

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M.
WALTHAM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL**

A motion was made and the minutes of the previous meeting(s) were accepted.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Main Street and Border Road Intersection Study (Councillors Stanley and Bradley-MacArthur). Councillors Stanley and Bradley-MacArthur requested a safety study of the intersection of Main Street with Border Road. The concerns relate to pedestrian safety crossing Border Road. This intersection will soon be reconstructed as part of the larger Main Street Bridge replacement project for the 1265 Main Street development. **Voted not to commence a safety analysis at this time and placed the item on file (POF).**

B. Rail Trail Crossing Enhancements (Councillor LeBlanc)

Councillor LeBlanc requested that additional safety measures be installed to highlight the roadway crossings at the Rail Trail. The Rail Trail is still under construction and there are several items that need attention. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to notify the Planning Department of the following outstanding traffic control measures as follows:**

- a. all shark teeth pavement markings need to be corrected; the triangles are facing the wrong direction
- b. missing “TRAIL XING” pavement markings on the approaches need to be applied
- c. two overhead signs (Crosswalk Stop on Red) need to be installed on Lyman Street (MUTCD requirement)
- d. pavement markings on Lexington Street need to be finalized
- e. everything at Middle Circle needs to be finalized
- f. replace advance “Trail Xing” and “Ahead” signs with “Raised X-Walk Ahead” and “20MPH” signs at each approach (to be completed by Traffic Engineering)

C. Stop Sign on Malvern Street at Gregory Street (Councillor Dunn)

Councillor Dunn requested a new STOP sign on Malvern Street at Gregory Street. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to conduct an analysis to determine whether a stop sign is warranted on Malvern Street at Gregory Street.**

D. Edgewater Drive Speed Limit (Councillor Katz)

Councillor Katz requested that the speed limit sign on Edgewater Drive be installed. An unauthorized speed sign was removed and Councillor Katz requested the sign be replaced. The present unposted Speed Limit is 25MPH (thickly settled). To post the street at a lower Speed Limit requires a speed study. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer review and conduct a speed study, if warranted.**

E. Traffic Calming on Andrea Road (Councillor Katz)

Councillor Katz requested traffic calming measures on Andrea Road by Nipper Maher Park. The Commission reiterated its policy opposing “Slow Children” signs. This street is part of the West End Traffic Study that is moving forward (Purchasing Department is preparing an RFP). **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer determine if any park signs are needed, and install them as appropriate.**

F. 1432 Main Street Traffic Impact and Access Study

A Traffic Impact and Access Study was submitted for a 127,000 square foot office/lab space at 1432 Main Street. The existing building of 64,000 square feet will remain. The morning peak AM hour is

expected to have 139 vehicles entering and 27 exiting; and the PM peak hour will have 27 vehicles entering and 137 exiting. The level of trip generation is projected to have minimal impact along Main Street. Fire Chief Mullin questioned whether a dedicated left turn lane for westbound traffic is needed. In addition, Traffic Commission members were asking about the feasibility of a connection to Jones Road, and the viability of a light at this intersection. **Voted to table and have the consultant review these questions and come back before Traffic Commission in November before a recommendation is made to the City Council.**

G. Open Studios Parking

A request for free parking for the Open Studios event on November 4, 2023. **Voted to approve free parking at City owned parking lots (Carter St., Embassy, Crescent St., & Railroad Lot) on Saturday November 4 from Noon-6:00 PM. 144 Moody Street will have a reserved parking area for disability parking spaces. Vehicles must display an authorized Placard from Open Studios.**

H. Bentley University Phi Sigma Sigma Road Race, Friday November 17, 2023

Approval of the road race is requested for Friday November 17th.

Voted to recommend a permit to issue.

I. Crosswalk on Dale Street at Dale Circle

Traffic Commission member Mike Chiasson requested to rescind the previous approval of a new crosswalk crossing Dale Street at Dale Circle. ADA ramps cannot be installed at Dale Circle due to a fire hydrant. **Voted to rescind the previous vote for the crosswalk at Dale Circle and have the Traffic Engineer, reviewing with CPW, determine if another location along Dale Street can be found.**

J. High Street Parking Limit (Councillor Harris)

Councillor Harris requested approval of a two-hour parking limit along High Street between Cedar Street and the Newton City Line. The businesses along this section depend on the on-street parking for their customers. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer conduct a parking occupancy study.**

K. Removal of Pedestrian Sign on Parmenter Road

A resident requested the removal of a pedestrian warning sign at 21 Parmenter Road. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer review the location of the sign and make any appropriate adjustments in the field.**

L. Parking Modification Request on Central Street

Adult Day Health Center is requesting a change to allow parking at 118 Central Street from 8am until 5pm. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to study the parking situation to see if additional parking can be permitted for the Adult Day Health Center.**

2. TABLED ITEMS: (Only items in Bold and Highlighted will be discussed at this meeting)

- A. Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19) (9/19) (6/23) – Councillor Durkee
- B. Adams St. at Crescent St. – Proposed All-Way and Corridor Study – Councillor Harris (11/21) (11/22) (12/22)
- C. *Bedford St – Speeding Issues – Mayor McCarthy (12/21) (9/22)
- D. Lowell St – Proposed Traffic Study for Pedestrian and Public Safety – Councillor Harris (12/21) (9/22) (11/22)
- E. Main Street at Newton St & Lyman St – Traffic Signal Coordination (1/22) (11/22)
- F. *Harrington Road Speed Study (Mayor McCarthy) (3/22) (9/22)
- G. *Villa Street: Speed Bumps (Mayor McCarthy) (4/22) (9/22)

