

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

Voting Members Present: Captain Doucette, (Police), Councilor Downs, Mitchell Fischman (resident), David Koses (DPW) and Isaac Prizant (DPW)

Also Present: Jini Fairley, ADA Coordinator, Councilor Getz and Jeremy Freudberg, Alternate Resident Traffic Council Member

Mr. Koses provided a PowerPoint presentation, attached.

For more information regarding this meeting, a video recording can be found at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0s5UcE2qsLU>

AP1-24 JINI FAIRLEY, ADA COORDINATOR AND DAVID KOSES, TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR, on behalf of Roger Molloy, requesting an accessible parking space at or near 5 Murphy Court. (Ward 1) [01/03/24 @ 11:02 AM]

**The Newton Commission on Disability voted to APPROVE 8-0 on 01/08/24. HELD 5-0 on 01/18/24. Held for a trial of the following: (1) Relocate the “no parking here to corner” sign on the north side of Murphy Court 10 feet easterly, to be positioned 50 feet west of Adams Street, to be consistent with the existing location as included in the Traffic and Parking Regulations. (2) Install one new accessible parking space, to be located on the north side of Murphy Court, beginning 70 feet to the west of Adams Street. (One unrestricted parking space will be located between 50 and 70 feet west of Adams Street, on the north side of Murphy Court.)**

**ACTION: APPROVED 5-0. Approved the language of TPR 929. TPR 929 will make the trial permanent. This item may be appealed through the close of business April 3, 2024.**

**NOTE:** Mr. Koses stated that Traffic Council discussed and held this item for a trial on January 18, 2024. The trial included (1) to relocate the “no parking here to corner” sign on the north side of Murphy Court 10 feet easterly, to a point 50 feet west of Adams Street, to be consistent with the existing location as included in the TPR; and (2) to install one new accessible space, to be located on the north side of Murphy Court, beginning 70 feet to the west of Adams Street. (One unrestricted parking space will be located between 50 and 70 feet west of Adams Street, on the north side of Murphy Court.)

Mr. Koses stated that he observed the trial, it appears to be working well and recommends making the trial permanent.

There was no public comment.

Ms. Fairley agreed the trial is working well because she has not heard feedback from residents of #5 and #9 Murphy Court. She asked whether the posted sign is at the head of the accessible parking space and is the sign posted closest to #9 Murphy Court, and Mr. Koses replied that it is.

Without further discussion, Mr. Koses made a motion to approve. Council members agreed 5-0.

TC7-24 COUNCILORS DOWNS, GETZ, HUMPHREY, LOBOVITS, DANBERG AND BIXBY, requesting that Traffic Council vote to ask MassDOT to rescind the 35 MPH section of the Special Speed Regulation on Woodward Street, in both directions. If approved by Traffic Council, the City Clerk's office would notify MassDOT of the official action taken, and MassDOT would subsequently issue a modified Special Speed Regulation to reflect these changes. If the existing 35 mph Special Speed Regulations are rescinded in this area, the statutory speed limit of 25 mph would be in effect. (Wards 5 & 6) [02/21/24 @ 1:32 PM]

**ACTION:** Held 5-0. Staff will prepare a request for the Clerk's Office to forward to MassDOT to rescind the 35 MPH section of the Special Speed Regulation on Woodward Street, in both directions.

**NOTE:** Mr. Koses stated this item would be the third request that Traffic Council would be voting on, that would rescind a special speed regulation. Last year, Traffic Council voted to rescind two special speed regulations, one on Washington Street and another on Tremont Street.

The current regulatory speed limit on Woodward Street was approved by MassDOT many years ago. The recommendation is to hold this item and to request that MassDOT rescind the portions of the existing Special Speed Regulation No.785, highlighted in red. The remainder of Special Speed Regulation No.785 would be unchanged.

Woodward Street, eastbound, beginning at a point 250 feet east of Beacon Street, thence easterly on Woodward Street:

0.25 miles at 25 miles per hour

0.58 " " 35 " " "

0.17 " " 25 " " "

ending at Route 9; the total distance being 1.00 miles

Woodward Street, westbound, beginning at Route 9, thence westerly on Woodward Street: 0.17 miles at 25 miles per hour

0.58 " " 35 " " "

0.30 " " 25 " " "

ending at Beacon Street; the total distance being 1.05 miles

When we hear back from MassDOT, this item would be heard again at a future Traffic Council meeting to vote No Action Necessary and to administratively change the official traffic and parking regulations.

