

Traffic Commission Minutes
September 12, 2019

The meeting was held at the TAB Building, 167 Holland St 2nd flr atrium

Attendance: Stan Koty, Thomas Graney, Mark Niedergang, Lena Webb: Not in attendance Lt. Polito
Staff: Laura Accaputo, Anna Rebelo, Suzanne Rinfret, Adam Poliski

Chairman Koty called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

Item #1 – Motion made to Accept the Minutes from the July 11, 2019 Traffic Commission Meeting made by Mark Niedergang, 2nd by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 4-0

Item #2 – Request for Handicapped Parking

- a) 28 Walker St
 - b) 56 Line St
 - c) 33 Porter St
 - d) 79 Highland Av (2 spaces, per 2019-29 to take effect immediately upon installation of signage, for the duration of the construction at the High School)
 - e) School St (1 additional space to be added directly in front of the 3 existing spaces beside City Hall per 2019-29 to take effect immediately upon installation of signage, for the duration of the construction at the High School)
- Director Rinfret explained the ADA Coordinator could not be in attendance but she is in favor of all 5 requests.
 - Mark Niedergang asked for clarification of 2019-29 and Director Rinfret explained it is the regulation that allows the TC to approve construction team requests for temporary signage and/or traffic changes, these changes may be made on site prior to formal TC approval

Motion to Approve made by Mark Niedergang, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #3 – Request for Loading Zone

- a) 229 Lowell St, Mon-Fri 8am - 12noon
 - b) Walnut St, west side, just prior to the library lot extending 40ft, Mon-Sat, 8am-2pm (per 2019-29 to take effect immediately upon installation of signage, for the duration of the construction at the High School)
- Director Rinfret stated T&P had no objection to either request.

Motion to Approve made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #4 – Request for 2 Hour Parking Except by Permit 8am-2:30am, Permit Parking Only 2:30am-8am Walnut St, west side, from Highland Av to Medford St

- Director Rinfret explained this request came from the library due to the loss of parking spaces.

Motion to Approve made by Mark Niedergang, 2nd by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #5 – Request for School Bus/Van Pick Up and Drop Off, Mon-Fri 7am-3pm, Sept – June on Highland Ave in the first 2 spaces at the driveway entrance to the concourse (per 2019-29 to take effect immediately upon installation of signage, for the duration of the construction at the High School)

- Director Rinfret explained the High School shop students are being bussed to the Edgerly School continuously throughout the day and this will give them a safe place to load and unload.

Motion to Approve made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #6 – Request to implement 3-way stop control at the intersection of Temple Rd and Putnam Rd on a 90-day trial basis, pending the results of a traffic study to be conducted by the Mobility division of OSPCD.

- Adam Poliski explained this request is due to limited sight lines for pedestrians, they would like to test if an additional stop sign will improve safety

Motion to Approve made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #7- Request to convert the existing on-street parking regulations on Fellsway West, where it is currently permit parking only between 10pm and 8am, to 2 hour parking except by permit from 8am to 10pm and permit parking only from 10pm to 8am.

- Adam Poliski explained this request came from the Ward 4 Councilor as this street is currently unregulated during the day and this restriction will benefit the neighborhood.

Motion to Approve made by Mark Niedergang, 2nd by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #8 – Request to consolidate the bus stops on Medford St at Trull St (#23821) and Bartlett St (#2384) into one stop at Glenwood Rd. Bus stops at Trull St and Bartlett St to be converted to 2 hour parking except by permit from 8am to 2:30am and permit parking only from 2:30am to 8:00am.

- Adam Poliski explained the sidewalks are being redone and this consolidation makes sense and will improve spacing. He also noted this will increase parking spaces.
- The Chair asked for clarification for the hours requested for resident permit parking and Director Rinfret explained it is consistent throughout the city.

Motion to Approve made by Lena Webb, 2nd by Mark Niedergang. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #9 – Request to remove the bus stops on Medford St at Thurston St (#2387) and opposite Thurston St (#2399) due to the close proximity of stops at Sycamore St and School St. Bus stops to be replaced with 2 hour parking except by permit from 8am to 2:30am and permit parking only from 2:30am to 8:00am.

- Adam Poliski explained the same reasoning for Item #8 applies to this request.

Motion to Approve made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #10 – Request to extend the bus stop on Medford St at Sycamore St (#2386) to meet the minimum stop length, requiring the removal of one on-street parking space currently designated as 2 hour parking except by permit.

- Adam Poliski explained the sidewalk on Sycamore St will be bumped out and this request is to meet ADA minimum requirements

Motion to Approve made by the Chair, 2nd by Mark Niedergang. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #11 – Request to create 2 new bus stops on Prospect St to accommodate the rerouting of the 91 bus. One stop will be created in the southbound, or inbound, direction at Oak St, and will stop in the travel lane. The second stop will be created in the northbound, or outbound, direction at Webster Ave, and will require the conversion of 3 spaces currently designated as permit parking only.

- Adam Poliski explained this request is due to the reconstruction of Inman Sq since buses cannot travel from Cambridge St onto Springfield St, this request is the result of a collaborative effort between the Cities of Somerville and Cambridge and the MBTA.

Motion to Approve made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #12 – Request to remove 8 bus stops to accommodate the rerouting of the 91 bus. This includes Newton St at Clark St (#2765), Newton St at Concord Square (#2766), Springfield St at Newton St (#2767), and Springfield St opposite Houghton St (#12767) in the inbound direction, and Springfield St at Houghton St (#2768), Springfield St at Newton St (#2769), Newton St at Concord Square (#2770), and Newton St at Webster Ave (#2530) in the outbound direction. Bus stops to be replaced with permit parking only at stops #2530, #2766, #2767, and #12767

- Adam Poliski explained the same reasoning for Item #11 applies to this request.

Motion to Approve made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #13 – Request to restrict parking 20 feet in advance of the newly-constructed crosswalk on Medford St at Bartlett St on the south side of the street to provide better sightlines for both pedestrians and motor vehicles.

- Adam Poliski explained this request is due to a new crosswalk.
- The Chair stated his concern for pedestrian safety at crosswalks and suggested more outreach from the city with an emphasis on the dangers of distracted walking.

Motion to Approve made by Mark Niedergang, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #14 – Request to restrict left-hand turns, except bikes, from Beacon St northbound onto Museum St due to poor sightlines where the southbound cycle track transitions to a curbside bike lane.

- Adam Poliski explained this is to increase safety.

Motion to Approve made by Mark Niedergang, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0.

Prior Business

Item #15 – Review of the All Way Stop at the intersection of Summer St and Cherry St, approved for a one year trial period in August 2018

- Mark Niedergang stated he made this request last year due to numerous complaints from residents of the dangerousness of the intersection. Since implementation there has been a huge improvement.
- Adam Poliski stated they are still working on the follow up study and requested the item be tabled until next month.

Motion to Table the Item for one month made by Mark Niedergang, 2nd by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #16 – Review of the Handicapped Parking Space at 15 Russell Rd, approved for a 6 month trial period in February 2019. We are requesting an additional 3 month trial period.

Motion to Approve an additional 3 month trial period made by the Chair, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 4-0.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6pm made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed 4-0.

Rest in Peace Mr. Chairman

