

Traffic Commission Minutes  
October 22, 2020

The meeting was held virtually on Thursday October 22, 2020 at 5:00pm

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/172120629> (Please click this link to attend the virtual meeting)

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

Staff: Suzanne Rinfret, Laura Accaputo, Jackie Stagnari, Adam Poliski

Other: George Schneeloch, Tom Lamar

Mark Niedergang chaired the meeting, Steve MacEachern was excused

The meeting was called to order at 5pm

The Chair suggested an overall presentation for items a-f and then consideration for a motion to vote on all items together or separately

**Item #1 - Washington St Traffic Commission Requests**

- a) Request to modify the regulations on the north side of Washington St between Webster Ave and approximately Kingman Rd as 20 minute commercial parking or 5 minute passenger parking.
  - b) Request to restrict on-street parking on the north side of Washington St between approximately Kingman Rd and Hawkins St as part of a one-year pilot project.
  - c) Request to restrict on-street parking on the north side of Washington St between Parker St and Leland St as part of a one-year pilot project.
  - d) Request to restrict on-street parking on the south side of Washington St between Calvin St and Rose St as part of a one-year pilot project.
  - e) Request to restrict on-street parking on the south side of Washington St between Bowdoin St and Hawkins St as part of a one-year pilot project.
  - f) Request to restrict on-street parking on the south side of Washington St between Kingman Rd and Webster Ave as part of a one-year pilot project.
- Adam Poliski explained changes in this section of Washington St, Dane-Webster, were being considered to meet sustainability and safe transit initiative, and this concept was the result of community meetings and outreach through the Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee. He noted the resurfacing process has been bumped up and the MBTA reached out since bus 86 is the busiest route and rising during the pandemic. The street is not wide enough to obtain the goals of the initiative without removing parking. This will be part of a one year pilot program to see if it is succeeding.

- Mark Niedergang asked if it will come back to the commission in a year to either continue or revert back and Adam replied it will come back with recommendations at the end of the pilot.
- Lena Webb asked why this treatment isn't being extended past Dane St and Adam explained they are still working on the design and details for that section and will make a proposal in the future.
- Lt. Polito asked if residents were notified and Adam stated there was extensive outreach through flyers and a CTY call to all households in the area including side streets. The meeting was publicized and they will do another flyer drop and round of calls before implementation. They will also have sign boards and a dedicated website.
- Tom Lamar, Chair of the Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee, stated this is an important project for the bicycling network and asked how the bike lanes would be protected and Adam explained the plan is for floating parking protected bike lane with flex posts this fall with additional measures coming in the spring.
- Richard Klancer stated he sent in written remarks and the Chair acknowledged several emails sent in favor of the request that were accepted into the record.
- Commission members Polito and Webb stated they were satisfied with the outreach and Ms. Webb noted the importance to network with bike lanes.
- Thomas Graney asked how many small businesses would be affected by the loss of parking and Adam explained the entire corridor from Beacon – Webster has approximately 20 businesses mostly near Beacon St and more outreach will be done when that section comes up. This area consists largely of the Argenziano School and he will work with them and the businesses. The Chair noted he is always surprised by the availability of parking at the school as its one of the few areas without a shortage of parking.

**Lt. Polito made a motion to take all items together and approve all items (a-f), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 4-0**

**Item #2** – Request to add Permit Parking Only after 8pm to the recently approved metered parking spaces in front of 415 Medford Street

- Suzanne Rinfret explained at the last meeting the commission approved these meters and it was an oversight not to include a restriction for the off hours, she stated this will help the residents.
- Mark Niedergang agreed this was the original intent and stated he fully supports the added restriction.

**Mark Niedergang made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0.**

**Mark Niedergang made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:25pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.**