

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD: FEBRUARY 20, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M.  
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

**The Chair will accepted a motion and the minutes of the January meeting were approved.**

**1. PETITIONED ITEMS:**

**A. 25 Lexington St. – Mid-Block Crosswalk & RRFB**

Mayor McCarthy and Colette Casey-Brenner along with numerous City employees of 25 Lexington St. are requesting a crosswalk & RRFB. Mayor McCarthy and Ms. Casey-Brenner spoke of the issues concerning visitors crossing mid-block from the Central Square Parking Deck to the offices at 25 Lexington Street. Questions relative to the design of the Parking Deck were raised because it is not suitable for pedestrians or foot traffic. An MBTA bus stop is also located at the parking deck,(on Lexington Street). Although, there is an existing crosswalk within 300 feet (Lexington @ Main St) pedestrians continue to cross mid-block. Lexington Street in this area has two southbound lanes which makes seeing the pedestrian starting to cross the street a problem.

Traffic Engineer. Mr.Garvin, recommended not to install a mid-block crosswalk with a RRFB. The crosswalk requires HP ramps (which must go from a sidewalk to a sidewalk) and removal of some on-street parking. Vehicles during high volume time, will back up from Main Street into the crosswalk. Pedestrians will assume that it is a safe place to cross.

Member Ms.Cagle asked for consideration of a raised table, and Fire Chief MacInnis stated the Fire Department opposes raised tabled or speed bumps. Member Mr. Kelly favored the RRFB as an increased safety measure. Member Mr. Waddick agreed that the crosswalk with RRFB would be better for safety than the conditions that exist now. Chief MacPherson's remarks were that safety is paramount and liability must be considered. A proper sidewalk is needed within the parking deck to connect to an appropriate crosswalk on Lexington Street. Member Mr. Magno proposed further review for consideration of a sidewalk installation and an optimum location for a crosswalk. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer report various alternatives and his recommendation's at a future meeting.**

**B. Cutting Lane at Stow St. – Proposed RRFB**

Councillor Mackin states that the portable pedestrian crosswalk sign is not working and is requesting a permanent RRFB to be installed instead. This intersection qualifies for a portable pedestrian crosswalk sign. The sign was not put in place in 2019 due to street being repaved and the winter months (all pedestrian street signs are removed for the Winter). Due to the topography, clear new signage is needed to replace old faded signs. In addition, a pedestrian count is needed to justify a RRFB. Wires Director also stated that he will add additional lighting on the pole. **Voted to table this item, have the existing signs replaced, and conduct a pedestrian count on a typical weekday between the hours of 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm.**

**C. Weston St./ Rt. 20 – No Engine Braking signs**

Councillor Mackin is requesting "No Engine Braking" signs on Weston St. from Stow St. to Eddy St. Many of the truck routes that enter the City pass residential homes. In this case, Weston Street, Route 20, comes under the jurisdiction of MassDOT. Permission would be needed to install such a sign.

**Voted to approve Traffic Engineers recommendation to send a letter to MassDOT seeking permission to install a "No Engine Braking" sign on Weston St. eastbound near Stow Street.**

#### **D. Third Ave. Interchange Design – Update**

Rob Nagi with VHB presented the new design plans for review and acceptance. This presentation addressed some adjustments to the project.

- The northbound exit ramp (I-95) will have three lanes to the right onto Third Ave. The right lane for south onto Third Avenue going toward Fourth Avenue. The two left lanes are for Prospect Hill Lane only and there will be No Left Turn onto Third Ave. Vehicles for Winter Street or Totten Pond Road will continue on the northbound exit ramp and use Wyman Street to turn southbound toward Winter Street/Totten Pond Road, as it does now.
- Third Avenue will have eight (8) lanes from Winter Street south to Prospect Hill Lane, four southbound lanes, the two left lanes for turning left onto Prospect Hill Lane, and two right lanes to go straight toward Fourth Avenue. There is no right turn onto the I-95 northbound ramp. The four northbound lanes will have one exclusive right turn onto Totten Pond Road, one exclusive straight lane to Wyman Street and two left turn lanes onto winter Street. Some easements will be needed.
- Prospect Hill Lane will be able to enter I-95 northbound exit ramp going straight across Third Avenue and avoiding the Winter Street/Totten Pond Road/Third Avenue intersection.
- There will be a full sidewalk on the east side of third Avenue.

