

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION
HELD: SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

The Chair accepted a motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Gore Street – Proposed Crosswalk

Councilor Marchese is requesting a crosswalk be installed near the Gore Place entrance.

Councilor LeBlanc appeared on behalf of Councilor Marchese and spoke in favor of this request. Ms. Debbie Bronner, a resident also spoke in favor of a crosswalk. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin reported that handicap ramps and adequate lighting exist at the intersection of Lawndale/Gore and recommended a crosswalk be installed. **Voted to approve this request and have a new crosswalk installed in thermoplastic with appropriate pedestrian signage.**

B. Massasoit Street – Proposed Truck Restriction

Councilor Marchese is requesting a study be completed to determine if a truck restriction is warranted. Councilor LeBlanc appeared on behalf of Councilor Marchese and spoke in favor of this request. Massasoit Street from Grove Street is very narrow and has low hanging wires. It appears that the truck's GPS devices are sending vehicles going to Waltham Lumber via Grove Street to Massasoit Street. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended a review for a 24 hour truck restriction and eliminate trucks on Massasoit with the exception for the Main Street portion so trucks could enter/exit Waltham Lumber. **Voted to approve a truck study on Massasoit Street and seek a 24 hour Truck Exclusion permit from Mass DOT.**

C. Newton St. from River St. to Grove St. – Revise Parking Restriction

Councilor Marchese is requesting a parking exemption in front of Sacred Heart Church. Councilor LeBlanc appeared on behalf of Councilor Marchese and spoke in favor of this request. In addition Ms. Bernadett Scalese, employee at Sacred Heart Church, and Mayor McCarthy both spoke in favor for additional parking for funerals and senior citizens who attend services. Newton Street in this area has three lanes of travel. Two lanes are southbound, with the left lane for left turns onto River Street. Northbound has one travel lane. Fire Chief Ciccone also stated that it has always been too narrow for emergency vehicles to pass through here. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin opposed eliminating a travel lane and the lanes are not wide enough to be reduced to accommodate a parking lane. He recommended the item be denied. He will review the possibility of adding spaces on Grove St. **Voted to deny this request.**

D. Bedford Street at Pearl Street – Crosswalk Safety Improvements

Councilors Giordano and Logan are requesting this crosswalk be reviewed to see if any safety improvements are warranted. Councilor Logan spoke in favor of this request. Traffic Engineering did a site visit and it showed that the existing pedestrian signage should be removed and new signs installed. The new signage would be reflective lime/green signs and arrows pointing down to the crosswalk. A RRFB or any additional pedestrian signage was not recommended. **Voted to approve replacing the existing signage with the reflective lime/green signs.**

E. South Street at Charles Street – Proposed Crosswalk

Councilors Giordano and Logan are requesting that a crosswalk and appropriate signage be installed at this location. Councilor Logan spoke in favor of this request. Traffic Engineering determined that a crosswalk at this location was appropriate. South Street was under reconstruction and with the assistance of the CPW two ADA compliant ramps were installed.

Voted to approve a crosswalk with new reflective lime/green pedestrian signage and supplemental arrows.

F. Trapelo Rd. btwn. Pine Vale Rd. and Smith St. – No Engine Braking

Councilor Darcy is requesting “No Engine Braking” signs on this portion of Trapelo Rd. Councilor Darcy spoke in favor of this request to have signs posted on both sides of Trapelo Road in the area of Goldencrest - Candlewood, Glenmeadow East - Clocktower Drive, and Smith - Pine Vale. Traffic Engineering agreed that Smith - Pine Vale was appropriate for this request and recommended approval. Signs will be posted on Utility poles between #1310 & #1312 Trapelo Road facing eastbound traffic and a sign at #1331 facing westbound traffic. Traffic Engineering requested time to review the added locations that Councilor Darcy requested. **Voted to approve this request and install “No Engine Braking” signs on both sides, eastbound and westbound, near the top of the hill on Trapelo Road. The Traffic Engineer will review the other locations requested and report at a future meeting.**

