

**The Sippewissett Association, Inc.  
Post Office Box 501  
Falmouth, Massachusetts 02541**

Edward A. Dunne, Chief of Police  
Falmouth Police Department  
750 Main Street  
Falmouth, MA 02540

February 22, 2022

Dear Chief Dunne,

With smart phone traffic apps recommending the Sippewissett Road – Quissett Avenue corridor as an alternate route for vehicles going to and from Woods Hole, traffic volume and speed is increasing on this route and posing an ever-greater danger to pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers and passengers. Clearly this increase is due in large part to the growing volume of ferry traffic.

As you know, in 2019 the Traffic Advisory Committee recommended to the Select Board the installation of four radar speed feedback signs on this roadway. The Select Board asked for your views on the proposal. As you outlined to Dave Margaretos and me when we met in December 2019, you planned and we strongly supported a program of collecting traffic speed data with and without a radar display. With the burdens that Covid-19 added to your department's workload, that project was put on hold until August 2021 when Officer Porter collected speed data on Sippewissett Road at Valley Road with and without the radar display trailer.

Officer Porter kindly provided those data to us. The radar display was facing the southbound traffic, so those data provide the opportunity to assess vehicle speeds with and without the radar display. We reported these results to you in my letter of October 22, 2021. We now have also a visual presentation in the form of a double bar chart (attached). [Note: Percentages rather than vehicle numbers are displayed to take account of the difference in the volume of traffic between the two time periods.]

The radar display had a striking effect in reducing speeding. With the radar display, the percentage of vehicles in the 31-35 mph range with the radar display was half what it was without the radar display. At higher speeds, the slowdown is even more dramatic: the 36-40 category with radar has only a quarter as many vehicles as it has without radar. These results strongly support the usefulness of radar speed display signs in reducing speeding on this key residential corridor to the ferry.

The period with no visible intervention (Aug. 17-23) provides an insight into the extent of "normal" speeding on this corridor: posted speed 25 mph. Over the 7 days, 8,289 vehicles passed by the test site. Of these, 3,837 (548 per day) were exceeding 30 mph; 903 (129 per day) were exceeding 35 mph; 114, or (16 per day) were exceeding 40 mph and 9 were exceeding 55 mph. With the 25 mph posted speed judged reasonable for this winding, hilly, residential road, our communities are united in believing that such flagrant speeding poses a serious threat to the safety of all on or near this roadway.

In a demonstration of broad community support for action to slow traffic, the November 2021 Town Meeting approved installing radar display speed signs on Woods Hole Road to be funded from the Steamship ticket surcharge fund created to mitigate the effect of ferry traffic on the community. Because the Sippewissett Road – Quissett Avenue corridor is the heavily used alternate route to and from the ferry, we believe it appropriate to tap this same fund to pay for installing the four radar display signs that the TAC recommended for this corridor.

We plan to propose this concept to the Select Board. However, we do not want to send our proposal to the Board before you have had the chance to respond to the Board's request for your views on the 2019 TAC recommendation. As we understood from our December 2019 meeting with you, this Covid-delayed data collection was planned to inform your response. We would like to have your guidance and we hope also your support before sending our proposal to the Select Board.

In closing, we are grateful for your sharing with us both your original plan and the actual traffic data collected. In light of the Town Meeting's action on the Woods Hole Road radar display speed signs we are optimistic that both ferry traffic corridors can benefit from the installation of such signs funded from the Steamship traffic mitigation fund. We would welcome the opportunity again to meet with you to discuss next steps.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Mann  
Chair, Joint Sippewissett – Quissett Associations Traffic and Road Safety Committee  
[charleskmann@mac.com](mailto:charleskmann@mac.com); (508) 548-0328

Attached:

Figure 1: Vehicle Speeds on Sippewissett Rd. with and without Radar Speed Display, Aug. 2021

Figure 2: "Normal" Vehicle Speeds on Sippewissett Rd. (No visible interventions) August 2021

