

# **Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report**

# City of Newton In City Council

# Thursday, September 6, 2018

Present: Councilors Auchincloss (Acting Chair), Cote, Lipof, Downs, Grossman, Markiewicz and Noel

Absent: Councilor Ciccone (Chair)

City Staff: Jason Sobel, Director of Transportation; David Koses, Transportation Coordinator; Nicole Freedman, Director of Transportation Planning; Captain Anastasia and Sergeant Lee, Newton Police Department

Others Present: Attorney Frank Stearns, Holland & Knight, LLP; P.J. Cappadona, Vice President of Operations, MASCO and Richard Daley, Manager, Paul Revere Transportation

#444-18 Requesting seven (7) new bus licenses for "MASCO"

PAUL REVERE TRANSPORTATION LLC., requesting seven (7) new bus licenses for

Medical Academic and Scientific Community Organization, Inc., ("MASCO").

Action: Public Safety & Transportation Committee Approved 6-0, Councilor Cote not voting

<u>Note:</u> Attorney Frank Stearns, Holland & Knight, LLP; P.J. Cappadona, Vice President of Operations, MASCO; Richard Daley, Manager, Paul Revere Transportation and Captain Anastasia joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Attorney Stearns stated that this request is for seven new bus licenses. The bus route would operate between the Shops at Chestnut Hill (Upper and Lower Parking Lot) in Chestnut Hill and the Longwood Medical Area in Boston. The buses will use Hammond Pond Parkway to Boylston Street (Route 9) to the Longwood Medical Area. He then noted that the "MASCO" shuttle service has been operating out of 300 Hammond Pond Parkway; there should be very little change to the current traffic patterns for the shuttle service.

The Land Use Committee approved a Special Permit with an initial request to waive 496 parking stalls at 199 Boylston Street to allow parking for two third parties using separate shuttle services (253 for transporting to St. Elizabeth's and 243 for transporting with "MASCO" to the Longwood Medical Area). Since then, St. Elizabeth's has withdrawn their request on the parking stalls for users of the shuttle service to St. Elizabeth's.

Attorney Stearns stated that they met with Captain Anastasia in May requesting approval of the route. Captain Anastasia stated that the Police Department has not received any complaints and do not have concerns regarding these licenses or the route, the vehicles will be operating just one block from the

original site. Acting Chair Auchincloss read into the record an email from Captain Anastasia stating, "The Police Department has no issues with this bus application renewal and changes".

Committee member's questions and requests:

# Questions:

• Please explain the Comments/Remarks section on the Certificate of Liability Insurance Form.

Atty. Stearns, Mr. Cappadona and Mr. Daley explained that the list includes the vehicles in the entire "MASCO" fleet, the bottom seven vehicles will be used on this route. The loss payee with respect to physical damage represents "MASCO". If there were a claim, JP Morgan Chase Bank NA would pay the claim. It was stated that "MASCO" owns the vehicles and Paul Revere Transportation pays the vehicle insurance charges, which are financed through JP Morgan Chase Bank NA.

## Requests:

• Please collect data on utilization and locations where riders arrive from at the time you request these bus license renewals.

Mr. Cappadona stated that the five institutions serviced register the drivers who would be using this transportation and stated that he would obtain this information.

Committee members determined it would be best if Paul Revere Transportation returned next year requesting to renew their license since it is a "new route". Perhaps in the future, the Committee may approve a two or three year license.

Without further discussion, Councilor Markiewicz made a motion to approve a one-year term license for these seven bus licenses for "MASCO". Committee members agreed 6-0, Councilor Cote not voting.

# #443-18 Appeal of Traffic Council Decision on Manitoba Road

<u>CHRISTOPHER GREENWALD</u>, 14 Manitoba Road, Waban appealing the approval of Traffic Council petition TC23-18 on June 14, 2018 prohibiting a right turn on red at Manitoba Road, northbound at Beacon Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.to 1:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., school days.