There was no public comment. One email was received in support, on file.

Mr. Freudberg stated that he recalls that Traffic Council first approved the request that MassDOT rescind the speed limits, and he asked whether this process is different. Mr. Koses stated that he understands that this process is correct.

Mr. Freudberg suggested Traffic Council take a straw poll supporting staff prepare a request to MassDOT to rescind the 35 mph section on Woodward Street, in both directions.

Mr. Freudberg asked whether speed data was available for Tremont Street or Washington Street after the signs were removed. Mr. Prizant answered that he can't recall, and that we intend to collect data. Mr. Koses suggested collecting data while the item is being held.

Councilor Downs stated that she is requesting a speed reduction for Woodward Street. The Washington Street speed reduction has made neighbors happy. She agrees that DPW should measure the speeds while the item is held.

Councilor Getz suggested installing "your speed is" electronic radar sign at the intersection of Beacon and Chestnut Streets alerting drivers of a speed limit change. Mr. Prizant answered that the existing signs have been installed through either a special permit or been prioritized through our traffic calming evaluation. DPW could consider this suggestion in the future. The signs are most effective when there's a change in a speed limit, this would be not quite that application, because we're hoping to keep the outer sections of Woodward Street at 25 mph. Traffic calming measures how much over the speed limit people are going at the 85th percentile speed.

Straw Poll:

Members took a straw poll, voting 5-0, to support a staff request to MassDOT to rescind the 35 mph section of the Special Speed Regulation on Woodward Street, in both directions.

Vote:

Without further discussion, Mr. Koses made a motion to hold. Council members agreed 5-0.

TC8-24      ISAAC PRIZANT, TRAFFIC ENGINEER, requesting to add the Lowell/Austin RRFB into the TPR. (Ward 2) [02/21/24 @ 1:32 PM]

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 5-0. Approved the language of TPR 930. This item may be appealed through the close of business April 3, 2024.**

**NOTE:**      Mr. Koses stated that the RRFB is installed and is working properly. The recommendation is to approve the RRFB to add into the traffic and parking regulations.

There was no public comment.

Councilor Downs stated that we should be approving the installation of RRFB before the installation, not after. Mr. Prizant stated that there are other RRFB in the process but have not been installed that we could docket for Traffic Councils consideration prior to installation.

Without further discussion, Mr. Koses made a motion to approve. Council members agreed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

David Koses, Transportation Coordinator  
Traffic Council Chair

CITY OF NEWTON

TRAFFIC & PARKING REGULATION

TPR NO. 929

March 14, 2024

In accordance with the vote of the Traffic Council on March 14, 2024:

The City of Newton Traffic & Parking Regulations, as established in Chapter 19, Section 27 of the City of Newton Revised Ordinances, 2017, as amended, be and are hereby further amended as follows:

By REMOVING from the provisions of **Sec. TPR-176. Parking regulations pertaining to particular streets.**, the following:

*Murphy Court*

- (1) Prohibited, all days, south side.
- (2) Prohibited, all days, north side, from Adams Street westerly 50 feet.

By INSERTING into the provisions of **Sec. TPR-176. Parking regulations pertaining to particular streets.**, the following:

*Murphy Court*

- (1) Prohibited, all days, south side.
- (2) Prohibited, all days, north side, from Adams Street westerly 50 feet.
- (3) Accessible parking, north side, from a point 70 west of Adams Street westerly 20 feet.

By INSERTING into the provisions of **Sec. TPR-200. Accessible Parking Spaces.**, the following:

*Murphy Court:* north side, from a point 70 feet west of Adams Street westerly 20 feet.

Approved as to legal form and character:

(SGD) ALISSA OCASIO GIULIANI  
City Solicitor

(SGD) CAROL MOORE  
City Clerk

CITY OF NEWTON

TRAFFIC & PARKING REGULATION

TPR NO. 930

March 14, 2024

In accordance with the vote of the Traffic Council on March 14, 2024:

The City of Newton Traffic & Parking Regulations, as established in Chapter 19, Section 27 of the City of Newton Revised Ordinances, 2017, as amended, be and are hereby further amended as follows:

By INSERTING into the provisions of **Sec. TPR-146. Flashing warning light locations.**, the following:

*Lowell Avenue, 30 feet south of Austin Street (pedestrian activated RRFB).*

Approved as to legal form and character:

(SGD) ALISSA OCASIO GIULIANI  
City Solicitor

(SGD) CAROL MOORE  
City Clerk

# Traffic Council

City of Newton

March 14, 2024

## Agenda

- AP1-24 JINI FAIRLEY, ADA COORDINATOR AND DAVID KOSES, TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR, on behalf of Roger Molloy, requesting an accessible parking space at or near 5 Murphy Court.
- TC7-24 COUNCILORS DOWNS, GETZ, HUMPHREY, LOBOVITS, DANBERG AND BIXBY, requesting that Traffic Council vote to ask MassDOT to rescind the 35 MPH section of the Special Speed Regulation on Woodward Street, in both directions. If approved by Traffic Council, the City Clerk's office would notify MassDOT of the official action taken, and MassDOT would subsequently issue a modified Special Speed Regulation to reflect these changes. If the existing 35 mph Special Speed Regulations are rescinded in this area, the statutory speed limit of 25 mph would be in effect.
- TC8-24 ISAAC PRIZANT, TRAFFIC ENGINEER, requesting to add the Lowell/Austin RRFB into the TPR.

# AP1-24

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Request for an accessible parking space near or in front of 5 Murphy Court

3.14.24

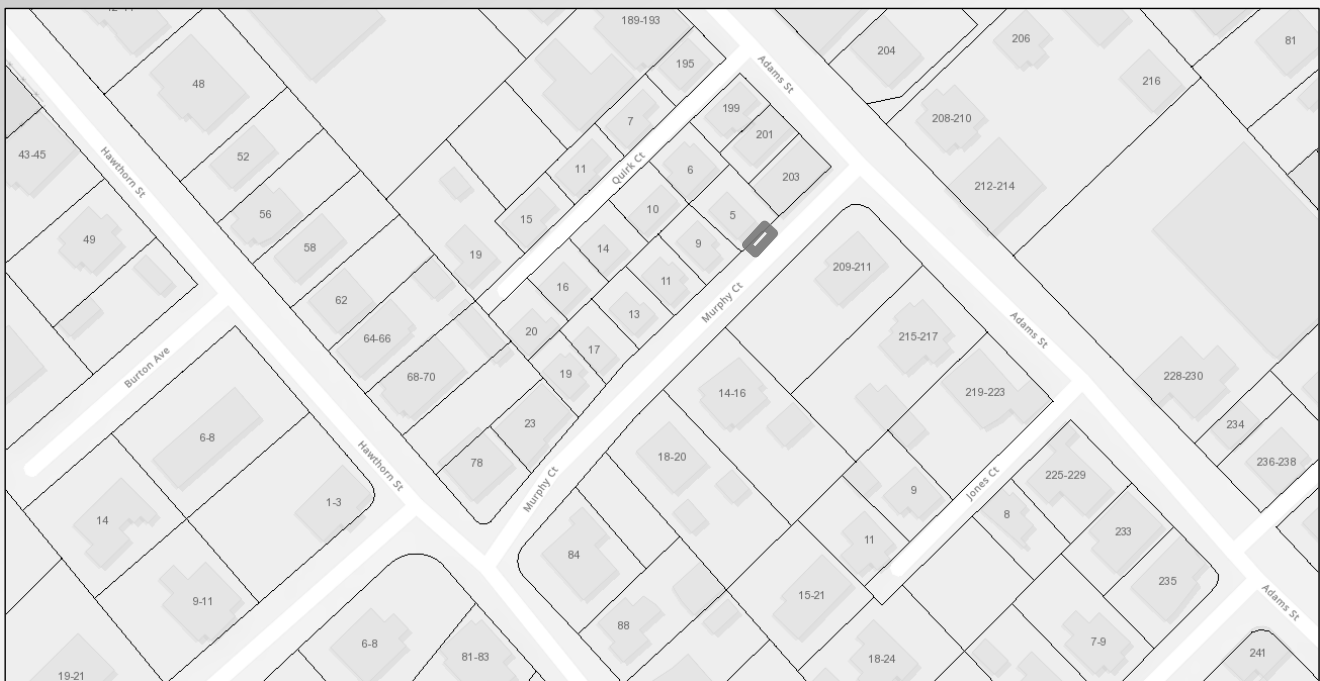
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Traffic Council

