

MEMORANDUM

TO: All

From: David Williams, Town Administrator

Date: November 17, 2015

Subject: Sanger Street Road Closure

Effective November 27, 2015, Sanger Street will be closed to through traffic for an undetermined amount of time to collect data that will be used to assess the feasibility and merits of a longer term closure.

Over the past two months, the Board of Selectmen discussed the temporary closure of Sanger Street to all through traffic as a result of a concern brought to their attention about the logistics of the Library construction project, as well as concerns about parking in the immediate area during and after construction. Prior to the Board of Selectmen review, the matter was discussed and endorsed by the Traffic Safety Committee.

Public safety officials have the authority to suspend the temporary closure by re-opening the street if there is an unforeseen safety hazard, or any other unintended consequence.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Board of Selectmen office at 508-651-7850.

Cc: Town Website
Town Posting
Press Release

Sanger Street Test Closure Proposal

dated 9/2/2015

Introduction:

With the upcoming Library construction project in its early planning stages there is a need to evaluate the logistics of the actual construction as well as the parking during construction and post construction.

Background:

Several years ago, plans were developed by the library trustees in order to apply for funding grants. Those plans included drawings that showed adequate parking for the library. At the time it was noted that the plans were not an accurate representation of available parking for the library under almost any circumstance. The issue was not really addressed as it is part of the town hall campus parking which is an issue in and of itself. The plans also didn't resolve the issue of materials and vehicles related to the construction activities.

Last town meeting the town approved an article sponsored by the BOS to hire an engineer to study and propose a plan for the temporary logistics related to the library construction. This has not been completed.

Proposal:

The BOS would approve a plan to "Temporarily" close Sanger Street to all through traffic. The sign board would be deployed for at least two weeks to notify people that the road would be closed. Detour signs would be installed at both ends of the road as well as at Washington and Sawin streets. The BOS would set a time limit on the test, perhaps a month, and would have a discussion with all the relevant committees and departments requested to attend or send input while the road is still closed. The Public safety officials all have the authority to call an emergency meeting and suspend the test by re-opening the road, should there be an unforeseen safety hazard or any other unintended consequences.

Short term objectives:

1. This test will serve to give definitive data pertaining to the effects of closing the road for an extended period of time to accommodate the construction of the library.
2. This test may serve to give another improvement to the traffic flow at the Maple St. Washington St. intersection. There may be a decrease in side collisions as all the traffic that currently leaves Maple St. and travels straight onto Sanger St. will now turn right.
3. Knowing that we will be able to close the road for the construction will be a huge cost savings for the Library as the contractors will have full use of the site, and will not have to account for the cost of detail officers required each time they need to close the road temporarily during various phases of the construction.

4. This test may show that there can be a redesign and improvement for the Sunday church parking for the Pilgrim and UUA Church's.

Long term objectives or benefits:

1. This test may show that the road can be closed indefinitely, thereby can be used, not only during construction, but, could be repurposed for increased parking and possibly more open green space with a walking trail that connects the upper campus with the lower lot and south main street.
2. If the road is closed and becomes part of the entire plan for the town hall campus parking the need to use the Kostik property for parking may be alleviated.
3. Again, the safety at Maple St. and Washington St. may actually improve as there will be no cross traffic to and from Sanger St.

Potential Pitfalls

1. Large trucks could have trouble navigating the entrance and exit of Sawin Street.
2. A sharp increase in through traffic on Sawin Street.
3. Longer traffic jams in the morning on South Main St and Washington St.
4. There may be some confusion on the first few Sundays as people arrive for Church and may have to divert down Sawin Street to get to the parking lot.

Parties already in favor of test:

Police Chief, and Staff, Traffic Safety Committee (voted 5-0)