- H. *Elm St/River St Signal Warrant (Mayor McCarthy) (5/22)
- I. 240/265 Beaver Street Traffic Safety Analysis – Councillor Bradley-MacArthur (11/22) (6/23)

J. Bright Street Improvements – Councillor LaCava (12/22) (6/23)

The speed study showed the 85th percentile speed to be 31MPH. Recent pavement markings appear to have help reduce speeding. No further calming measures are recommended at this time. **Voted to request increased enforcement by the Police Department.**

- K. Brandeis Crosswalk on South Street, Improved Visibility – Councillor Katz (12/22) (1/23)
- L. MBTA Better Bus Project Update (1/23)
- M. Elm Street Northbound Approach to Railroad Crossing (5/23) (6/23)

N. Felton Street/Harvard Street Removal of Stop Sign (5/23) Tabled without discussion.

- O. Review of Parking Regulations on Berkley Street – Mayor McCarthy (9/23)

P. Bike Lane on Gardner Street – Councillor Paz (9/23)

Traffic Engineering recommended a bike lane be installed on Gardner Street. Mr. John Allen of Bike Experts raised a few cycling concerns during the meeting and requested to confer with Mr. Garvin about these issues concerning the newly proposed bike lane. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer consult with Mr. Allen before proceeding with an official recommendation.**

Q. No Standing or Stopping on Morton Street – Councillor Katz (9/23)

According to Councillor Katz's constituents, people going to the Bobby Connors Playground are parking in violation of the No Parking signs, opposite the park. Traffic Engineering recommended to paint cross hatch pavement markings to emphasize that parking is prohibited. **Voted to paint the pavement cross hatching as recommended.**

R. Parking Restrictions on Hartwell Street – Councillor Katz (9/23)

Upon review of the conditions on Hartwell Street, there is a fire hydrant on the north side of Hartwell Street just west of South Street. Traffic Engineering recommended to install a "No Parking Here to Corner" from a point 10 feet west of the hydrant to South Street. This will allow for turning onto Hartwell Street with no issues. **Voted to install a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign on the north side of Hartwell Street at South Street.**

S. Stow Street Crosswalk Request at Ravenswood Rd/Milton St – Councillor Katz (9/23)

After a review by Traffic Engineering, a crosswalk is warranted in this location. ADA ramps must be constructed and a new crosswalk may be installed between Ravenswood Road and Milton St. **Voted to accept this recommendation and wait for CPW to construct the new ADA ramp before applying the crosswalk pavement markings and signs.**

- T. Left Turn Restrictions from Fiske Ave and Fairmont Ave onto Weston St – Councillor Katz (9/23)

U. Intersection Control at Villa St/Fiske Ave (9/23)

After review, Traffic Engineering is recommending to maintain the existing regulations at this intersection. To emphasize to Villa Street motorists that Fiske Avenue approaching traffic is not required to stop, it is recommended to install a "Traffic From [Left/Right] Does Not Stop (W4-eaP) underneath each stop sign. Notifying the motorists of this condition will improve safety for those who may not know what to expect. **Voted to maintain the two stop signs on Villa Street only and to install a supplemental W4-aP (Traffic From [Left/Right] Does Not Stop) sign under**

each stop sign on Villa St. Also voted to direct Traffic Engineering to paint a short Double Yellow Center Line (DYCL) on Villa Street.

- V. Boynton/Winthrop Switch Stop Sign Approaches – Mayor McCarthy (9/23)
- W. Dual Language School Parking Passes (9/23)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report – revenues are up to approximately \$428K (approximately \$167K higher than at this time last year)
- B. Traffic Commission Status Report – The West End Traffic Management study is in the hands of the Purchasing Department and an RFP is being developed
- C. Stop Signs on Claremont Street and Bradford Street – Revision to Traffic Rules & Regulations
Voted to correct these missing locations and add the following to the Stop Sign Schedule:

Add In Schedule 11 (Stop Signs)

Claremont Street at Dale Street, facing southbound traffic

Bradford Street at Dale Street, facing southbound traffic

- D. Traffic Signal Inventory: Trapelo Road/Smith Street – update signal timings to the designed signal phasing, fix audible chirping crosswalk indicator
- E. Traffic Signal Inventory: Trapelo Road/I-95 Southbound Ramps – update signal timings, change out the existing eastbound and westbound through movement signal heads to the optically programmed lights, per the plans, notify the state since this intersection is under the jurisdiction of MassDOT

AND ANY LATE FILED ITEM(S) THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION .

4A: Council Resolution Submitted by Councillor Randy LeBlanc

- 1: This resolution asks for northbound **Lexington Street to turn left onto Lake Street**, when traffic allows (change the left arrow to a green ball)
- 2: **Beaver Street** – create a slip lane on the Bentley College side for westbound traffic turning onto **Forest Street**
- 3: Westbound **Linden Street at Main Street** widen right side of roadway, for two travel lanes

Voted to have the Traffic Engineer review and report at a future meeting.

Meeting Adjourned @ 11:54 AM

Attendance: All members except Chief O'Connell.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk

Waltham Traffic Commission**Date of the Meeting: October 19, 2023**

Please Print

Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
John S Allen	7 University Park	Bike Lane Gardner Street	Citizen
Matt Kealey	101 Walnut Street Watertown	1432 Main St	VHS consultant
Cathyann Harris	42 Hovey Rd	Ward 8	Councillor
Anthony LaFauci	76 Forest St	Ward 1	Councillor
Paul Katz	89 Cedarwood Ave	Ward 7	Councillor