G. Trapelo Rd. – Traffic Calming

Councilor Darcy is requesting traffic calming measures on Trapelo Rd. as vehicles are driving nearly 50 MPH on all sections of the roadway. Councilor Darcy spoke in favor of this request and asked for bicycle lanes. Trapelo Road is being repaved from Lexington Street east to Marguerite Ave. (Trapelo Road from the Belmont Line to Marguerite Ave. has already been completed) Next year, the paving will be from Lexington Street west to Smith Street. Trapelo Road is approximately 30 feet wide. The travel lanes are 11 feet wide and that will leave a 4 foot shoulder. The shoulder will provide some protection for bicyclist, and will act as traffic calming measure for vehicles (Note: bike lanes should be 5 feet wide). Presently Trapelo Road has a posted Speed Limit of 35 MPH, except through major intersections (Smith St. - Lexington St. - & Waverley Oaks Rd.). The posted speed west of I-95 (Rte.128) is 30 MPH. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended to continue pavement markings west of I-95 to the Lincoln Line and include the 4 foot shoulder. Installation of crosswalks should not be considered until sidewalks have been installed. **Voted to approve the Traffic Engineer’s recommendations and add four-foot wide shoulders along each side of Trapelo Road west of Interstate 95 (Rte.128).**

H. Lake Street – Emergency Signal at Fire Station

Fire Chief Ciccone requested a review to determine if an Emergency Signal is warranted. The Chief is requesting an emergency signal displaying a flashing yellow that can be activated from the fire station to a red light for Lake Street traffic. The present use of sirens required to alert oncoming traffic that the apparatus is exiting the Fire Station is proving to be inadequate. Upon review Traffic Engineering determined the sight distance is limited and the request makes sense. Member Mr. Kelly opposed this request. **Voted to approve the request for a new emergency signal at the fire station on Lake Street and directed the Traffic Engineering Office to seek funding. (Note: Chief Ciccone recused himself from voting)**

I. Craven Circle – Change Traffic Signal timing

Mr. John Zawadzki, along with numerous tenants are requesting that Craven Circle get the green light first to allow them to exit. Upon review it was determined that Craven Circle green light is approximately 3 seconds which is just enough time for one vehicle to exit. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended the minimum green time for Craven Circle be increased to 7 seconds. A minor adjustment may be necessary to the coordination between this signal and Main/Lyman Street. He will review the signal after the adjustment has been made to determine if Craven Circle should be given a “leading green” signal instead if the present “trailing green” signal. **Voted to direct the Wires Department, in coordination with the Traffic Engineer, to increase the green signal time for Craven Circle to 7 seconds. In addition, install signage for “No Outlet” onto**

Craven Circle and review the possibility of amending the “leading” signal to a trailing signal.

J. Warrendale area – Paint Children Playing symbol in roadway

Mr. John Babstock, # 77 Wilbur St. is requesting these markings be repainted on the street. Mr. Babstock notified the Commission that he was unable to attend this meeting. Specifically, he requested symbols on Clematis Ave at Wilbur; Beaver St at Hollace; Warren St at Waverley St.; and Waverley at Wilbur. According to the Traffic Engineer, these markings are unnecessary pavement markings which do not mean anything to a motorist. They are not enforceable and do not meet the approved pavement markings under the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Traffic Engineering no longer has the template that was used to paint these markings. **Voted to deny this request. In addition, Traffic Engineering was asked to reach out to Mr. Babstock to communicate the underlying reasons for denying this request.**

K. Newton St. at DCR Bike Path – Traffic Improvements

Mayor McCarthy is sponsoring this petition from Mr. Eric Levine and others at 173 Newton St. Mayor McCarthy, Councilor Logan and several petitioners spoke concerning this request. A pedestrian count was taken between 10 AM and Noon on Saturday July 30, a sunny summer day. Prospect St had 56 pedestrians; Moody St. had 112; Newton St. had 153; and Farwell St. had 106. All four streets are collector roads with high vehicular traffic volumes. State policy has changed from the time this Riverwalk was installed to provide adequate safety protection for the pedestrians and bicyclists. It is probable that the State would now consider Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at each of these major roadway crossings if the Riverwalk were constructed today. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended RRFB at each of the four crossings given the prominence and popularity of the Riverwalk trail and traffic volumes on these streets. **Voted to approve the installation of RRFB’s at each of the Riverwalk at-grade crossing: Prospect Street, Moody Street, Newton Street, and Farwell Street. Direct the Traffic Engineer to allocate funding from the Pulte Home – Jefferson account.**

