

Traffic Commission Minutes
April 23, 2020

The meeting was held virtually on Thursday April 23, 2020 at 5:30pm via the following link:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/426488725>

Attendance: Lena Webb, Lt. Polito, Steve MacEachern, Thomas Graney, Mark Niedergang
Staff: Laura Accaputo, Suzanne Rinfret, Anna Rebelo, Jacqueline Stagnari, Brad Rawson, Viola Augustin, Adam Polinski, Justin Schreiber

The Chair called the meeting to order @ 5:30pm

Item #1 – Minutes from the March 12, 2020 Traffic Commission Meeting were accepted unanimously

Item #2 – Request that the posted speed limit on the following streets is reduced from 30 mph to 25 mph:

Street	Direction	From	To
Broadway	East	Route 16 (Alewife Brook Pkwy)	Boston City Line
Broadway	West	Mt Vernon St	Route 16 (Alewife Brook Pkwy)
Cameron Ave	North	Cambridge City Line	Holland St
Cameron Ave	South	Holland St	Cambridge City Line
Middlesex Ave	North	Route 38 (Mystic Ave)	Route 28 (Fellsway)
Middlesex Ave	South	Route 28 (Fellsway)	Route 38 (Mystic Ave)
Washington St	East	Route 28 (McGrath Hwy)	Boston City Line
Washington St	West	Boston City Line	Route 28 (McGrath Hwy)

Lt. Polito made a motion to Approve, 2nd by Mark Niedergang. Motion passed: 5-0.

Item #3 – Request that the following streets are designated as 20 mph Safety Zones:

Street	Direction	From	To
Quincy Street	North	Somerville Ave	Summer Street
Church Street	South	Summer Street	Somerville Ave
Bow Street	West	Summer Street	Somerville Ave
Bow Street	West	Stone Ave	Summer St
Warren Ave	Both	Bow St	Columbus Ave
Sanborn Ave	East	Walnut St	Warren Ave
Stone Ave	North	Somerville Ave	Columbus Ave
Bonner Ave	Both	Washington Street	Columbus Ave
Columbus Ave	Both	Walnut Street	Stone Ave
Columbus Ave	East	Stone Ave	Washington Street
Merriam Street	South	Washington Street	Somerville Ave
Rossmore Street	South	Washington Street	Somerville Ave
Mansfield Street	North	Somerville Ave	Washington Street
Boston Street	Both	Walnut Street	Prospect Hill Ave
Boston Street	South	Prospect Hill Ave	Washington Street
Munroe Street	Both	Walnut Street	Boston Street

Prospect Hill Pkwy	Both	Columbus Ave	Munroe St
Prospect Hill Ave	Both	Columbus Ave	Route 28 (McGrath Hwy)
Greenville Street	Both	Munroe Street	Route 28 (McGrath Hwy)
Bigelow St	Both	Munroe Street	Boston Street
Hamlet Street	Both	Highland Ave	Boston Street
Walnut Street	North	Bow Street	Pearl Street
Aldersey Street	Both	Walnut Street	Vinal Ave
Summit Ave	Both	Walnut Street	Vinal Ave
Pleasant Ave	Both	Walnut Street	Vinal Ave
Grand View Ave	Both	Walnut Street	Vinal Ave
Vinal Ave	South	Highland Ave	Summer Street
Putnam Street	Both	Highland Ave	Summer Street
Prescott Street	Both	Highland Ave	Summer Street
School Street	South	Medford Street	Somerville Ave
Pearl Street	Both	Medford Street	Route 28 (McGrath Hwy)
Skilton Ave	Both	Pearl Street	Pearl Street
Jasper Street	Both	Pearl Street	Gilman Street
Virginia Street	Both	Jasper Street	Aldrich Street
Aldrich Street	South	Route 28 (McGrath Hwy)	Gilman Street
Gilman Street	West	Aldrich Street	Walnut Street

Lt. Polito made a motion to Approve, 2nd by Mark Niedergang. Motion passed: 5-0.

Item #4 – Request that parking is restricted at the following locations for the duration of the School Street bridge closure between May 15, 2020 and April 30, 2021:

- a) West side of School St between Richdale Ave and Highland Ave (approximately 18 permit parking spaces)
- b) East side of School St between Richdale Ave and Montrose St (approximately 4 permit parking spaces)
- c) North side of Pearl St between Medford St and Walnut St (approximately 16 permit parking spaces and 8 two-hour except by permit parking spaces)
- d) East side of Sycamore St between Richdale Ave and Montrose St (approximately 4 permit parking spaces)
- e) West side of Walnut St between Highland Ave and Medford St. The loading zone, 3 two-hour except by permit spaces, and 1 permit parking space that are currently there will be moved to the eastern side of the street.

Thomas Graney made a motion to Approve (all), 2nd by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 5-0.

Item #5 – Request that the full length of Montrose St is converted from one-way to two-way vehicular traffic for the duration of the School Street bridge closure between May 15, 2020 and April 30, 2021

Item #6 – Request that School St between Highland Av and Medford St is converted from one-way to two-way for construction vehicles only for the duration of the School Street bridge closure between May 15, 2020 and April 30, 2021.

Item #7 – Request that Walnut St between Medford St and Highland Ave is converted from one-way to two-way for emergency vehicles only for the duration of the School Street bridge closure between May 15, 2020 and April 30, 2021.

Item #8 – Request that contraflow bicycling is permitted on Sycamore St between Richdale Ave and Montrose St for the duration of the School Street bridge closure between May 15, 2020 and April 30, 2021.

- The Commission discussed Items 5-8 collectively

Thomas Graney made a motion to Approve Items 5, 6, 7, and 8, 2nd by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 5-0.

Item #9 – Request that the “No Parking Here to Corner” designation on the east side of Lowell St, just south of Albion St, is extended by an additional 40 feet to improve sight lines for vehicles and pedestrians approaching from Albion St. This would restrict on-street parking at 2 spaces that are currently designated as residential permit parking.

- Brad Rawson stated his team has been working with businesses and residents in this area to improve safety.
- Mark Niedergang supports the request and stated many neighbors also support it. He believes it will prevent accidents.

Thomas Graney made a motion to Approve, 2nd by Mark Niedergang. Motion passed: 5-0.

Prior Business

Item #10 – Review of the All Way Stop at the intersection of Summer St and Cherry St (approved August 2018 for 1 year trial, reviewed in Oct 2019 and approved for an additional 6 month trial period)

- Brad Rawson explained since the last discussion his team has reviewed the SPD crash data and found crashes have been down since this trial period began. He recommends permanent approval.

Thomas Graney made a motion to Approve, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 5-0.

Item #11 – Request for a Loading Zone, Mon-sat 8am-5pm, 517 Columbia St (tabled from 3-12-20)

- Thomas Graney stated he reviewed the area and since there is a fire lane on the opposite side there will be enough clearance for emergency vehicles.
- Suzanne Rinfret asked if there would be any restrictions in the space after 5pm and Thomas Graney stated he believes there should be No Parking after 5pm.

Thomas Graney made a motion to Approve with the amendment for No Parking from 5pm-8am, 2nd by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 5-0.

Mark Niedergang made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50pm, 2nd by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 5-0.

