

\CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

Voting Members Present: Captain Boudreau, Councilor Downs, Mitchell Fischman, Resident Traffic Council Member, David Koses (DPW), and Isaac Prizant (DPW)

Also Present: Councilors Greenberg, Leary and Oliver, Jeremy Freudberg, Alternate Resident Traffic Council Member

City Staff: Adrian Ayala, Transportation Engineer, Danielle Delaney, Committee Clerk

Mr. Koses and Mr. Ayala provided a PowerPoint presentation, attached.

TC46-22 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, requesting to add a stop sign at the end of Exeter Street at Berkeley Street. (Ward 3) [08/23/22 @ 11:12 AM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0-1 (Downs abstained). Approved the language of TPR 839. This item may be appealed through the close of business October 5, 2022.**

NOTE: Council members were provided with a map, site photos, considerations and a recommendation.

Mr. Koses stated that this item was docketed after receiving a 311 request from nearby residents.

Mr. Koses stated that there are no warrants that apply. A "T" intersection is an implied stop. It is not necessary to install a stop sign. A stop sign is allowed and there is no reason not to install a stop sign at a "T" intersection. Mr. Koses recommends adding a stop sign at this location.

Public Comment:

A resident stated that he is opposed to installing a stop sign at this intersection. It is not necessary. Some areas of the City have too many signs taking away a residential feeling. He stated that he has not witnessed any speeding cars, screeching brakes or traffic issues at this intersection. His children crossed the street to go to school without incident. A large house clearly defines where Exeter Street ends. The Peirce Elementary School has a few yearly walks through the neighborhood without incident. An additional sign would be an eye sore and is not necessary.

Mr. Koses stated that the City is always concerned about installing too many signs. Traffic Council usually approves this type of stop sign request. Mr. Koses stated that his decision is flexible on installing a stop sign. If there is strong community opposition, Traffic Council should take that into consideration.

Mr. Fischman stated that he supports this request. Traffic Council approves stop signs at locations like this often. He asked whether the 311 request was available.

Mr. Prizant said that Traffic Council is open to not approving a stop sign at this location if there is not a safety issue. There have been zero reported crashes in the past five years. There was one single vehicle crash. However, he supports approving a stop sign because it will add a safety factor.

Councilor Downs stated that she agrees that some areas has 'sign clutter'. She then said that her decision is flexible on installing a stop sign. She asked whether residents could request a stop sign in the future if it were to be denied. Mr. Koses explained that Traffic Council can approve the stop sign, wait the 20-days to see if the item is appealed. If appealed, City Council would make the final decision. If Traffic Council votes to deny the request, it may be appealed where City Council would make the final decision. On a vote of approval or denial there is a one-year wait before the item may be redocketed. If Traffic Council votes no action necessary on the request, the request could be redocketed at any time.

Mr. Freudberg suggested relocating the street sign post to the right side for posting the stop sign. He then asked Mr. Koses if he can recall the context of the 311 request. Mr. Prizant answered that the request was placed through 311 in August 2022. The request was made by a resident, who requested a stop sign at the corner of Exeter and Berkeley, on Exeter. She claimed that the area is well traversed to go to school.

Mr. Koses then stated that he recalls this ticket and DPW reviewed the area. Residents walk down Berkeley Street to and from the Peirce Elementary School and may be crossing Exeter Street at this location. Staff wanted to help ensure that cars stop before turning left or right onto Berkeley Street, which is why this request was docketed.

Captain Boudreau stated his decision is flexible on installing a stop sign. There has been one accident in the past five years. He suggested reaching out to hear from the resident who requested the stop sign.

Mr. Ayala stated that a stop sign is never placed on a street sign. A stop sign is required to be on its own post.

Mr. Freudberg stated the City installs stop signs on the same poles as the street signs. Mr. Ayala answered that this is not regulated by the MUTCD, but it is the best practice the City would like to see continue.

Mr. Koses described the appeals process.

Without further discussion, Mr. Fischman made a motion to approve this request. Council members agreed 4-0-1, Councilor Downs abstaining. Mr. Koses stated that this item may be appealed through the close of business on October 5, 2022.