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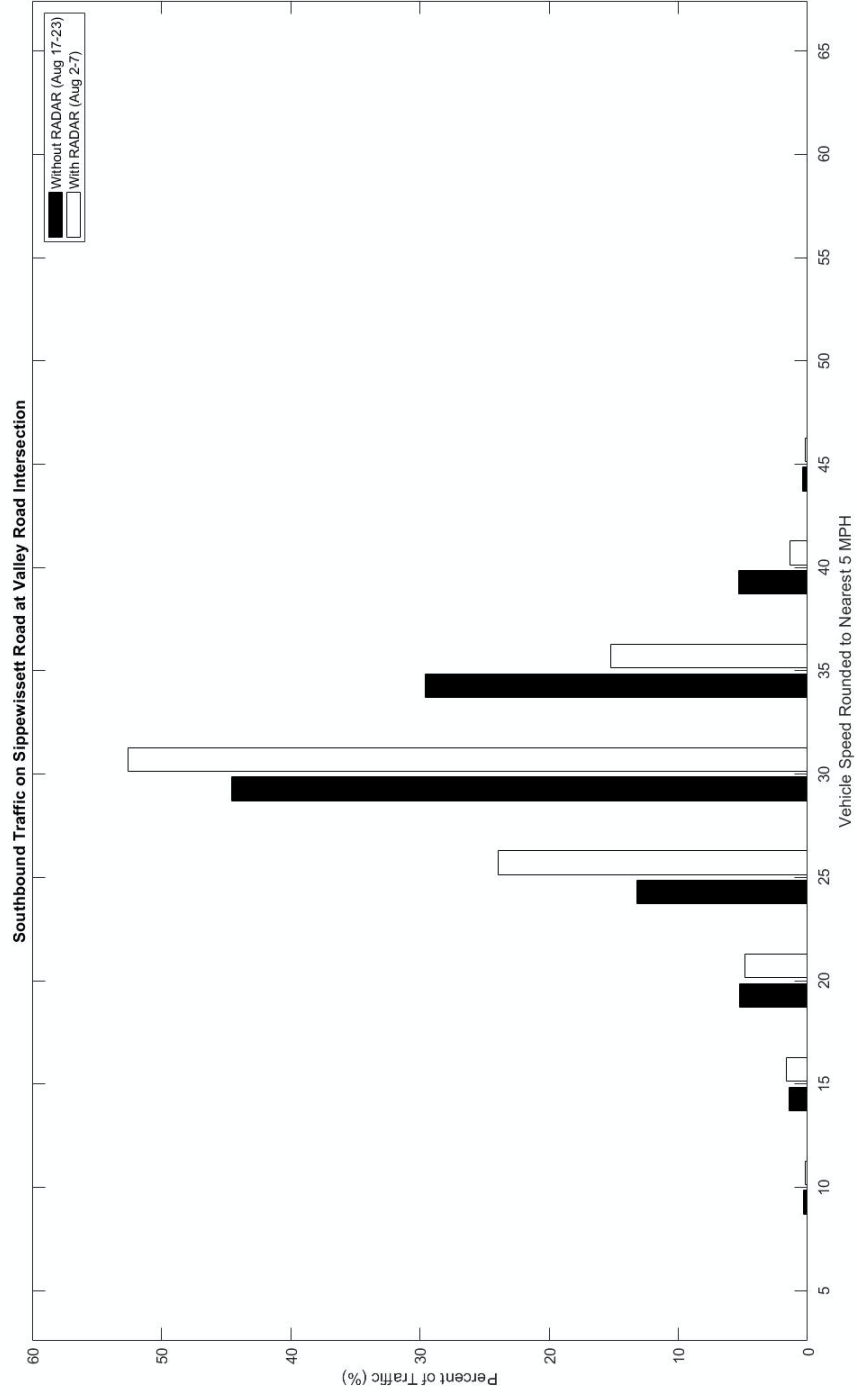


Figure 2: "Normal" Vehicle Speeds on Sippewissett Rd. (No visible interventions) August 2021

