

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M.  
WALTHAM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL**

The Chair accepted a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting.

**1. PETITIONED ITEMS:**

**A. Everett Street Signage and Speed Study – Councilor Katz**

Councilor Katz is requesting improved signage on Everett Street with the consideration of a speed hump. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to conduct a speed study and a signage review.**

**B. Proposed Pizza Restaurant, 14 Warren Street – Traffic Impact Study for Special Permit**

TEPP presented the results from the Traffic Impact and Access Study for a proposed pizza restaurant at 14 Warren Street. Attorney Joseph Connors appeared on behalf of the proponent and made a presentation for a 935 square foot pizza restaurant at 14 Warren Street replacing a former hair salon. 30 vehicle trips are anticipated to be generated during the peak weekday hour, while 46 vehicle trips are anticipated to be generated during the Saturday peak hour. The small level of trip generation is not expected to have any significant impact on traffic operations. **Voted to accept the Traffic Impact and Access Study, prepared by TEPP, for the proposed pizza restaurant at 14 Warren Street in order to allow the proponent to proceed to City Council for a Special Permit.**

**C. 55 First Avenue Development, Traffic Study for Special Permit**

VHB presented results from the Traffic Study for the redevelopment of the property at 55 First Avenue. The proposal is to redevelop the site at 55 First Avenue to consist of 448,000 square feet of office/lab space. It is expected to generate 537 trips in the weekday AM peak hour and 510 new PM peak hour trips. This is a significant increase. The proponent has made traffic mitigation commitments as follows:

- 1: Contribute more than \$500,000 to the Traffic Safety and Maintenance Fund
- 2: Design/construct improvements along Winter St at West St, First Ave, & Second Ave that will improve the controllers, improve the Level of Service and signal coordination, and include additional lane stripping, crosswalks, and sidewalks
- 3: Become a member of the 128 Business Council
- 4: Incorporate pedestrian and bicycle amenities
- 5: Monitor traffic and identify improvements after occupancy

**Voted to accept the Traffic Impact and Access Study, prepared by VHB, for the proposed office/lab space at 55 First Avenue, to allow the proponent to proceed to City Council for a Special Permit.**

**D. Correction of Minutes for The Juicery Traffic Study, 1019 Trapelo Road**

The minutes from the meeting regarding the Juicery incorrectly indicated it will close at 4pm. **Voted to correct the minutes to indicate that the Juicery will close later than 4pm, and that will not affect the conclusions of the traffic study. Traffic Commission accepts the traffic study, with this correction for the record.**

**E. CPW Request for Traffic Mitigation Funds to Construct Sidewalk on Lincoln Street**

CPW Director Chiasson requested that we seek Traffic Impact Funds for construction of a sidewalk along the north side of Lincoln Street, between Kings Way and Smith Street. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to request funding in the amount of \$200,000 to use in the construction of this new sidewalk.**

#### **F. Disabled Parking Space Request, 14 Huntington Street**

Mark Johnson of the Disability Services Commission has submitted an opinion on the request for a Disabled Parking Space at 14 Huntington Street. The HP Commission recommended this request be denied because the home has a driveway. Councilor Darcy spoke against this recommendation and stated that the tenant is not the owner of the home and therefore does not have exclusive use of the driveway. The resident oftentimes has to walk farther from her unit because the parking on the northern side of the street across from the driveway is frequently occupied by other parked vehicles. **It was voted to approve a handicapped space on the north side of the street opposite number 14 Huntington Street.**

Add to Schedule 6 Handicapped Parking  
Huntington Street, one space, north side opposite #14.

