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CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

TRAFFIC COUNCIL AGENDA

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024

7:00 PM



Traffic Council will hold this meeting as a virtual meeting on Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: <https://newtonma-gov.zoom.us/j/83907452549> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 839 0745 2549

The Council will be taking public comment on the following items. Please click the raise hand button on the bottom of your screen if you would like to speak. There is a 5 second delay in asking you to unmute your microphone. After you're done speaking, the clerk will mute your microphone.

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

- TC26-24 COUNCILOR DANBERG, requesting the removal of one metered parking space on Herrick Road at the request of the Newton Fire Department to provide emergency vehicular access to a 9-unit multifamily dwelling recently constructed at 39 Herrick Road. (Ward 6) [06/27/24 @ 1:29 PM]
- TC23-24 ISAAC PRIZANT, CITY TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER, requesting to restrict parking on both sides of Lowell Avenue, beginning at Page Road and heading 100 southerly, to optimize crosswalk visibility and provide maneuvering around DPW's flex post installation. (Ward 2) [05/28/24 @ 3:36 PM]
- TC27-24 COUNCILORS GENTILE AND KRINTZMAN, requesting to discuss and potentially take action to change the parking regulations on the segment of Woodbine Street to the north of Commonwealth Avenue, possibly by adding it into the Auburndale Village Parking District. (Ward 4) [06/27/24 @ 1:29 PM]
- TC28-24 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, requesting to change the parking regulations listed in Sec. TPR-194 (Time limits in municipal off-street parking areas) as NewMo vehicles will no longer require any reserved parking spaces in the Lexington Street Public Parking Lot in Auburndale. (Ward 4) [06/27/24 @ 1:29 PM]

The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.

- TC29-24 TRAFFIC BUREAU CAPTAIN DANIEL DEVINE, DPW COMMISSIONER JAMES MCGONAGLE AND PLANNING DIRECTOR BARNEY HEATH, requesting temporary and permanent changes in terms of the location and duration of public parking spaces, and other changes to the Traffic and Parking Regulations including changes to traffic circulation along the section of Washington Street between Lowell Avenue and Chestnut Street, to include abutting blocks of intersecting streets, in order to facilitate the Washington Street pilot project. (Wards 2 & 3) [06/27/24 @ 1:29 PM]
- TC30-24 TRAFFIC BUREAU CAPTAIN DANIEL DEVINE, DPW COMMISSIONER JAMES MCGONAGLE AND PLANNING DIRECTOR BARNEY HEATH, requesting that Traffic Council ask MassDOT to rescind the 35mph regulatory speed limit along the section of Washington Street between Lowell Avenue and Chestnut Street, in order to facilitate the Washington Street pilot project. (Wards 2 & 3) [06/27/24 @ 1:29 PM]
- TC31-24 TRAFFIC BUREAU CAPTAIN DANIEL DEVINE, DPW COMMISSIONER JAMES MCGONAGLE, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING BARNEY HEATH, PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STEPHANIE GILMAN AND CO-DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY WILLIAM FERGUSON, requesting a trial to modify parking regulations on streets near the Education Center in order to facilitate the solar canopy project in the Education Center parking lot. Changes to parking regulations may be needed for several months on certain streets within a 5-6 minute walk of the Education Center. Once the project is complete, parking regulations will revert back to the official parking regulations, as listed in Newton's Traffic and Parking Regulations. (Wards 1 & 2) [06/27/24 @ 1:29 PM]
- TC32-24 TRAFFIC BUREAU CAPTAIN DANIEL DEVINE, DPW COMMISSIONER JAMES MCGONAGLE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING BARNEY HEATH, PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STEPHANIE GILMAN AND CO-DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY WILLIAM FERGUSON, requesting a trial to modify parking regulations on streets near the Brown and Oak Hill Middle Schools in order to facilitate solar canopy projects, including within the Wheeler Road and Winston Road parking areas. Changes to parking regulations may be needed for several months on certain streets within a 5-6 minute walk of either the Oak Hill or Brown Middle School. Once the project is complete, parking regulations will revert back to the official parking regulations, as listed in Newton's Traffic and Parking Regulations. (Ward 8) [06/27/24 @ 1:29 PM]

ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

- AP5-24 LAURIE COLLIS, 15 Crystal Street, requesting an accessible parking space in front of 15 Crystal Street. (Ward 6) [07/02/24 @ 11:23 AM]

