

City of Newton

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Ruthanne Fuller

Mayor

TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

110 Crafts Street
Newton, MA 02460

DATE: May 14, 2024

TO: Newton City Council

**FROM: David Koses, Transportation Coordinator, Newton DPW
Ned Codd, Director of Transportation Operations, Newton DPW**

RE: Newton Centre Employee Parking Permit Program

**CC: Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer
James McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Works
Shawna Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works
Daniel Devine, Captain, NPD Traffic Bureau**

MEMORANDUM

This memorandum is meant to inform the City Council of the success of the Newton Centre Employee Parking Permit program during the trial period, and to propose that the trial be made permanent.

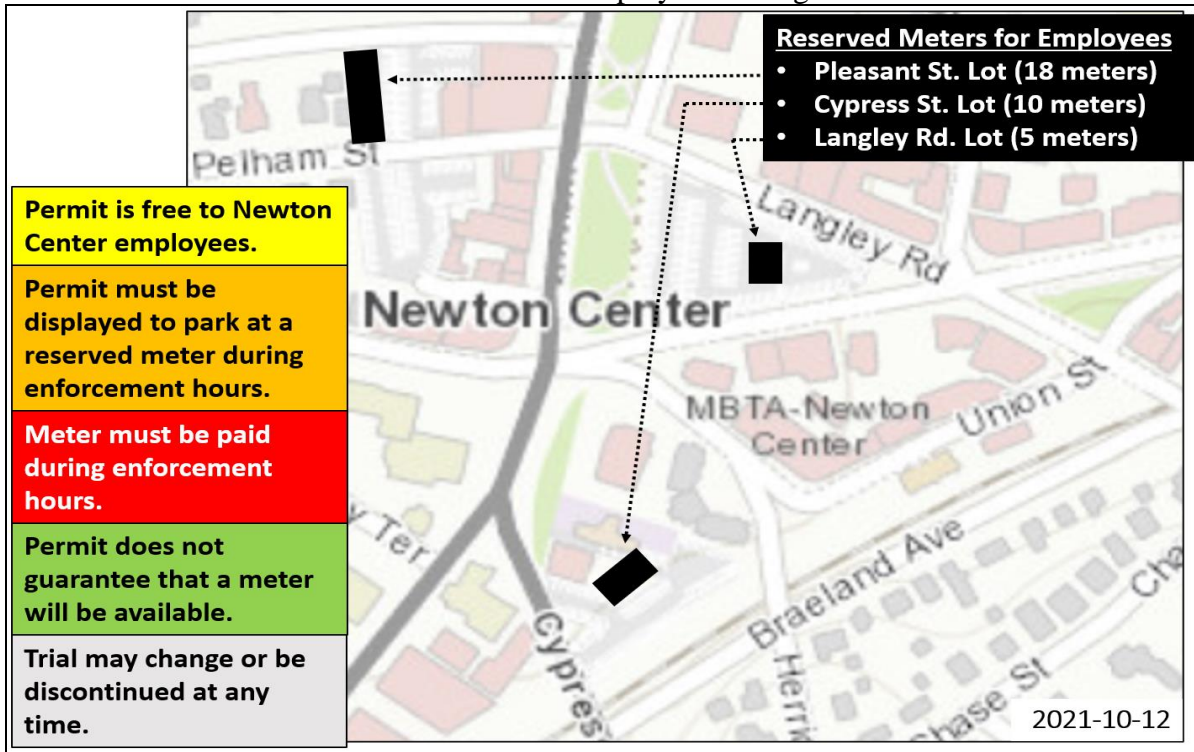
On July 22, 2021 the Newton Traffic Council voted to move forward with a long-term trial of a new parking permit program developed for Newton Centre employees. The trial reserves selected parking meters in Newton Centre for vehicles that display a Newton Centre Employee Parking Permit, so that these meters would not be occupied by commuters, short-term parkers or other vehicles. Any person employed in Newton Centre is eligible to receive a permit, free of charge, and available at the Newton Traffic Bureau.

Staff understand that this parking permit trial can be made permanent through action by the Newton Traffic Council and modifications to the Traffic and Parking Regulations (TPR). There appears to be no need for City Council to vote to change the ordinance in any way, particularly because there is no fee associated with the parking permit itself.

The recommendation from Transportation Division staff is to make the Newton Centre Employee Parking Program permanent. No further change to the program is recommended at this time. If future conditions warrant, the program could be expanded to additional parking spaces in Newton Centre, or possibly to other villages, through the regular Traffic Council process.

Exhibit 1 displays the locations of the reserved parking meters as well as the characteristics of the program.

Exhibit 1: Newton Centre Employee Parking Permit Trial



As part of the trial, 33 long-term parking meters were reserved for vehicles that display a Newton Centre Employee Permit during enforcement hours on Monday through Friday. Meters are available to the general public on Saturdays, when demand for employee parking is reduced. Signs are posted at each of these 33 spaces. An example of the posted signage is shown in Exhibit 2.

Exhibit 2: Example of Signage Posted at Each Reserved Parking Space



To help determine whether the trial was successful, and what changes might be beneficial, staff collected occupancy data at various times during the trial period. These data are shown in Exhibit 3. A change was made to the trial in the Fall of 2023, when the signage was changed to restrict access to these 33 meters to vehicles that display an employee permit between 8am and 6pm Monday through Friday (prior to this change, the 33 meters were reserved for employees Monday through Saturday).