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

- A. Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19) (10/19) – Councilor Durkee
- B. # 80-86 Orange St. – Whalen Housing Authority (9/19) – Councilor Harris
- C. City Wide Speed Study - (5/20)

#### **D. Elson Rd. – Proposed One-Way – Councilor Durkee (5/21)(10/21)**

Due to the lack of neighborhood support, Councilor Durkee requested this proposal be removed at this time. **Voted to Place on File.**

- E. Wyman St. – Proposed RRFB (5/21)

#### **F. Adams St. at Crescent St. – Proposed All-Way and Corridor Study – Councilor Harris (11/21)**

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin, discussed the traffic study conducted at Crescent Street and Adams St. (southern junction). Speed data showed the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed on Crescent St to be 37.3 mph. The intersection does not meet the warrants for an All-Way Stop. As a speed calming measure, a painted parking lane will be installed in the Spring of 2023. Parking will be restricted within 75 feet of Adams Street. The Traffic Engineer attended a neighborhood meeting where the original suggestion of an overhead flashing beacon at Adams and Crescent was not widely-supported by residents. Support was given to have a permanent radar speed sign in each direction on Crescent Street. Members of the Commission expressed favorable opinions for this option, however, strong guidelines must be met to control the use of this option. A trial period should begin, to quantify how effective the signs are. **Voted to install two temporary speed signs for a 90-Day Trial Period to measure effectiveness and concurrently have the Traffic Engineer create guidelines for the installation of permanent speed signs at this location (contingent upon effectiveness) and other locations outside of school zones.**

- G. Trapelo Rd at Clocktower Rd – Proposed Traffic Signal – Mayor McCarthy (12/21)
- H. Bedford St – Speeding Issues – Mayor McCarthy (12/21) (9/22)
- I. Willow St – Speed Limit Signage, Sidewalks, and Parking – Councilor LaCava (12/21)

#### **J. Lowell St – Proposed Traffic Study for Pedestrian and Public Safety – Councilor Harris (12/21) (9/22)**

The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was found to be between 25 and 30 mph. The speed appears to be reasonable. There are 12 crosswalks along Lowell Street and there is a concern that parked vehicles cause a pedestrian visibility problem. One method to increase pedestrian visibility is to have a curb extension or a “bump out”. There are 9 crosswalks along Lowell Street that could benefit from “bump outs”. CPW Director Mr. Chiasson supported this request provided the design and construction be outsourced for installation. Per Councillor Paz, it was also requested that the Lowell and Pine intersection be included in this design. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer complete a design for Spring 2023 that includes the installation of vertical post bump outs to be used in a trial period to measure effectiveness before deciding if permanent bump outs should be constructed.**

**K. Main Street at Newton St & Lyman St – Traffic Signal Coordination (1/22)**

Detection at these two intersections is not working properly and operational detection cannot be fixed. The entire corridor, Newton Street west to Appleton Street, must be updated with new equipment. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer seek funding in the amount of \$250,000 to update and coordinate the three traffic signals in this corridor (Main at Newton, Main at Lyman, and Main at Appleton) with the flexibility to tie into the rest of the Main Street corridor in future signal coordination efforts.**

L. Harrington Road Speed Study (Mayor McCarthy) (3/22) (9/22)

M. Villa Street: Speed Bumps (Mayor McCarthy) (4/22) (9/22)

**N. Banks Square Improvements (Mayor McCarthy) (5/22) (9/22)**

**Voted to remain on the table.**

O. Elm St/River St Signal Warrant (Mayor McCarthy) (5/22)

**P. RRFB Request at Lake Street/Princeton Avenue (Mayor McCarthy) (9/22)**

**Voted to remain on the table.**

Q. Lexington Street Bike Path (Councilor Darcy) (9/22)

**R. Charles Street Traffic Calming – Grant Street and Harvard Street (Councilors LaCava and Paz) (9/22)**

While reviewing the request for a traffic calming measure, a consideration of reversing Grant Street one-way northbound was studied. This would have a negative impact on both the Post Office (southeast corner of Main & Grant) and the gas station (southwest corner of Main & Grant). Furthermore, vehicles using Russell Street as a shortcut would need to stay on Main Street and proceed to Harvard Street, which would increase the turning delays at that intersection. Additionally, the residents of Grant Street south of Russell Street would be required to alter their route to get home. The recommendation that a Stop Sign be placed on Charles Street is a valid solution due to the current site distance deficiencies. Upon further inquiries, it was reported that Charles Street carries a larger volume of traffic while Grant Street carries a very small volume of traffic. The accident rate at this intersection is very low and it appears that drivers use precaution turning left onto Charles Street from Grant Street (one-way onto a one-way). **Voted to table this item and request the Traffic Engineer to look at this intersection from a pedestrian safety perspective traveling to and from the playground and come back with any potential safety improvements.**