L. # 160 Russell St. – Proposed Disabled Parking Space

Mr. Charles Priest is requesting a Disabled Parking space on the opposite side of the street. Mr. Priest has submitted all the required paperwork and Mr. Johnson, Chairperson Disability Services has recommended approval for one on-street space. **Voted to approve 1 space on Russell Street as follows:**

Add to Schedule 6 – Disable Parking - Russell Street, north side, 1 space, opposite #160

M. CityPoint Association – Proposed “Do Not Block Intersection” marking

Ms. Melanie Waldron with Boston Properties is requesting new pavement markings at the intersection of Third Ave./Prospect Hill Ln. Ms. Waldron and several employees spoke of the problems at this location. The afternoon peak hour queues from the traffic signal at the intersection of Third Avenue and Totten Pond Road are considerable. Prospect Hill Lane traffic has difficulty entering the flow of traffic on Third Avenue. The Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended approval of this signage. Additional improvements may be recommended by the City Point project as it progresses. **Voted to approve a new “Do Not Block Intersection” signage and pavement markings at the intersection of Third Avenue and Prospect Hill Lane.**

N. Boston Children’s Hospital Waltham – Special Permit

Attorney Michael Connors representing Boston Children’s Hospital, explained the Zone Change requested is to officially allow the existing overhead pedestrian bridge and construction of a parking structure. The pedestrian bridge was never officially approved when it was constructed.

The parking structure is to allow the same number of stories as the main part of the hospital on the southern portion of the hospital property.

At the October 2015 meeting the Traffic Commission accepted a Traffic Study for the master plan at that time and included the following:

- a. construction of 102,000 square feet of clinical/ambulatory floor area
- b. a 350 space patient parking garage
- c. reconfiguration of the entrance on Hope Ave
- d. anticipation of 89 new morning vehicle trips during the weekday; and 81 new evening trips during the weekday

The request for this amendment is to seek a Zoning Change that will allow the hospital to pursue a Special Permit. T.E. Mr. Garvin recommended the report submitted by VHB be accepted. **Voted to accept the VHB report “Children’s Hospital Boston at Waltham Transportation Evaluation” dated August 25, 2016 and forward it to the City Council for their deliberations.**

O. Costco (70 Second Ave.) Proposed Fuel Facility – Special Permit

Mr. John Harter from Atlantic Traffic + Design will present the traffic study for this Special Permit. Costco is requesting a Special Permit to have a fuel facility, 18 gasoline pumps at the far end of the parking lot; fueling will be limited to “members only”. Based on traffic counts from similar Costco locations the majority of customers using the fuel pumps are people who would otherwise be at the Costco and not represent new vehicle trips. The Levels of Service will not decline at the study intersections as a result of this project. In addition, Costco has agreed to prohibit left turns from Second Avenue northbound into the main driveway, requiring all northbound vehicles to enter the garage to access the site. Costco will implement new signage for this restriction. **Voted to accept the Atlantic Traffic & Design report dated August 23, 2016 and forward it the City Council for their deliberations on the issuance of a Special Permit.**

P. Winter St. & Wyman St. area – Traffic Improvements

Mayor McCarthy spoke of the need for improvements in the area and requested a night meeting to discuss the many issues of concern. The Traffic Commission should consider items that are under its control and separate them from the State (Mass DOT). Mr. Christopher Anderson, President of High Tech Council and Mr. Mike Cogetti spoke of the problems particularly in the afternoon peak traffic hours when “gridlock” often occurs. Some of the suggestions include an alternatively “zipper lane” on Winter Street; removal of an existing traffic island; a new traffic signal and signal timing adjustments; widening of Second Avenue and Bear Hill Road; don’t “block the box” at Main St/Bear Hill Rd. Other changes require State review and approval, such as Third Ave/Wyman St./Totten Pond Road intersection; I-95 interchanges at Rt.20 and Third Ave.; and the possibility of a new interchange for Rt.117. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin stated that rather than respond to each individual request from the various interests in the this section of the City, he recommended that after the Transportation Master Plan is introduced, the Traffic Commission should hold a special Meeting (in the evening) and invite employees, business owners along the corridor (on either side of Rte. 128, from Main Street to Trapelo Road), as well as the Mayor and City Councilors to discuss the proposals and try to reach consensus on what the priorities are for infrastructure improvements in this area. **Voted to accept this recommendation and table until the Master Plan is introduced and hold an evening meeting.**

