between volume of vehicles and vehicle crashes.

Finally, while VAI examined the driveway's intersection with Main Street and concluded that the lines of sight exceeded the recommended minimum distance for an intersection to operate safely based on the appropriate approach speed, it remains that the driveway's location will make it challenging for drivers to safely enter southbound traffic on Main Street, creating risk of motor vehicle conflicts and crashes, forecasting future allocation of public safety resources.

Insufficient Parking

VAI provides that the property at 47 Main will accommodate approximately 111 vehicles for 68 housing units, or 1.63 parking spaces per unit. Parking accommodations appear to be inadequate when considering the number of residents, guests, workers, common carriers, etc., predicting on-street parking and potential public safety difficulties accessing units and other emergencies at the location.