Work is anticipated to commence in the Spring 2020 with completion by the Fall 2020. This is Phase 1, and is privately financed at an estimate of \$67 million dollars. This design plan is subject to review by MassDOT **It was voted to accept this 25% design with the technical and formal comments by the Traffic Commission and have VHB continue with the regulatory process**

#### **E. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fitzgerald Fun Run**

Christine Young is requesting permission to hold this event on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 6:00 PM. **Voted to accept the recommendation of Lt. Cavallaro and forward a recommendation for a permit to be issued.**

#### **F. Shifter's 5K for Dana Farber**

Rich Horgan is requesting permission to hold this event on Saturday, April 4, 2020 at 11:00 AM. **Voted to accept the recommendation of Lt. Cavallaro and forward a recommendation for a permit to be issued.**

#### **G. 6<sup>th</sup> Annual YMCA Five to Thrive 5K Road Race**

Kerry Lee is requesting permission to hold this event on Saturday, July 25, 2020 at 9:00 AM. **Voted to accept the recommendation of Lt. Cavallaro and forward a recommendation for a permit to be issued.**

#### **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. Totten Pond Rd. at Veterans Memorial Ice Rink – Proposed Traffic Signal (2/18)(4/18)
- C. Derby St. at Lowell St. – Traffic Improvements (9/18)
- D. Warren St. – Traffic Safety Issues (5/19)
- E. Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19)(10/19)
- F. # 80-86 Orange St. – Whalen Housing Authority (9/19)

**Voted to remove from the table**

G. Oakley Lane near Beaver Street – No Parking (10/19). Traffic Engineering installed No Parking Here to Corner signs 30' from intersection. **Voted to Place on file.**

**Voted to remove from the table**

**H. Whitney Ave. Private Way – Loading Zone (12/19)(1/20)**

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin agreed that it has become increasingly difficult for the tenant to operate with unloading a huge truckload of inventory and then travel through the front of the store from Moody Street to the rear of the store. Some options were discussed at the January meeting and after further review it was recommended to reserve some space in the Crescent Street lot for a loading zone.

**Voted to approve the Traffic Engineer's recommendation and reserve the area defined by parking spaces 260 through 277 in the Crescent Street Parking Lot as a Loading Zone (commercial plates required) each day between 7:00 am and 10:00 am.**

I Trapelo Rd. at Our Lady's Church – Crosswalk Options (12/19)

**Voted to remove from the table**

J. **Floyd St. – Restrict Parking on One Side or Make One-Way (12/19).** Floyd Street measures 26.5 feet wide, curb to curb. With parking on both sides this leaves 12.5 feet for two-way traffic. In December 2016 the two-hour restriction was removed and this parking issue arose. An option to have the street made one-way was not supported by the residents. The preferred option was to restrict parking on the east side. The Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended this option.

**Voted to prohibit parking on the east side of Floyd Street as follows:**

**Add to Schedule #1 – Parking, Standing & Stopping Restriction**

**Floyd Street, east side, entire length - No Parking**

**Voted to remove from the table**

**K. Review Citywide Street Widths for Minimum 25 feet width (12/19)**

After a review, it was noted that many of the narrow streets are "Private Ways". Questions arose concerning the authority of the Traffic Commission to enact and or modify rules/regulations on a private way particularly when it affects passage of Fire Apparatus. **Voted to send a request to the Law Department for an opinion of jurisdiction, and who if any, has the authority to enact traffic rules when public safety is the concern.**

L. Trapelo Rd. at Graverson Playground – Possible Raised Table (12/19)

M. Crescent St. Parking Lot Dumpster Issue (1/20)

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**A. Parking Meter Report** – Collected funds were similar to January of 2019

**B. Piety Corner – Update** – Wires Dept. will be working with utility company for placement of utility poles. There is a delay in removal of the home debris.

**C. High/Joyce/Hamblin – Update** – Construction work will start Spring 2020.

**D. Proposed FY2021 Budget (Member Mr. Magno recused himself)** After a review it was voted to submit the budget as presented by the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin

**E. Main/Gore & Warren – Update** – Mayor McCarthy reported that the request for funding (September 2019) to design this intersection is being withheld. The recommended design was based on the City's Master Traffic Plan prepared by McMahon Transportation Engineers October 2016 (p5-51). At a neighborhood meeting many questions were raised by the residents and they need to be addressed. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer work with Wires Director for further study and report back to the Commission.**

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

**Attendance:** All members except Mr. Chiasson present; Mayor McCarthy and Councillor Mackin.

**Adjourned@ 12:09 PM  
Respectfully Submitted**

**Frank S. Lombardo  
Clerk**

Date of the Meeting: February 20, 2020

Please Print

Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Colette Casey-Brennen	25 Lexington St	Crosswalk 25 Lexington St	Petitioner
Rob Nagi	101 Walnut Street Watertown, MA	Third Ave	V.H.B. Engineer
Jeff Vecchio	299-309 Moody St	Loading Zone	Property Owner
Catrina Ruechauld	25 Lexington St	Crosswalk 25 Lexington St	Petitioner
Jeannette A McCarthy	610 Main St	25 Lexington St Gore St/Barbara Rd	Mayor of Waltham
Kristine Mackin	12 Wheelock Ter	Crosswalk Cutting Lane & Weston St No Engine Braking	Ward 7 Councillor