Q. Whittemore Elementary School – Student Drop-off and Pick Up

Councilor Rourke request safety improvements be discussed. In August a Neighborhood Meeting was held regarding traffic patterns during the student drop-off and pick-up times at the Whittemore Elementary School. The school is located south of High Street between Parmenter and Hovey

Roads. During times of student drop-off and pick-up the residential streets surrounding the school become clogged with parked cars. Streets that are normally two-way only allow travel in one direction. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended a traffic study to evaluate the number of vehicles that drop off and pick up, where they park, and then recommend what measures may make sense to address this issue. Member, Ms. Cagle requested all walking routes be included in the review. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer conduct a study.**

2. TABLED ITEMS:

- A. Highland St. "Spur" at Curtis St. – Removal of "No Right Turn" Restriction (9/12)(10/12)(5/16)(6/16)
- B. Main Street at Warren Street – Proposed Pedestrian Signal (10/13)
- C. Valet Parking in Downtown Area (11/15)
- D. Forest Street – Crosswalks and Bicycle Markings (11/15)(5/16)
- E. Amend Art. 5, Sec. 18 GVW (3/16)

F. Prospect St., North of Bridge – Proposed Rapid Flashing Beacon (3/16)

See item 1K

Voted to approve the installation of RRFB's at each of the Riverwalk at-grade crossing: Prospect Street, Moody Street, Newton Street, and Farwell Street. Direct the Traffic Engineer to allocate funding from the Pulte Home – Jefferson account.

G. Parking Near Driveways (4/16)

H. Thayer Road – No Parking/Tow Zone (6/16) Thayer Road is a private way and all the abutters have petitioned for a parking restriction. The Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended No Parking be approved only in the area between Dwight Street and Thayer Road. He recommended not to have a Tow Zone

Voted to amend Schedule 1 as follows:

Thayer Road, south side, from Dwight Street to a point 100 feet west, No Parking

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. **Parking Meter Report** . Funds collected for August show a slight increase from last year
- B. **Transportation Master Plan – Update** Two public meetings were held for the Transportation Master Plan: in November 2015 to present to data collection and existing conditions, and in May 2015 to present draft recommendations. After each meeting, the public and elected officials were given the opportunity to comment. In May, the draft recommendations were presented to Traffic Commission, which then had a chance to comment. The Draft Transportation Master Plan will soon be available for comment, for a period of 30 days. It will be distributed to Traffic Commission, City Council, and the Mayor, as well as on the City web page for the public. Then, after all comments have been received, the Final Transportation Master Plan (expected around December) will be published, and the consultant will be available for a presentation to the City, at a City Council meeting.
- C. **Robbins Street # 151 – Removal of Disabled Parking space. Voted to remove this space as the user has relocated (Schedule 6 Disabled Parking)**
- D. **Nathan Street at Everett Street** – Replace "Yield" sign with "STOP" control
At the request of Mr. Philip Rossillo a resident of Everett Street review the location of the one-way sign on Everett St. facing Nathan Road, Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended the

existing "Yield Sign" be replaced with a "Stop Sign". **Voted to remove the yield sign and add a Stop sign.**

Remove from Schedule 12 Yield Sign

Nathan Road at Everett Street, facing Eastbound

Add to Schedule 11 Stop Signs

Nathan Road at Everett Street, facing Eastbound traffic

- E. Main St. & Moody St. Sidewalk Project** – Mayor's direction regarding traffic signage
Mayor McCarthy requested no more signs be installed until a sign inventory can be completed
Information only. The Traffic Engineer expects to receive the Mayor's sign inventory soon.