Action: Public Safety & Transportation Committee Approved as Amended 7-0

**Note:** Christopher Greenwald, petitioner attended tonight's discussion.

Acting Chair Auchincloss stated that the original Traffic Council petition requested a "No Turn on Red" sign to prevent vehicles from making a right on red onto Beacon Street from Manitoba Road to reduce vehicle and pedestrian conflicts. Traffic Council approved this request 5-0 on June 14, 2018.

David Koses, Transportation Coordinator, Jason Sobel, Director of Transportation and Captain Anastasia joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Mr. Koses provided Committee members with a PowerPoint presentation, attached to this report.

Mr. Koses stated that the Traffic Council petition requested a "No Turn on Red" at the corner of Manitoba Road and Beacon Street. Traffic Council discussed this request and implemented a "No Turn on Red" from Manitoba Road, northbound at Beacon Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.to 1:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., school days.

Committee member's concerns, questions and suggestions:

# **Concerns:**

- There are many crosswalks in this location; perhaps they are all not necessary.
- Pedestrian safety is necessary to allow students to walk to and from school.
- There is heavy traffic in this area making it very difficult especially during drop-off and pick-up times.

# Questions:

• Is the "No Turn on Red" sign working well at the Zervas Elementary School?

# Suggestions:

- Please review the area as a whole determining how to make this intersection safer.
- Please complete a traffic study.
- Please review the traffic signal timing.
- Please remove the time and day restrictions approved by Traffic Council.

Mr. Sobel said that the department would review the traffic signal timing. He then said that a "No Turn on Red" sign improves pedestrian safety.

Mr. Koses answered that the sign at the Zervas Elementary School is a "Do Not Enter" sign with time restrictions to prevent traffic during pick-up and drop-off times.

Councilor Downs stated that the Transportation Advisory Committee forwarded a letter to Committee members suggesting to remove the time restrictions on the "No Turn on Red" proposal in order to promote safety and consistency. Mr. Koses agreed and stated that the "No Turn on Red" would still improve safety without time or day restrictions. It was noted that during school construction, a full traffic signal was discussed as an option at this intersection.

Captain Anastasia stated that he supports a "No Turn on Red" sign without time or day restrictions. He then said that the Police Department prefers "No Turn on Red" signs have no time or day restrictions because of enforcement difficulties.

Mr. Greenwald, the petitioner stated that he was not appealing the "No Turn on Red" from the Angier School driveway, southbound, onto Beacon Street. He was appealing the "No Turn on Red" from Manitoba Road, northbound onto Beacon Street between the hours of 8:00am to 9:00am, 12:00pm to 1:00pm, and 2:30pm to 3:30pm, school days. Reasons for the appeal include the timing of the traffic signal, which only allows two vehicles to exit Manitoba Road. When school is in session, Manitoba Road is backed up and vehicles block driveways. The original Traffic Council petition expressed concern about distracted drivers. If a driver cannot notice a pedestrian in the crosswalk,

drivers probably would not notice new signs therefore; pedestrian safety would not be achieved. He suggested a traffic study be conducted to improve safety in the area.

One email and photos were received, on file. Acting Chair Auchincloss opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Residents expressed their concerns and suggestions.

A resident provided his own traffic study data. He said that data shows that between 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., approximately 85% is pedestrian traffic and 75% is vehicle traffic at this intersection. Between 8:15 a.m. to 8:35 a.m., it is most intense.

# Concerns:

- Residents of Manitoba Road cannot exit their driveways, parents have the tendency to park illegal and drivers have the tendency to speed.
- Parents should be walking and crossing Beacon Street with their children to school.
- A few residents stated that a "No Turn on Red" sign is unnecessary at this location, it would be an inconvenience and the sign would cause traffic backups in the neighborhood.
- A crossing guard is necessary, not a "No Turn on Red" sign, others disagreed.
- The problem became unpleasant since the pick-up /drop-off lane was removed. Pick-up/drop-off locations should be dispersed.
- Heavy traffic in this area.
- "No Turn on Red" signs are not installed to provide driver convenience; they are installed as safety measures for all.