- AP4-24 JOHN ROBERTS, 21 Newbury Street, requesting an accessible parking space in front of 21 Newbury Street. (Ward 6) [06/27/24 @ 5:24 PM]
The Newton Commission on Disability voted to APPROVE 6-1-1 on 07/08/24.
- TC35-24 COUNCILOR GREENBERG, requesting a stop sign at the end of Emerson Street, southbound, where it intersects with Pearl Street. Note that this petition does not request a stop sign on Pearl Street. (Ward 1) [07/12/24 @ 11:29 AM]
- TC34-24 ILIJA JOVANOVIĆ, 131 Farwell Street, requesting to restrict parking on both sides of the block of Farwell Street between North Street and Joseph Road. Note that this petition does not request to change the parking regulations on any other portion of Farwell Street, only to further restrict parking on the east side of the block of Farwell Street between North Street and Joseph Road. (Ward 3) [07/10/24 @ 10:02 AM]
- TC33-24 JOANNE MAHR, 26 Brooks Avenue, requesting a stop sign at the end of Proctor Street, westbound, where it intersects with Walker Street. Note that this petition does not request a stop sign on Walker Street itself. (Ward 2) [07/08/24 @ 8:36 AM]
- TC25-24 KEREN WAINGER, 256 Ward Street, requesting implementation of “no turn on red” signs at the intersection of Ward Street, Waverley Avenue and Stuart Road, in all approaches. (Ward 7) [06/03/24 @ 10:26 AM]
- TC24-24 TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER ADRIAN AYALA, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS, NED CODD, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC ENGINEER ISAAC PRIZANT, COUNCILOR DOWNS, COUNCILOR GREENBERG, AND COUNCILOR LEARY, requesting a discussion and possible action to change the official parking regulations on Nonantum Place, the section of Charlesbank Road between Saint James Street and Centre Street, and potentially Jefferson Street, Russell Road and Maple Street. This discussion is likely to include whether to remove or modify the current parking meter zones on Charlesbank Road and whether to modify the resident-only permit zones on Nonantum Place and Charlesbank Road in some way, with a goal of improving consistency and on-street parking availability to residents of Russell Road, Charlesbank Terrace, Orchard Street, Jefferson Street and other streets in the immediate neighborhood. (Ward 1) [05/31/24 @ 12:18 PM]
- TC18-24 VLADAN AND TAMMY JOVANOVIĆ, 276 Greenwood Street, requesting a 4-way stop at the intersection of Greenwood Street and Arnold Road. (Ward 8) [05/13/24 @ 11:27 AM]
- TC17-24 ADRIAN AYALA, CITY TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER, requesting to reduce the number of public parking spaces in the Waltham Street Lot to accommodate changes in access to the police parking lot. (Ward 3) [05/02/24 @ 9:50 AM]

- TC9-24 SUE KLINE, 12 Russell Road, Newton Corner, requesting a discussion and a possible change to the parking regulations on Russell Road. (Ward 1) [03/01/24 @ 3:16 PM]
HELD 4-1 (Fischman opposed) on 04/11/24. Held to docket a new Traffic Council item intended to broaden the discussion geographically.
- 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]
HELD 5-0 on 03/14/24. 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.
- TC63-23 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, requesting to continue the Traffic Council trial which allows vehicles displaying TIGER permits to park in the Austin Street Lot without requiring payment on school days. Traffic Council originally approved this trial in 2020 as part of TC115-20, which included various traffic and parking changes near school buildings to respond to safety concerns and changing conditions brought on by the Covid-19 Pandemic. On June 22, 2022 the Public Safety and Transportation and Finance Committees supported a continuation of the free parking for TIGER permit holders on school days until City Council determines whether to make this trial permanent. (Wards 2 & 3) [11/27/23 @ 2:00 PM]
HELD 5-0 on 12/14/23. Held for a long-term trial.
- TC62-23 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, requesting to continue the Traffic Council trial which restricts access to Elm Road (from Lowell Avenue) to Elm Road residents, Newton North High School staff, school buses and bicyclists. Traffic Council originally approved this trial in 2020 as part of TC115-20, which included various traffic and parking changes near school buildings to respond to safety concerns and changing conditions brought on by the Covid-19 Pandemic. (Ward 2) [11/27/23 @ 2:00 PM]
HELD 5-0 on 12/14/23. Held for a long-term trial.
- TC7-23 TRAFFIC BUREAU CAPTAIN DAMIEN DOUCETTE, DPW COMMISSIONER JAMES MCGONAGLE AND PLANNING DIRECTOR BARNEY HEATH, requesting temporary and permanent changes in terms of the location and duration of public parking spaces, location of traffic signals, and changes to traffic circulation within and proximate to Commonwealth Avenue in Auburndale, to include abutting blocks of intersecting streets, in order to facilitate

