

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M.
WALTHAM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL**

Voted to accept the minutes of the April 2023 meeting.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

- A. Crosswalk at Lake St/Indian Rd (Councilor Dunn) 1**
Councilor Dunn is requesting a new crosswalk crossing Lake Street at Indian Road. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to conduct a study for a crosswalk at this location.**
- B. Speed Bump at Hamilton Road/Intervale Road (Councilor Katz) 4**
Councilor Katz is requesting a speed bump at Hamilton Road/Intervale Road. Mayor McCarthy spoke in favor of this petition. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to conduct a speed study at this location.**
- C. Beaver Street/Warren Street Final Design Plans 6**
Nitsch Engineering has completed the design plans for the intersection improvements at Beaver Street/Warren Street. Nitsch Engineering presented the final design plan for this intersection. The plan includes reconstructed sidewalks, mill and overlay pavement within the project limits, a new traffic signal to better control traffic through the intersection, raised islands to channel traffic, protected pedestrian phases, and a reduced radius for the curve on the north side of the intersection. Traffic Commission members requested that the pedestrians crossing Warren Street get a protected crossing phase. Nitsch suggested that incorporating a leading pedestrian interval would achieve the same effect, with less traffic impact, since Pelham Rd doesn't have a large volume of vehicles. **Voted to approve the design and seek bids (approximately \$1.1 million) for construction.**
- D. Updated Development Prospectus for 1254-1256 Main Street 11**
Two development prospectuses for 1254-1256 Main Street were submitted, changing the previous recreational marijuana store to a medical marijuana store/warehouse delivery service. There is no change to any of the previously accepted traffic study, since the project is expected to generate the same level of vehicle traffic. **Voted to accept the revised Development Prospectus and forward it to the City Council for their deliberations.**
- E. Updated Traffic Impact for 455 Totten Pond Road 35**
The size of the proposed office and lab at 455 Totten Pond Road (previously accepted by Traffic Commission) has been reduced. VHB presented the trip generation memo, showing improved traffic operations. Since this is a reduction in square footage for the project, the overall traffic impacts are projected to be less than what was presented in the 2022 Traffic Impact Study, which was previously accepted. **Voted to accept the revised trip generation memo for the reduced size development at 455 Totten Pond Road.**
- F. Proposed Research and Development Building, 460 Totten Pond Road 41**
Vanasse & Associates presented the Traffic Impact Assessment for the proposed building at 460 Totten Pond Road, including the new connection from Fifth Avenue to Totten Pond Road,

and a new traffic signal on Totten Pond Road. The project consists of demolishing the existing building and replacing it with about 417,000 square feet of research and development space. There are an estimated 171 additional AM peak hour trips, and 155 additional PM peak hour trips. A new connection between Fifth Avenue and Totten Pond Road (a private way) is proposed with the installation of sidewalks, a new intersection with Totten Pond Road controlled by a full traffic signal, coordination with existing signals, and replacing existing traffic signal equipment at Totten Pond Road/Winter Street Extension.

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin made the following recommendations for the Traffic Impact Report to be accepted:

First: The Traffic Consultant needs to provide a full signal warrant analysis for review before approving the traffic signal.

Second: The Traffic Commission approved a conceptual layout of improvements to the Totten Pond Road corridor. Two eastbound lanes approaching Winter Street extension, have the left lane exclusively turning left onto Winter Street. The proponent suggests both lanes to travel eastbound as it approaches Prospect Hill Park. This should be denied and the applicant should reconsider the design along this corridor.

Voted to accept the impact study with the following conditions:

1: Show additional detail about the redistribution of non-project traffic as a result of the new connection between Firth Avenue and Totten Pond Road

2: show the complete traffic signal warrant analysis for the site driveway

3: revise the proposed design of Totten Pond Road corridor and accept the Traffic Commission conceptual design for the eastbound traffic not to be reduced to one lane as it approaches the Prospect Hill/Veterans Memorial Skating Rink

G. MBTA Bus Shelter Purchase Options for Carter Street

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The MBTA has finalized official details for purchasing modern bus shelters. Additional funding will be required for the proposed upgrades to the two bus shelters on Carter Street. The bus shelter design that would be most appropriate for Carter Street is the Solar Powered Standard Model # 41866-01S; which is 15 feet long by 5.5 feet deep, and includes a bench. The cost is \$42,000 each. After the initial purchase, the MBTA commits to take over all maintenance costs which includes snow and ice removal. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to seek additional funding in the amount of \$60,000 and complete the order form to purchase these shelters for installation on Carter Street.**

H. Clarification for Moody Street Outdoor Dining, 2023

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Doug Waybright of the Waltham Chamber of Commerce requested a clarification on the rules for restaurants participating in outdoor dining on Moody Street for this summer. Mr. Waybright asked for consideration to allow restaurants to serve food and beverages all seven days per week. However, according to the Licensing Department, this has not been approved. The only

time approved for outdoor dining will be from Thursday 4pm through Sunday 11pm. If a restaurant has a license to operate before 11am, then that restaurant has the ability to serve outdoors in the morning according to the existing license. Consideration to have the street closed to vehicular traffic on the three Monday Holidays was requested. **Voted to extend the Moody Street closure to vehicular traffic to allow for outdoor dining until Tuesday morning at 5am on weekends with Monday holidays: Monday, May 29, 2023; Monday, June 19, 2023; and Monday, September 4, 2023.**

I. Employee Parking Placard for Jon Millian, Building Maintenance 80
Jon Millian is requesting an employee parking pass for use while on City business. **Voted to approve this request and issue an Employee Placard.**

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

- A. Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19) (9/19) – Councilor Durkee
- B. # 80-86 Orange St. – Whalen Housing Authority (9/19) – Councilor Harris
- C. City Wide Speed Study - (5/20) (9/20)** Mass DOT responded and recommendations for Speed Limits were submitted for the Commission to review. **82**

The Traffic Commission voted to approve speed limits on six streets across the City, in accordance with the results from MassDOT. The following locations have been added to the existing Speed Limit Schedule 17 and will be posted as follows:

Added to Schedule 17 (Speed Regulations) the following: Permit # 7966

	From	To	Speed Limit
Bear Hill Road	Main Street	1,320 ft. north of Main St.	35 MPH
Bear Hill Road	1,320 ft. north of Main St.	5,280 ft. north of Main St.	30 MPH
Bear Hill Road	5,280 ft. north of Main St.	Winter St	35 MPH
Lexington St.	Main St	School St	25 MPH
Lexington St.	School St	Totten Pond Rd.	30 MPH
Lexington St.	Totten Pond Rd.	Lake St.	35 MPH
Lexington St.	Lake St.	Lexington Town Line	30 MPH
Beaver St.	Lexington St.	Forest St.	30 MPH
Beaver St.	Forest St.	Waverley Oaks Rd.	35 MPH
Beaver St.	Waverley Oaks Rd.	Warren St.	30 MPH
Forest St.	Beaver St.	Trapelo Rd.	35 MPH
Main St.	Weston Town Line	Prospect Hill Rd.	35 MPH
Main St.	Prospect Hill Rd.	Linden St.	25 MPH
Main St.	Linden St.	Watertown Town Line	35 MPH
South St.	Weston Town Line	6,600 ft. north Weston Line	35 MPH
South St.	6,600 ft. north of Weston Line	Weston St.	30 MPH
	Weston Town Line		