# **Suggestions:**

- Several residents suggested and requested a complete traffic study. A traffic solution is necessary.
- Several residents suggested imposing a crossing guard at this location. To promote walkability, safety is necessary. Students are crossing Beacon Street on their own.
- Please approve this request for a "No Turn on Red" prohibition, for pedestrian and student safety.
- The hours and days should be removed from the "No Turn on Red" sign. The area is dangerous all times including after school, nights, and non-school days.
- Please review the traffic signal timing.
- Drivers have the tendency to ignore the "No Turn on Red" signs and they suggested installing illuminated signals; others disagreed and stated that illuminated signals are expensive and may take funding from the installation of additional crosswalks throughout the City.
- Relocate the crosswalk to the west side of Manitoba Road.
- A suggestion was made to convert Manitoba Road into a one-way street, southbound.
- A suggestion was made to prohibit traffic a ¼ mile around all school areas during school hours.

Councilor Downs said that she would docket a traffic study request for consideration.

Mr. Sobel answered that the suggestion of installing illuminated signals, is possible. However, moving the crosswalk would be expensive and complicated because construction work would involve moving the ADA compliant ramps. It was asked if funding were not an issue, would Mr. Sobel recommend relocating the crosswalk. Mr. Sobel answered that it may reduce some conflict.

Without further discussion, Councilor Downs made a motion to approve as amended this appeal. The "No Turn on Red" sign will be installed removing the hours and days, right turns on red will not be allowed at any time. Committee members agreed 7-0.

#442-18 Appeal of Traffic Council Decision on Waltham Street

<u>DONNA LUCENTE</u>, 85 Waltham Street, West Newton appealing the approval of Traffic Council Petition #TC33-18 on June 14, 2018 for a parking restriction along sections of

Waltham Street (Crafts Street to the Waltham City Line).

Action: Public Safety & Transportation Committee Denied 7-0

**Note:** Donna Lucente, petitioner attended tonight's discussion.

The original Traffic Council petition requested modification to the parking regulations on Crafts Street (Watertown Street to Waltham Street) and on Waltham Street (Crafts Street to the Waltham City Line), in order to facilitate traffic calming and to create bicycle lanes. The amount of parking on the street would be reduced, with parking generally alternating between the north and south side, by block, along Waltham Street and a portion of Crafts Street. Traffic Council approved this request 5-0 on June 14, 2018.

Nicole Freedman, Director of Transportation Planning; Jason Sobel, Director of Transportation and David Koses, Transportation Coordinator joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Mr. Sobel and Ms. Freedman provided Committee members with a PowerPoint presentation, attached to this report.

Ms. Freedman stated that Waltham Street and Crafts Street were recently repaved; this is the opportunity to slow traffic and address safety concerns. In order to facilitate traffic calming and bicycle lanes the parking regulations on Crafts Street between Watertown Street to Waltham Street and on Waltham Street between Crafts Street to the Waltham City line will need to be modified.

Ms. Freedman stated that the City is aware of crash hot spots, speeding, undefined wide travel lanes, lack of crosswalks, no bike facilities and location specific challenges. Restriping the streets is an opportunity to make the streets better. The goals are to make the streets safer for all users and to reduce speed. She then stated that creating a lateral shift is universal in Transportation & Planning techniques. The City will create a lateral shift, stripe narrower travel lane, add crosswalks, add bike lanes, consolidate parking on one side of road (alternates) and make location specific improvements. The City is aware that some residents will be inconvenienced but this proposal is a reasonable trade off.

Mr. Sobel stated that if this proposal was approved, the amount of parking on the streets would be reduced, with parking generally alternating between the north and south side, by block, along Waltham Street and a portion of Crafts Street so no one side is completely affected. In high conflict areas, the streets would be painted green. He provided block-by-block street images with proposed chicanes and bicycle lanes.