## Location of 5 Murphy Court

\* From 1.18.24 Traffic Council Meeting \*

# AP1-24



3.14.24

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Traffic Council

Photo of 5 Murphy Court, looking west

\* From 1.18.24 Traffic Council Meeting \*

AP1-24



3.14.24

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Traffic Council

Photo of 5 Murphy Court, looking east

\* From 1.18.24 Traffic Council Meeting \*

AP1-24



3.14.24

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Traffic Council



# Recommendation (Part 1): Relocate the “No Parking” Sign to 50’ of Adams St

AP1-24



3.14.24

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Traffic Council

# Recommendation (Part 2): Add One Accessible Space

AP1-24



3.14.24

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Traffic Council

# Traffic Council Trial: One public space, 2<sup>nd</sup> Space will be an Accessible Space

AP1-24



3.14.24

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Traffic Council

# Traffic Council Trial: Posted Signage

AP1-24



3.14.24

Traffic Council

# Recommendation and Proposed TPR language

AP1-24

## Make the Trial Permanent

By REMOVING from the provisions of Sec. TPR-176. Parking regulations pertaining to particular streets., the following:

### *Murphy Court*

- (1) Prohibited, all days, south side.
- (2) Prohibited, all days, north side, from Adams Street westerly 50 feet.

**CAN BE APPEALED**

**Appeal Deadline is April 3, 2024**

By INSERTING into the provisions of Sec. TPR-176. Parking regulations pertaining to particular streets., the following:

### *Murphy Court*

- (1) Prohibited, all days, south side.
- (2) Prohibited, all days, north side, from Adams Street westerly 50 feet.
- (3) Accessible parking, north side, from a point 70 west of Adams Street westerly 20 feet.

By INSERTING into the provisions of Sec. TPR-200. Accessible Parking Spaces., the following:

*Murphy Court:* north side, from a point 70 feet west of Adams Street westerly 20 feet.

3.14.24

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Traffic Council

# TC7-24

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Request to ask MassDOT to rescind the 35 MPH section of the Special Speed Regulation on Woodward Street in both directions

3.14.24

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Traffic Council

# Current Regulatory Speed Limits

## On Woodward Street

TC7-24

Woodward Street, eastbound, beginning at a point 250 feet east of Beacon Street, thence easterly on Woodward Street:

0.25 miles at 25 miles per hour

0.58 " " 35 " " "

Remove this Regulatory Speed Limit

0.17 " " 25 " " "

ending at Route 9; the total distance being 1.00 miles.

Woodward Street, westbound, beginning at Route 9, thence westerly on Woodward Street:

0.17 miles at 25 miles per hour

0.58 " " 35 " " "

Remove this Regulatory Speed Limit

0.30 " " 25 " " "

ending at Beacon Street; the total distance being 1.05 miles

3.14.24

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Traffic Council

# Proposed Traffic Council Action

TC7-24

Traffic Council vote to request that MassDOT rescind the portions of the existing Special Speed Regulation No. 785, highlighted in red. The remainder of Special Speed Regulation No. 785 would be unchanged.

Woodward Street, eastbound, beginning at a point 250 feet east of Beacon Street, thence easterly on Woodward Street:

0.25 miles at 25 miles per hour

0.58 " " 35 " " "

0.17 " " 25 " " "

ending at Route 9; the total distance being 1.00 miles.

Woodward Street, westbound, beginning at Route 9, thence westerly on Woodward Street:

0.17 miles at 25 miles per hour

0.58 " " 35 " " "

0.30 " " 25 " " "

ending at Beacon Street; the total distance being 1.05 miles

3.14.24

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Traffic Council

1. Traffic Council votes to hold this item
2. Staff to prepare and forward request to MassDOT to rescind regulatory 35 mph section of Woodward Street
3. Return item to Traffic Council after MassDOT responds to our request
  - NAN the item
  - If MassDOT denies the request: Make no change.
  - If MassDOT approves the request: Administratively update the posted signage and the TPR.

3.14.24

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Traffic Council

# TC8-24

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Request to add the Lowell/Austin RRFB into the TPR

3.14.24

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Traffic Council

# Map of Lowell Avenue at Austin Street

TC8-24



3.14.24

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Traffic Council

# Photo of RRFB at Lowell Avenue at Austin Street

TC8-24



3.14.24

Traffic Council

## Approve

By INSERTING into the provisions of Sec. TPR-146. Flashing warning light locations., the following:

*Lowell Avenue, 30 feet south of Austin Street (pedestrian activated RRFB).*

3.14.24

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**CAN BE APPEALED**  
**Appeal Deadline is April 3, 2024**

Traffic Council