

Department of Public Works

Mike Murray

Director

July 10, 2025



Erica Berry
57 Belfort Street
Portland, Maine 04103

Subject: **Belfort Street Traffic Calming Petition Review and Findings**

Dear Erica,

The City Clerk's Office received a traffic calming petition for Belfort Street on April 16, 2024. The Clerk's Office provided a copy of the certified memo on June 10, 2025.

Belfort Street Background

Belfort Street is generally a residential street, with commercial uses abutting it at its intersection with Forest Avenue. It is a local street (i.e. not federally classified as a collector or arterial), with about 800 vehicles per day. Belfort Street is typically 27-28 feet wide, and does not have sidewalks. Parking is typically allowed on both sides of the street.

Speed Studies

In response to the petitions, DPW conducted two speed studies on Belfort Street near Empire Way for approximately one week, which yielded the following:

Belfort Street South of Empire Way – March 11-19, 2025

Legal Speed: 25 MPH

Average Speed: 20 MPH

85th Percentile Speed: 23 MPH

Belfort Street North of Empire Way – June 17-25, 2025

Posted Speed: 25 MPH

Average Speed: 18 MPH

85th Percentile Speed: 23 MPH

Based on the studies, it appears that the large majority vehicles are traveling at less than 25 mph. The percentage of vehicles traveling at more than 5 mph over the legal limit is less than five percent.

Crash Data

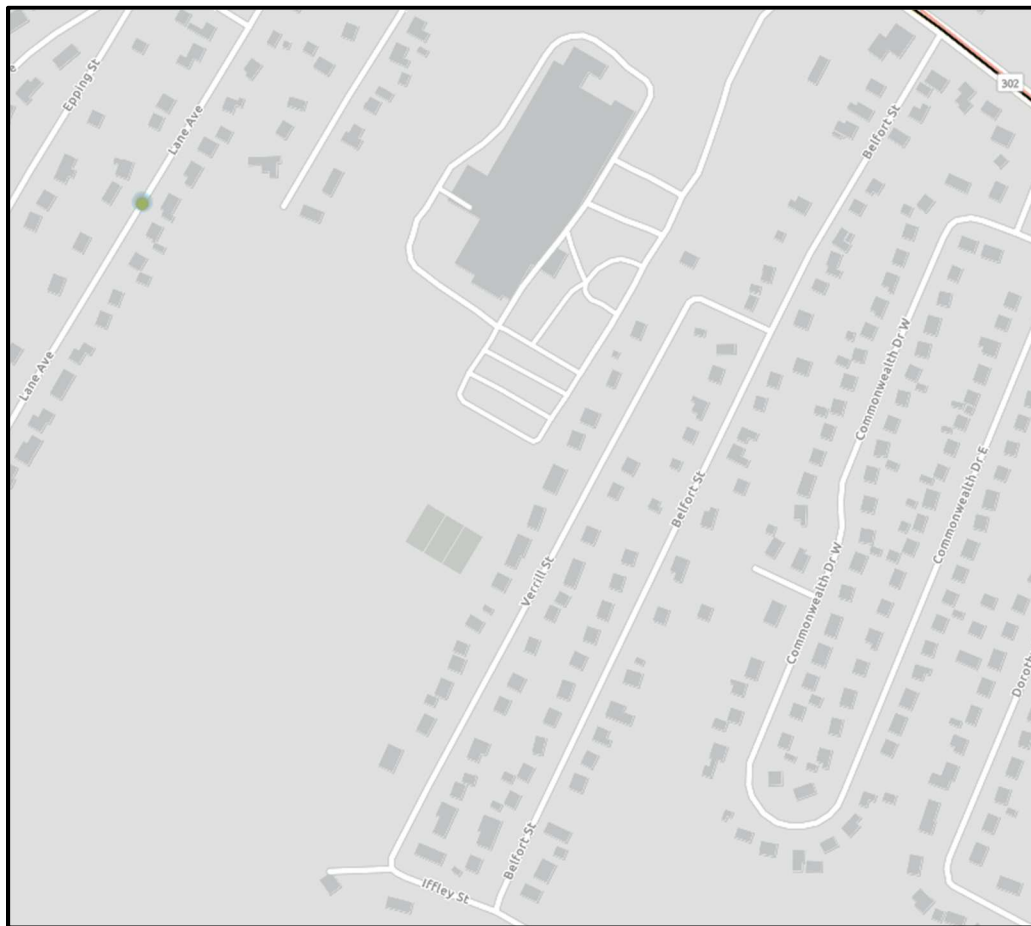
DPW reviewed crash information available on-line by MaineDOT from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024. Based on this information, there were no reported crashes on Belfort Street, and there does not appear to be any reported crashes as far back as the MaineDOT data is available in 2003. With no history of any crashes, there is not a pattern of injury crashes that can be discerned.

Street Review Based on GPCOG Vision Zero Data

In 2023, GPCOG formally endorsed a Vision Zero policy for the Greater Portland area, which includes Portland. As such, DPW now also reviews the GPCOG mapping database for risk criteria relative to its streets overall when responding to traffic calming requests. Data is available for review at <https://www.visionzerogreaterportland.org/>.

Probably the most useful component of this site with regards to street reviews is the mapping data available on the site, which allows for the toggling on and off of a number of layers, including safety and risk information.

Using the mapping with Critical Safety Location, Crashes (2016-2022), risk and injury networks, as well as feedback from community engagement resulted in this view along Belfort Street:



As can be seen from the mapping, the Vision Zero data does not suggest any safety issues.

Monitoring Associated with Belfort Landing

A housing development, Belfort Landing, has proposed to add a number of units on a parcel of land and will access Forest Avenue via Belfort Street. After a review of their project, DPW staff recommended that as a condition of approval, this project be required to monitor speeds and safety on Belfort Street. If conditions change notably from what has been found in this evaluation, that project's Owner will be required to install traffic calming. As part of that project, a sidewalk will be installed on the north side of Belfort from the site access to Forest Avenue. This project and its conditions were approved by the Planning Board on July 8, 2025.

Conclusion

Based on the completion of two speed studies and a review of available crash data, DPW does not find that Belfort Street is eligible for traffic calming. However, assuming that Belfort Landing is built, based on its approvals, its Owner will monitor the street and be responsible for the installation of traffic calming if speed or crash patterns change.

If you have questions on this letter, please reach out to me at jbartlett@portlandmaine.gov. We recommend that this information be shared with the other petitioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremiah Bartlett".

Jeremiah Bartlett, PE, PTOE
Transportation Systems Engineer

Copy: Keith Gray, DPW
Mike Murray, DPW