Mr. Sobel stated that Waltham and Crafts Street measure 40 feet wide. Prior to the streets being repaved, the streets were striped allowing a 20 feet travel lane on each side. This encourages drivers to speed. The goal is to provide safety, define travel lanes and implement lateral shift parking. The City has collected base-line data and will continue to make observations once these streets are striped with paint.

Mr. Sobel said that 100 feet north of Kensington Avenue, parking restrictions would not be implemented; parking will remain on both sides of Waltham Street. He then said that an item would be docketed for consideration to the Public Facilities Committee requesting intersection configuration at the Walnut and Crafts Street intersection.

Mr. Sobel stated that the new parking regulations pertaining to Waltham and Crafts Streets would prohibit the additional following sections of road.

# **Waltham Street**

- (1) Prohibited, all days:
- c) West side, from River Street to Webster Street
- d) West side, from the Webster Street to a point 50 feet southerly
- e) East side, from Washington Street to a point 65 feet north of Webster Street

# **Crafts Street**

- (1) Prohibited, all days:
- a) East side from Washington Street to Lenglen Road.
- b) East side, from a point 95 feet north of Lenglen Road 40 feet northerly.
- c) East side from a point across Central Avenue to Watertown Street.
- d) West side, from Watertown Street to Central Avenue
- e) West side, from Washington Street to opposite Ashmont Avenue.
- (2) One-hour limit, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- a) East side, from Lenglen Road northerly 95 feet.
- b) East side, from a point 135 feet north of Lenglen Road to Ashmont Avenue.

Mr. Sobel stated that there are no turning restrictions proposed as part of this project. The centerline will shift in different areas of these streets. The travel lanes will not be straight. He then said that by narrowing the travel lanes, drivers would reduce their speed.

Ms. Lucente, the petitioner stated that she was not appealing the parking restriction along sections of Crafts Street (Watertown Street to Waltham Street). She was appealing the sections of Waltham Street (Crafts Street to the Waltham City Line). Reasons for the appeal include drivers having the tendency to speed, pedestrian traffic and visibility difficulties. Waltham Street becomes significantly narrow in sections and the difficulty entering and exiting driveways. Consequences residents face when parking is eliminated in front of their homes for guests and service providers. Residents want to be able to park in front of their homes. There are no concerns with cyclists. The Scandinavian Center directs its guests to park on Waltham Street. This suggestion will be impossible if parking were eliminated.

Councilor Cote explained that the Ward 3 Councilors who are aware of the necessary steps to deter speeders on Waltham and Crafts Streets docketed this item for Traffic Councils consideration. The Councilors are aware of speeding concerns, aware of the accidents and are aware that pedestrians are not using the crosswalks. Most homes have adequate off street parking. Safety is necessary and the City will monitor the project and, if necessary, make appropriate modifications.

Committee members expressed their questions.

# Questions:

- Is visibility an issue when it snows and drivers are exiting the side streets to Waltham Street?
- Will guests of the Scandinavian Center loose on-street parking?
- How many parking spaces will be eliminated on Waltham and Crafts Street?

Mr. Sobel answered yes; it is difficult to exit side streets when there are large snow banks. He then stated that corridor parking is under-utilized. Drivers have no clear definition of the roads. This plan defines the roads for drivers allowing them to drive towards the center of the road, which improves site distance from the side streets. He then said that parking is not permitted and will not be permitted in the area of the Scandinavian Center. He then answered that approximately 300 parking spaces would be eliminated.

Twenty-eight emails were received, on file. Acting Chair Auchincloss opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Residents expressed their concerns and suggestions.

## Concerns:

- Only observe 30-50 cyclists per week using Waltham and Crafts Street.
- Waltham Street is narrow and installing bike lanes is not the answer.
- Drivers have the tendency to speed. It is necessary to slow traffic.
- This is a highly utilized area.
- It is necessary to make Waltham Street and City streets safe to promote cycling.
- Parking on these streets is dangerous and extremely infrequent, and residents have reported having their vehicles totaled when parked.
- It is concerning parking will be eliminated in front of homes.
- Some areas of Waltham and Crafts Streets cannot accommodate bike lanes because Waltham Street is narrow.
- Where it is currently safe to park in front of homes will be eliminated.
- Striping Waltham and Crafts Street will narrow the roads.
- It is difficult and dangerous to exit driveways.
- Traffic calming is necessary, parking elimination is not.