S. Browns Avenue Parking and Safety Study (Councilor Paz) (9/22)

**T. RRFB Request at Lincoln Street/Kings Way (9/22)**

A warrant analysis for an RRFB was conducted at the close of a school day, with good weather and an anticipated number of parents and children crossing the street. During the hour of review, 9 pedestrians crossed the street which does not meet the minimum requirement for the installation of an RRFB. Recently, a portable pedestrian sign was placed at the crosswalk for enhanced visibility. **Voted to accept the Traffic Engineer's recommendation and deny the installation of an RRFB.**

**U. Commercial Vehicle Restriction on Hartwell Street – Mayor McCarthy (10/22)**

**Voted to remain on the table.**

**V. Lincoln Street/Gregory Street Safety Study – Councilor Dunn (10/22)**

The visibility from the Stop Sign on Gregory Street is obscured by bushes on the property at the corner of Lincoln Street and Gregory St. The Building Department was requested to determine if a violation exists. Upon determination of a violation, which there appears to be, the Building Department will notify the owner of the property to comply with the corner clearance requirement of a 30-inch height. No further action is required at this time. **Voted to request the Traffic Engineer to get a status update from the Building Department whether this notification was delivered to the resident.**

**W. Villa Street Parking at Cedarwood Avenue – Councilor Katz (10/22)**

The concern is that vehicles on Villa Street park too close to the corner of Cedarwood Avenue and vehicles speed on Villa Street turning right onto Cedarwood Avenue to get to the traffic signal at Cedarwood and Weston Street. There is a large radius to the corner that contributes to the speeding up to the light. A smaller corner radius would help alleviate this issue. This is for CPW to consider.

**Voted to prohibit parking on Villa Street as follows:**

**ADD TO SCHEDULE 1**

**Villa Street, south side, from Cedarwood Avenue to a point 75' east of Cedarwood Ave.  
No Parking**

**X. Request for Safety Study at River Street/Willow Street (10/22)**

Resident concerns dealt with several existing conditions:

1: Phillips 66 Curb Cut (northwest corner) – the existing curb cut is approximately 100 feet wide and the pedestrian sidewalk is not clearly defined. The design is recorded on file with the Engineering Department as being accurate. Any change must come from the Board of Survey and Planning.

2: Trucks Exiting Cardillo & Sons Inc. Property (northeast corner) – The Building Department required the property owner to have warning/flashing beacons (a laser-triggered device) on either side of the driveway. It appears the device was damaged and inoperable. The Building Department will notify the owner to repair the warning light.

3: Vehicles exiting Shaw's Parking Light (southeast corner) – The signal phasing was amended so that Willow Street gets its own green signal and the Shaw's driveway gets its own signal. This has eliminated some of the confusion that had existed because of the off-set approaches.

No further recommendations are needed at this time. **Voted to accept the recommendations of the Traffic Engineer: Paint the back edge of the sidewalk at the Gas Station (northwest corner) to clearly define the limits of the sidewalk and follow up with the Building Department to ensure that the damaged flashing beacons have been fixed.**

### **3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

A. Parking Meter Report – meter receipts are up about \$10,000. New rates will go into effect next week

B. Removal of Disabled Parking Space at 135 Woerd Avenue. **Voted to remove this HP space.**

C. Proposed Modification to Seyon Street Parking Regulations. **Voted to amend the regulations to comply with the existing signage.**

Schedule 1

Delete Seyon Street, east side, River St to a point 420' north of River St. No Parking

Add:

Seyon Street, east side, 505' north of River St. to Grove St., No Parking

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

#### **4-1 240-265 Beaver Street Traffic Safety Analysis & Safety Recommendation**

Councilor Colleen Bradley-MacArthur requested that a traffic study be performed to come up with solutions to decrease speed and improve safety. Potential mitigation measures include reducing speed, adding additional signage, painting crosswalks, and other various speed calming measures.

**Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to perform a traffic study and report back at a future meeting.**

**Attendance: All Members except Mr. Vizard**

**Adj: 12:38 PM**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk**