

Traffic Commission Minutes  
March 14, 2019

The meeting was held in the Chambers at City Hall, 93 Highland Av, 2<sup>nd</sup> flr

Attendance: Thomas Graney, Mark Niedergang, Lt. Polito, Lena Webb

Staff: Laura Accaputo, Anna Rebelo, Suzanne Rinfret, Dan Amelin, Adam Polinski, Cortni Desir, Brad Rawson

Other: Angelina Joktouch, Karyn Coughlin

Councilor Niedergang sat as Chair for the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

**Item #1** – Motion to Accept the minutes from the February 14, 2019 Traffic Commission Meeting made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 4-0.

**Lt. Polito made a motion to take Item #6 out of order, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item #6** – Request for (2) 15 Minute Parking Spaces at 46 Broadway (Taco Loco)

- Angelina Joktouch, Developer, explained at this new location there is 2 hour parking and they are requesting 15 minute parking since it is a fast food establishment.
- Suzanne Rinfret explained enforcing 15 minute parking is difficult and often delivery drivers use these spaces, since their vehicles are being moved chalking the tires doesn't work.
- Ms. Joktouch clarified they are looking for 15 minute metered spaces.
- Mark Niedergang asked if Councilor McLaughlin was aware of the request and the Secretary answered he was.

**Mark Niedergang made a motion to amend the request to (2) 15 Minute Metered Parking Spaces, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0**

**Motion to Approve as amended made by Lena Webb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item #2** – Request for Parking for Police Cruisers Only on Washington St, from the front ramp back to the Police Department Parking Lot

- Lt. Polito stated currently police personnel park in the upper lot. If this is approved it will allow visitors to use the upper lot which is closer to the door.
- Thomas Graney asked if there would be signs letting people know they can park up there and Lt. Polito answered yes.
- Mark Niedergang asked how many spaces there are in this area and Lt. Polito answered about 5 spaces.

**Motion to Approve made by Thomas Graney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item #3** – Request for Do Not Enter 7a-9a and 4p-6p except city residents and bicycles onto Franklin Ave from Washington St until the completion of the work for the GLX project

- Suzanne Rinfret stated this request is an effort to direct people to follow the detour route and she understands the signs aren't enforceable.
- Lt. Polito stated there was a meeting on the project and all are in agreement the focus of these signs is to force people onto the detour route and there are those that will not follow.

**Motion to Approve made by Mark Niedergang, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item #4** – Request for Do Not Enter 7a-9a and 4p-6p except city residents and bicycles onto Warren Av from Bow St until the completion of the construction in Union Square

- Suzanne Rinfret stated this is similar to the reasoning behind Item #3.
- Lt. Polito stated his comments are the same as for Item #3

**Motion to Approve made by Mark Niedergang, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item #5** – Request for 2 Hour Parking 8am-2:30am except residents and Permit Parking Only 2:30am to 8am on New Washington St (Currently restricted for No Overnight Parking (12am-6am) and No Commercial Parking Anytime)

- Suzanne Rinfret stated this street was overlooked when city wide permit parking was approved.

**Motion to Approve made by Thomas Graney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item #7** – GLX - Ball Square (temporary restrictions for duration of bridge closure)

- a) Request to temporarily extend the no parking zones on Morrison Ave on either side of the intersections with Josephine Ave, Highland Rd, Pearson Ave, and Boston Ave from 20' to 40' to improve sight lines for the duration of the Ball Square bridge detour.
- Adam Polinski explained a, b, and c are all similar in that due to the increase in traffic it is important to ensure people are not parking too close to intersections for safety.
  - Mark Niedergang asked why Prichard Av and Rogers Av were not included and Adam explained those streets are one way going in and this is specifically for cars coming out onto Josephine, Highland, Pearson, and Boston.

**Motion to Approve made by Lena Webb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.**

- b) Request to temporarily remove the metered parking space on the southeast corner of College Ave at the intersection of Morrison Ave to improve sight lines for the duration of the Ball Square bridge detour.

**Motion to Approve made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0.**

- c) Request to temporarily remove the two spaces on the northwest corner of Cedar St at the intersection of Morrison Ave to improve sight lines for the duration of the Ball Square bridge detour.

**Motion to Approve made by Lena Webb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item #8 – GLX - East Somerville (temporary restrictions for duration of bridge closure)**

- Request to temporarily remove parking on Tufts St for the duration of the Washington St bridge detour to allow for adequate width for buses, bikes, and emergency vehicles to operate safely.
- Adam Polinski explained the request came from the MBTA to allow adequate width for buses, bikes, and emergency vehicles to operate safely during the detour. Currently there is only 19ft for buses to pass during the detour. He noted this would eliminate 26 parking spaces and would be reassessed once the bridge reopens.
- Mark Niedergang asked if this was for the duration of the first detour and Lt. Polito recommended it be for the duration of the entire project. Suzanne Rinfret agreed otherwise it could confuse drivers and would be cumbersome to reinstall signs.

**Motion to Approve made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0**

**Item #9 – Broadway – MBTA Bus Stop Consolidation**

- a) Request to remove 3 bus stops on Broadway: Broadway opposite Temple St (#2705); Broadway at Langmaid Ave (#2726), and Broadway at Fenwick St (#2727) – and replace with no parking signs.
- Adam Polinski stated both requests are related to a project by the MBTA to replace sidewalks. This request will make the stops more compliant with proper spacing.

**Motion to Approve made by Lena Webb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.**

- b) Request to remove 5 existing two hour parking spaces at 343 Broadway and replace with a bus stop, which will tentatively be named Broadway opposite School St.

**Motion to Approve made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item #10 – Central Broadway**

- a) Request to remove the 9 metered parking spaces on both sides of Broadway nearest the eastern side of the intersection of Medford St to accommodate new turn lanes and bike lanes.
- Adam Polinski stated the Central Broadway Project design will require removing some parking to accommodate bike and turn lanes to maintain traffic flow.

**Motion to Approve made by Lena Webb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 4-0.**

- b) Request to remove a total of 17 on-street parking spaces currently designated as 2 hour Parking or by residential permit on Broadway between Medford St and Main St. These spaces will be removed to improve sight lines at intersections and midblock crosswalks as part of a redesign of this section of Broadway.
- Adam Polinski stated this is the same concept as Item #10a, the travel and bike lanes will be flipped and the removal of these spaces will improve sight lines at intersections and midblock crosswalks.

**Motion to Approve made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item #11 – Broadway – Highway Safety Improvement Program**

- a) Request to remove 3 parking spaces on the south side of Broadway to improve sightlines and allow for the installation of a parking-protected bike lane. Two spaces are located just east of the bus stop at Cedar St, and the third is just west of the crosswalk at Charles E Ryan Rd.
- Adam Polinski asked for this item to be removed as parking is already restricted in this area.

**Motion to Place the Item on file made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item #12 – Washington St – Highway Safety Improvement Program**

- a) Request to remove 2 parking spaces on the south side of Washington St for the installation of a parking-protected bike lane. The spaces are located on the south side of Washington St, just west of the bus stop opposite Myrtle St.
- Adam Polinski explained 40ft is needed to taper back the bike lane

**Motion to Approve made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item #13 – Park St – Highway Safety Improvement Program**

- Request to remove 26 parking spaces on Park St for the installation of bike lanes. This includes 16 parking spaces on the west side between Ivaloo St and Beacon St, and 10 parking spaces on the east side between Allen Court and Somerville Ave
- Mark Niedergang asked for clarification on the location and Adam Polinski stated it should be amended to Park St between Ivaloo and Beacon. The item is amended.
  - Adam Polinski explained this program has been in the works for 2 years. The Bike Committee has designed this bike lane and supports the request. They have secured funding from Mass DOT and this is the best treatment to improve safety in this corridor,

**Motion to Approve made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Item #14 - The Traffic Commission is requesting permission to approve construction team requests for temporary signage and traffic changes necessary due to GLX construction and bridge closures.**

- Suzanne Rinfret stated the request is to add this language to the Traffic Commission Regulations so changes can be made in the field during construction projects and brought to the Commission for approval after the fact.
- Mark Niedergang asked what if the Commission did not approve it and Suzanne explained it would only be a temporary condition.
- Lt. Polito stated Suzanne Rinfret always has the best interests of the city and would trust her discretion.

**Motion to Approve made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Lena Webb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 4-0.**