As shown in Exhibit 3, these reserved parking spaces are generally well-utilized, and over 90% of vehicles parked in these reserved spaces during enforcement hours correctly display a valid Newton Centre Employee Permit. It appears that the reserved spaces are generally well-understood by the general public. While staff have received some complaints from commuters who now have fewer parking options available to them to access the MBTA Green Line, staff have not received any complaints from Newton Centre employees.

It appears to be well-understood that the (free) parking permit itself does not guarantee that a long-term parking space will be available. However, the program does appear to be effective in ensuring that some long-term spaces will be available for employee parking. Our data collection also indicated that long-term parking was generally available somewhere in Newton Centre at all times. Therefore, if one of the reserved parking spaces is not available, employees would simply find a different, albeit less convenient, long-term parking space.

Exhibit 3: Occupancy Data

Day	Date	Time	Cypress Lot spaces: 10				Langley Lot spaces: 5				Pleasant Lot spaces: 18			
			Occupied		# Displaying Permit	% of Occupied Spaces	Occupied		# Displaying Permit	% of Occupied Spaces	Occupied		# Displaying Permit	% of Occupied Spaces
			#	%			#	%			#	%		
AVERAGE			9.3	93%	8.6	92%	4.1	81%	3.8	95%	13.6	75%	12.6	93%
Mon	10/12/21	2:15 PM	10	100%	9	90%	4	80%	4	100%	18	100%	11	61%
Thu	10/14/21	11:15 AM	10	100%	9	90%	4	80%	4	100%	17	94%	13	76%
Fri	10/15/21	2:00 PM	8	80%	7	88%	4	80%	2	50%	14	78%	14	100%
Tue	10/19/21	10:30 AM	10	100%	10	100%	4	80%	4	100%	12	67%	12	100%
Wed	10/20/21	11:45 AM	9	90%	9	100%	3	60%	3	100%	16	89%	15	94%
Mon	11/1/21	9:45 AM	10	100%	9	90%	4	80%	4	100%	4	22%	4	100%
Tue	11/2/21	9:00 AM	10	100%	9	90%	5	100%	4	80%	1	6%	1	100%
Tue	11/2/21	3:30 PM	10	100%	8	80%	5	100%	4	80%	11	61%	11	100%
Wed	11/3/21	2:00 PM	10	100%	8	80%	3	60%	3	100%	18	100%	18	100%
Tue	11/9/21	12:30 PM	9	90%	9	100%	5	100%	5	100%	17	94%	17	100%
Tue	11/16/21	11:00 AM	10	100%	10	100%	5	100%	5	100%	16	89%	15	94%
Tue	11/23/21	12:23 PM	10	100%	9	90%	5	100%	5	100%	18	100%	17	94%
Tue	11/30/21	1:45 PM	10	100%	10	100%	5	100%	5	100%	18	100%	18	100%
Wed	12/1/21	10:00 AM	10	100%	10	100%	2	40%	2	100%	15	83%	14	93%
Fri	12/3/21	4:30 PM	4	40%	3	75%	0	0%	0	n/a	13	72%	13	100%
Mon	12/6/21	2:00 PM	8	80%	8	100%	5	100%	5	100%	6	33%	6	100%
Mon	12/13/21	1:30 PM	10	100%	9	90%	5	100%	5	100%	13	72%	13	100%
Tue	12/21/21	11:00 AM	10	100%	9	90%	5	100%	5	100%	17	94%	15	88%
Mon	1/10/22	2:45 PM	8	80%	7	88%	2	40%	2	100%	4	22%	4	100%
Wed	2/9/22	12:15 PM	9	90%	7	78%	5	100%	4	80%	18	100%	17	94%
Wed	3/23/22	10:30 AM	10	100%	9	90%	4	80%	4	100%	10	56%	10	100%
Wed	3/25/22	2:30 PM	6	60%	5	83%	3	60%	2	67%	16	89%	14	88%
Tue	3/29/22	1:45 PM	10	100%	10	100%	5	100%	5	100%	11	61%	11	100%
Wed	3/30/22	1:00 PM	10	100%	10	100%	5	100%	5	100%	11	61%	11	100%
Mon	4/4/22	2:30 PM	10	100%	9	90%	4	80%	4	100%	5	28%	5	100%
Fri	9/8/23	10:45 AM	5	50%	5	100%	3	60%	3	100%	17	94%	16	94%
Fri	9/8/23	2:15 PM	6	60%	5	83%	4	80%	4	100%	18	100%	15	83%
Sat	9/9/23	11:00 AM	1	10%	1	100%	1	20%	1	100%	9	50%	6	67%
Sat	9/9/23	4:00 PM	2	20%	2	100%	3	60%	2	67%	6	33%	4	67%
Thu	9/14/23	11:45 AM	10	100%	9	90%	5	100%	5	100%	17	94%	15	88%
Sat	9/16/23	10:30 AM	0	0%	n/a	n/a	2	40%	1	50%	8	44%	6	75%
Sat	9/16/23	1:45 PM	0	0%	n/a	n/a	2	40%	2	100%	7	39%	7	100%
Mon	9/18/23	11:30 AM	8	80%	8	100%	4	80%	4	100%	10	56%	9	90%
Mon	9/18/23	2:45 PM	8	80%	8	100%	5	100%	5	100%	10	56%	9	90%