



CITY OF ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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MICHAEL R. TYLER
SUPERINTENDENT

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TO: MAYOR PAUL HEROUX
FROM: MICHAEL TYLER, PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT

RE: CONVEX TRAFFIC MIRRORS

Convex mirrors are commonly utilized to improve visibility for pedestrians and vehicles in a variety of areas including warehouses, driveways and parking areas. In the past convex mirrors have been utilized in Attleboro to improve visibility for vehicles exiting roadways where site lines were not considered adequate. Currently, there appears to be no research or documentation from any US state or federal government agencies including the Manual for Uniformed Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) regarding the use of convex mirrors within the Right-of Way. The Department of Public Works and Attleboro Traffic Study Commission utilizes best practice standards listed in the Manual for Uniformed Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) when installing traffic signage and making recommendations for additional traffic control measures to the City Council.

While convex mirrors may be appropriate for some low speed applications, they are not appropriate for use in public ways. Some of the issues with the use of convex mirrors include:

- Mirrors do not function well at night, as they can be difficult to see and lights from vehicles reflect in different directions.
- Mirrors do not work in poor weather conditions, including rain, snow and ice events.
- Mirrors are constantly knocked out of alignment, due to high winds and other severe weather conditions.
- Mirrors distort the image, speed and distance of the oncoming traffic.

For these reasons among others, the Department of Public Works and Attleboro Traffic Study Commission, does not recommend the installation of convex mirrors for use on public streets. It shall also be the policy of the Department of Public Works to leave any existing convex mirrors as is and review their effectiveness, as they need to be replaced.