the reconstruction of Commonwealth Avenue and the Commonwealth Avenue carriageway between Higgins Street and the Weston Line. (Ward 4) [02/27/23 @ 3:24 PM]

HELD 5-0 on 03/23/23. Held for a long-term trial during roadway reconstruction to allow for changes to the signals, stop signs, parking regulations and other items included in the Traffic and Parking Regulations along Commonwealth Avenue between Higgins Street and the Weston Line.

TC62-22 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, requesting a long-term trial to address the additional parking demand along Lincoln Street and abutting streets in Newton Highlands, resulting from the temporary Senior Center relocation.

HELD 5-0 on 12/15/22. Held for a long-term trial. Traffic Bureau will distribute parking permits to Senior Center staff and volunteers, which will not decrease the number of parking permits available to other employees as part of the existing Newton Highlands Parking District.

TC50-22 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, on behalf of Jayne Colino, Director of Senior Services, requesting a temporary pick-up / drop-off zone in front of the Brigham House on Hartford Street and in front of the Hyde Community Center on Lincoln Street, to help accommodate the temporary relocation of services during the reconstruction of the Senior Center in Newtonville. (Ward 6) [09/23/22

HELD 5-0 on 10/27/22. Held for trial, which may continue until the Senior Center is relocated back to its renovated building in Newtonville.

TC25-22 JASON SOBEL, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS AND NICOLE BANKS, COMMISSIONER OF PARKS AND RECREATION, requesting the following to respond to changing conditions brought on by various municipal redevelopments and parking demands along Albemarle Road: Traffic Council shall be allowed to vote to allow a long-term trial on the northbound section of Albemarle Road between Watertown Street and Crafts Street, which may include changes to the location and regulations of the parking spaces along this stretch. Changes made during the trial period are to be approved by the Commissioner of Public Works in consultation with the Director of the Planning Department and the Chief of the Newton Police Department. These changes are temporary in nature and would revert to original conditions unless Traffic Council subsequently makes permanent changes by voting to change the Traffic and Parking Regulations. At any time, the Police Department may end any Traffic Council trial. (Wards 2 & 3) [05/06/22 @ 1:20 PM]

HELD 5-0 on 05/19/22. Held for a long-term trial of the above docketed item.

TC57-21 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, requesting to continue an ongoing trial of the closure of Philip Bram Way at the intersection of Austin Street. Note that this item makes no change in the field and allows for a continuation of a trial first approved as part of TC50-18. (Ward 2) [08/09/21 @ 2:49 PM]

HELD 5-0 on 10/21/21. Held for a Trial.

- TC6-21 COUNCILORS BOWMAN, DANBERG AND NOEL, requesting to change the distribution of time limits in the Hartford Street Public Parking Lot in Newton Highlands to install reserved spaces for EV Charging Stations and/or EV Shared Vehicles. (Ward 6) [02/01/21 @ 11:21 AM]
Held 4-0 (Councilor Downs not voting) on 02/25/21. Held for a trial to allow for the installation of 2 EV parking spaces in the Hartford Street Public Parking Lot.
- TC149-20 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, requesting to update the Traffic and Parking Regulations to reflect all of the changes associated with the reconstruction of Needham Street. (Wards 5 & 8) [09/01/20 @ 2:01 PM]
Held 5-0 on 01/28/21. Held for a long-term trial.
- TC20-20 COUNCILORS KRINTZMAN, MARKIEWICZ AND GENTILE, requesting the establishment of a resident parking program and accompanying map for the village of Lower Falls. The resident parking program should seek to prevent commuters from using the streets of Lower Falls as parking for the Riverside MBTA station. (Ward 4) [03/24/20 @ 12:50 PM]

Respectfully submitted,

David Koses, Transportation Coordinator
Traffic Council Chair