F. Replacement of Pay Stations

Six Ven Tek pay stations will replace Parkeon stations at Chestnut St Lot (2) and Crescent St (4). Three more pay stations are needed to replace Parkeon at the Library Lot (1) and Railroad Lot (2) for a cost of \$30,000. Funding is available from the parking meter ticket machine funds. Comparing Parkeon to Ven Tek (user friendly, ease of repair, ease of collections, repair costs, and on-site service) it has been determined that Ven Tek machines are the better of the two in all of those categories. For information, the Traffic Engineer reported on the status of the three remaining lots to receive new parking pay stations. At the Embassy Parking Facility, the Mayor has asked us to wait until construction is complete on either side (Cooper St. and Moody St.). At Church St., the Mayor has asked us to wait until it is decided whether the old Wires Building will remain. At Carter Street, the Mayor has asked us to wait until the overall plan of the Carter Street MBTA Station is designed. **Voted to approve this request and replace six Parkeon machines with the new Ven Tek. Also, proceed with the purchase of 3 additional machines for the Railroad Lot and Library lot.**

- G. 1265 Main St. DEIR** Comments from Traffic Engineer

- H. Mass DOT Walk Assessment** on Moody St. with Traffic Engineer

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

4A: 33 Myrtle Street – Salvation Army Driveway

Councilor Rourke requests consideration to stripe no parking on Myrtle Street at the driveway to the Salvation Army @ #33 Myrtle St. Mr. James Masterson spoke in favor of this request. Upon review, Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended parking be restricted 10 feet on each side of the 24 foot wide driveway. **Voted to amend Schedule 1 and post No Parking on Myrtle Street, north side, 10 feet each side of the driveway**

Adjourned @ 12:30 PM

Attendance: All members, Mayor McCarthy, Councilor Logan, Councilor Rourke, Councilor LeBlanc, & Councilor Darcy. Numerous petitioners, residents, employees, attorneys, and traffic consultants (see Committee Speaker Log)

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo

Clerk

Waltham Traffic Commission

Date of the Meeting: September 15, 2016

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Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Jeannette A. McCarthy	610 Main St. Waltham, MA	Numerous Items 1K – 2F – 1P	Mayor of Waltham
Robert G Logan	109 Taylor St	D – E – K – N – Q	City Councilor
Stephen Rourke	36 Riverview Ave	Q & Salvation Army	City Councilor
Diane LeBlanc	55 Berkley St	Gore – Newton & Massasoit	City Councilor
George Darcy	93 Hobbs Rd	Trapelo Road	City Councilor
Debbie Braunert	10 Lawndale Ave	Gore St Crosswalk	Resident
Jim Masterson	78 Hatherly Rd	Myrtle St Salvation Army	Petitioner
Mark Watkins	168 Third Ave	City Point	Employee
Cornelia Koutoujian	293 Ash St	Whittemore School	Petitioner
Chris Anderson	850 Winter St	Winter/Wyman Sts	Corp Resident
John Zaucski	90 Beal Rd	Traffic Light Craven Cir	Property Manager

off Committee Speakers
Waltham Traffic Commission

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Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Jane McNamara	15 Craven Circle	Traffic Light Craven Cir	Property Owner
Elizabeth Catalano	9 Craven Circle	Traffic Light Craven Cir	Tenant
Bernadette Scalese	124 Faneuil Rd	Newton St Sacred Heart Church	Employee
Eileen & Kevin Ritcey	56 Arlington Rd	Whittemore School	Petitioner
Melanie Waldron	5 Cahill Park Dr Framingham	M: 3rd Ave & Prospect Hill Lane	Board Member City Point
Hanieh Vahidi	16 Lawndale Ave	Gore St Crosswalk	Resident
Michael Giorgeti	852 Winter St	Winter/Wyman Sts	Tenant
Chris Brackett	20-22 Dwight St	Thayer Road	Owner/Tenant
Michael R Connors	6 Lexington St	9 Hope Ave Boston Children's Hospital	Attorney
Tim Sullivan	400 Atlantic Ave Boston	9 Hope Ave Boston Children's Hospital	Attorney
Peter Tamm	400 Atlantic Ave Boston	Costco 2nd Ave	Attorney

off Committee Speakers

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