- D. Wyman St. – Proposed RRFB (5/21)
- E. Adams St. at Crescent St. – Proposed All-Way and Corridor Study – Councilor Harris (11/21) (11/22) (12/22)
- F. Trapelo Rd at Clocktower Rd – Proposed Traffic Signal – Mayor McCarthy (12/21)
- G. *Bedford St – Speeding Issues – Mayor McCarthy (12/21) (9/22)
- H. Willow St – Speed Limit Signage, Sidewalks, and Parking – Councilor LaCava (12/21)
- I. Lowell St – Proposed Traffic Study for Pedestrian and Public Safety – Councilor Harris (12/21) (9/22) (11/22)
- J. Main Street at Newton St & Lyman St – Traffic Signal Coordination (1/22) (11/22)
- K. *Harrington Road Speed Study (Mayor McCarthy) (3/22) (9/22)
- L. *Villa Street: Speed Bumps (Mayor McCarthy) (4/22) (9/22)
- M. *Elm St/River St Signal Warrant (Mayor McCarthy) (5/22)
- N. Lexington Street Bike Path (Councilor Darcy) (9/22)
- O. Charles Street Traffic Calming – Grant Street and Harvard Street (Councilors LaCava and Paz) (9/22) (11/22) (12/22)
- P. Everett Street Signage and Speed Study – Councilor Katz (11/22)
- Q. 240/265 Beaver Street Traffic Safety Analysis – Councilor Bradley-MacArthur (11/22)
- R. Bright Street Improvements – Councilor LaCava (12/22)
- S. Brandeis Crosswalk on South Street, Improved Visibility – Councilor Katz (12/22) (1/23)
- T. MBTA Better Bus Project Update (1/23)
- U. Adams Street Speed and Safety Study (2/23)

V. RRFB Request for Dale Street at Caughey Street (2/23) 93

The Traffic Commission reconsidered its position on the installation of this type of control. Consideration will be governed on the merits of the location. The amount of traffic, and its location/proximity to schools, playgrounds and other attractions should be considered during a warrant analysis. There are no defined warrants issued by MassDOT and the Commission can act on its own authority. **Voted to amend previous considerations and install an RRFB at this location.**

W. Nathan Road Safety Study – Councilor Katz (3/23) 97

Traffic Engineering completed a study of this intersection of Nathan Road at Main Street and concluded that there is lack of visibility for a vehicle exiting Nathan Road to the left. It was recommended that some parking be removed to ease the visibility problem. **Voted to prohibit some parking on the south side and amend Schedule 1 as follows:**

Add:

Main Street, south side, from 75'west of Nathan Road to Nathan Road, No Parking

X. Hastings Street Parking – Councilor LaCava (4/23) 99

Traffic Engineering completed a study of this location and agreed that parking on the west side of Hastings Street opposite the perpendicular parked cars for the playground is not advisable.

Voted to accept the recommendation and prohibit parking as follows:

Add to Schedule the following:

Hastings Street, west side, from Grove Street to Clark Street, No Parking

- Y. Parmenter Road Comprehensive Traffic Study – Councilor Harris (4/23)
- Z. Barbara/Chaffee All Way Stop – Councilor McLaughlin (4/23)
- AA. Longfellow/Fairfax and Whitman/Fairfax Study – Councilor McLaughlin (4/23)
- AB. Warren St Crosswalk at Waverley St/Wayne St – Councilor McLaughlin (4/23)

2. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report- Parking revenue is up approximately \$71K from this time last year
- B. Traffic Commission Status Report – Crescent St parking lines along entire length have been completed; Main St. westbound at Newton St. thermoplastic completed
- C. Traffic Signal Inventory: Main Street/Weston Street/South Street – fix loop detection; coordinate the signals, update signal phasing, fix pedestrian signal head; rotate pedestrian head (P2) in correct direction.
- D. Traffic Signal Inventory: Main Street/Newton Street – coordinate the intersection; fix loop detection; update signal phasing; replace two existing crosswalk push buttons
- E. Status Report on Numerous Intersections - Discussion

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

- 4A: **Felton and Harvard Street - stop sign – Request of member Mr. Magno**
Voted to have the Traffic Engineer review the effectiveness of the All-Way Stop located at this intersection
- B: **Embassy Parking Farmer's Market – The Upper Deck of the Embassy Lot has been closed for renovations. Voted to allow the Farmer's Market Vendors to park in any available space provided the authorized placard is displayed while the Upper Deck is closed.**

Attendance: All members present

Respectfully Submitted
Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk