

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M.
WALTHAM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL**

The Chair accepted a motion and the minutes of the October meeting were approved.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Maple Street Traffic Safety Study (Mayor McCarthy)

Mayor McCarthy requested a comprehensive safety study along Maple Street to be completed, particularly at the mid-block crosswalk at 84 Maple Street. The mid-block crosswalk is faded and our thermoplastic contractor has been instructed to refresh this crosswalk in their next thermoplastic assignment. The Wires Department has been asked to install a new street light on the nearby utility pole. **The Traffic Engineer was directed to conduct a comprehensive safety analysis along Maple Street, particularly at the mid-block crosswalk. Voted to table.**

B. RRFB at Crosswalk on Lincoln Street at MacArthur School (Councillor Dunn)

Councillor Dunn is asking for a study of the crosswalk on Lincoln Street at the MacArthur School, with consideration of the installation of an RRFB. **Voted to table and directed the Traffic Engineer to conduct a warrant analysis at the south crosswalk of the MacArthur School on Lincoln Street.**

C. Proposed Chase Bank ATM at 1030 Main Street, Traffic Impact Study

A Traffic Impact Study has been submitted for a proposed ATM for Chase Bank within the plaza at 1030 Main Street. A drive-thru ATM requires a Special Permit. The weekday AM peak hour is expected to generate 36 vehicle trips and the PM peak hour will generate 64 trips. The Saturday PM peak will be 77 vehicle trips. The traffic study indicates no change to the L.O.S. within the study area. Member Mr. Vizard stated a similar request for an ATM was rejected by the City Council. Fire Chief Mullin expressed concern regarding a fire apparatus having the ability to maneuver in the parking area around a new ATM in the parking lot. The petitioner was not present and no site plan was presented. **Voted to table without a recommendation, and have the Clerk invite the Petitioner to the next meeting.**

D. Proposed Crosswalk at 100 Trapelo Road

Captain Rodley is requesting approval of a new crosswalk crossing Trapelo Road in the vicinity of 100 Trapelo Road. Captain Rodley also asked for consideration of an RRFB to be installed. Ms. Alice Taylor, legal guardian for a disabled resident, spoke in favor for the need of this crosswalk. In addition, Ward Councilor McLaughlin asked for a study. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to conduct a warrant analysis for a new crosswalk.**

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

M. Felton Street/Harvard Street Removal of Stop Sign (5/23)

At the December 2021 meeting, a stop sign was approved on Felton Street at Harvard St. The intersection has limited sight distance (about 52 feet) due to the building at the corner. Minimum sight distance for a vehicle traveling 27 MPH should be 260 feet. The all-way stop eliminates the sight distance deficiency. The capacity analysis indicated the average delay for a vehicle approaching on Felton Street is 10 seconds or less; a Level of Service A. Mayor McCarthy requested the all-way stop to remain and if needed, she would support a request to install a flashing red light. **A roll-call vote was taken to remove the stop sign and the vote was three to three (In favor of removal: Mr. Magno, Mr. Kelly, & Mr. Vizard; in favor to retain: Chief O'Connell, Mr. Chiasson & Chief Mullin). The request to remove the stop sign was denied.**

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

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

The Commission previously approved the concept of a bike lane on Gardner Street, and questions arose as to which side of the street is best. Presently, parking is allowed on the west side of the street, and the bike lane would be on the east side. The east side is more appropriate for vehicles to leave the parking space and enter into the travel lane; however, if the parking were moved to the east side, it would result in a net loss of five parking spaces. This is not recommended; the bike lane should be on the east side of the street. **Voted to approve a northbound bicycle lane along the easterly side of Gardner Street, once CPW repaves the street.**

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

Q. Boynton/Winthrop Switch Stop Sign Approaches – Mayor McCarthy (9/23)

Voted to table this request, and discuss at the next meeting that the Mayor attends.

R. Dual Language School Parking Passes (9/23)

Ms. Kim Hebert, Waltham Recreation Director, attended this meeting and explained that her parking lot on Moody Street cannot accommodate the number of teachers for the Dual Language program at the school. There are approximately 33 spaces and they are needed by Parks & Recreation employees; the teachers need about 50 spaces on a daily basis (although not 50 at the same time). **Voted to approve Parking passes that are valid on school days only, from one (1) hour before the start of school to one (1) hour after the end of the school day, in any municipal parking lot.**

S. Stop Sign on Malvern Street at Gregory Street Councillor Dunn (10/23)

Upon the completion of the Stop Sign warrant analysis, the Traffic Engineer recommended a Stop Sign on Malvern at Gregory be installed. **Voted to accept this recommendation and amend the rules as follows: Schedule 11 (Stop Signs)**

Add:

Malvern Street at Gregory Street, facing northbound traffic

T. Edgewater Drive Speed Limit - Councillor Katz (10/23)

On October 25, by automatic traffic recorder (ATR), it was found that the 24 hour traffic volume was 195 vehicles and the 85th percentile speed was 23 mph. The low traffic volume and speed would not support the warrant needed to post the street. The City-Wide Speed Limit (25 mph) regulation for thickly settled districts, that will be posted soon, will satisfy this request. **Voted to deny a posted Speed Limit.**

U. 1432 Main Street Traffic Impact and Access Study (10/23)

At the October meeting, the Traffic Commission accepted the Traffic Impact Access Study for the project prepared by VHB. Several questions were asked and the proponent responded.

- 1: An exclusive left lane turn in the westbound direction is not needed; the expected queue is two vehicles.
- 2: The driveway does not meet the warrants for a full traffic signal.
- 3: It is not recommended to have a connection to Jones Road.

The Commission voted to accept the memo responding to Traffic Commission comments for the proposed lab space building at 1432 Main Street.

V. Crosswalk on Dale Street at Dale Circle (10/23)

Before installing a crosswalk, new ADA ramps must be installed. A crosswalk cannot be installed at Dale Circle because a hydrant is in the way. A new location was found at Bradford Street and is relatively close to Dale Circle. ADA ramps can be installed on both sides of Dale Street. **Voted to approve a new crosswalk on Dale Street just east of Bradford Street.**

W. High Street Parking Limit – Councillor Harris (10/23)

A study of the parking on the north side of High Street in the area from the Newton Town Line to Cedar Street found that at no time were all 20 available parking spaces occupied. The peak parking period demand was observed at 2pm, when 19 cars were parked. Many of the vehicles parked for most of the duration. About half the vehicles parked for less than 3 hours. There were some long-term employee parkers. Regardless, the combination of the on-street and off-street parking appears to be adequate. Councillor Harris stated that some restricted parking should be made because this is a business district and it is necessary to have parking turnover. **Voted to table this item and have the Traffic Engineering conduct a 5-day study of the parking to further collect data.**

X. Removal of Pedestrian Sign on Parmenter Road (10/23)

The sign (pedestrian crossing) is needed for safety; however, the placement can be changed. The Traffic Engineer agreed to move the sign to a more agreeable location closer to the curb.

Y. Parking Modification Request on Central Street (10/23)

Parking in this area is restricted on both sides of the street. The restriction along the south side is 55 feet which includes the front of 118 Central Street. The restriction may have been to allow adequate room for trucks to enter the street. Reducing this length to 42 feet will allow for an on-street parking space in front of this location, while still allowing proper room for larger trucks to enter the street.

Voted to approve a 15-minute parking space on the south side of Central Street and amend the rules as follows:

Delete: Central St, south side from Elm St. to 55' east of Elm St, No Parking

Add: Central St. south side from Elm St. to 42' east of Elm St, No Parking

Central St. south side 42' east of Elm St. to 62' east of Elm St, 15 Minute Parking

Z. Lexington Street/Lake Street Signal Improvements – Councillor LeBlanc (10/23)

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin, agreed that a traffic improvement could be made by allowing a northbound left turn when it is safe to do so. He recommends a flashing yellow arrow light. The traffic signal can be modified by using traffic signal upgrade funding. **Voted to add a yellow flashing left arrow for northbound vehicles turning left onto Lake Street. The sequence would be:**

- 1: Steady Green left arrow (exclusive left turn)**
- 2: Steady Yellow left arrow (warning light is changing)**
- 3: Flashing left arrow (proceed with caution – left turn when safe to do so)**
- 4: Steady Yellow left arrow (warning light is changing)**
- 5: Steady Red left arrow (no movement in direction of the arrow)**

AA. Slip Lane on Beaver Street at Forest Street – Councillor LeBlanc (10/23)

Beaver Street has no room for an added queue lane on the north side of the street in this area. It is possible that Bentley University may consider some land taking by the City. However, this involves the City Council and it is not within the purview of the Traffic Commission. **Directed the Traffic Engineer to work with City Council to evaluate the feasibility of extending the right turn lane.**

AB. Roadway Widening at Main St/Linden St – Councillor LeBlanc (10/23)

Linden Street is very narrow and in order to improve operations, it was suggested that some land taking could help traffic flow at this intersection. Ward Councilor McLaughlin supported this item and the Beaver Street item (item AA). However, this involves the City Council. Both items AA and AB, are being forwarded to the City Council for a joint venture proposing some “land taking or land giving”. Both intersections could experience slightly improved performance if the aforementioned travel lanes are widened/extended. The Traffic Engineer was directed to assist the City Council with any means necessary to help implement improvements at these intersections. **Directed the Traffic Engineer to work with City Council to evaluate the feasibility of widening Linden Street at the approach to the intersection.**

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Parking Meter Report - overall funding has increased \$179K over last year

B. Traffic Commission Status Report

Barbara/Chaffee Four Way Stop – completed

Jennings/Woodland SS – completed

Morton St standing/stopping – completed

C. Traffic Signal Inventory: **Trapelo Road/Lexington Street**

Summary of deficiencies are as follows: Controller display malfunction; one red ball not working; red ball and red arrow signal not in proper location on the plans; no pedestrian crosswalk button on the island; eastbound crosswalk signal head does not have countdown clock.

Recommendations: fix traffic controller display; replace red ball facing Trapelo Rd EB; update G&K signal head schematic; add pedestrian button on island; fix countdown clocks and fix NE pedestrian head (facing NW)

D. Traffic Signal Inventory: Trapelo Road/Forest Street
– install two missing signs (left turn only and left turn yield)

Trapelo/Forest

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

Attendance: All members were present

Adjourned: 12:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

**Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk
Waltham Traffic Commission**

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