## Suggestions:

- Please repaint the crosswalk at Waltham Street and Kensington Avenue.
- Please post an advance warning sign to drivers that they are approaching crosswalks.

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A resident stated that chicanes slow and calm traffic. Paint is an inexpensive change. This proposal allows the City to learn and build from this plan. This is the first step towards safety and this plan does not interfere with emergency vehicle access.

A resident stated that creating bike lanes with paint is a safer environment for all users. It has been five years since the override passed for the "Roads Program" to make roads safer for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. These sections of Waltham and Crafts Street are access to three schools, Senior Center, pool, playing fields and the Boys & Girls Club. Paint is the only change; there will be no geometry change. It is concerning the City continues to repave dangerous streets. The "Roads Program" has not been fulfilled and it is disappointing.

A bike commuter stated that she feels more people would bike if there were safe bike lanes. Waltham and Crafts Street are dangerous roads and parking is a problem. Paint is the least the City can do to make roads safe for commuter cyclists.

Without further discussion, Councilor Cote made a motion to deny this appeal, upholding Traffic Council's decision. Committee members agreed 7-0.

At approximately 9:15 p.m., the Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacob D. Auchincloss, Acting Chair

# **Public Safety and Transportation**

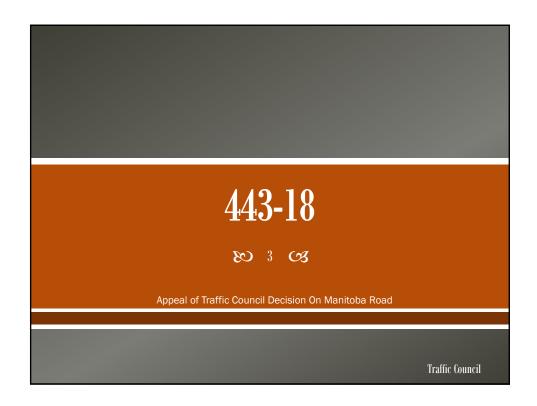
City of Newton

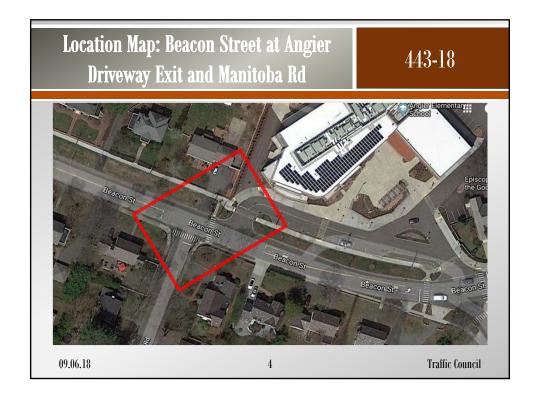
September 6, 2018

# Agenda

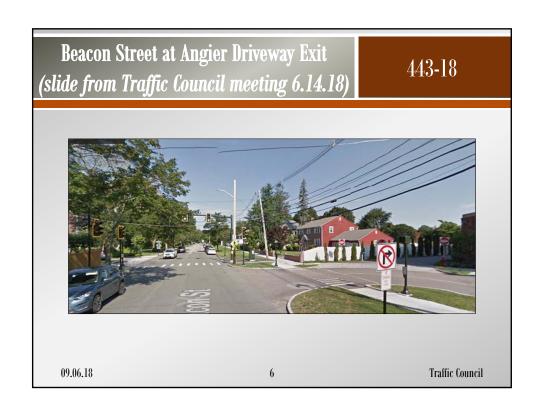
- #443-18 Appeal of Traffic Council Decision on Beacon Street and Manitoba Road CHRISTOPHER GREENWALD, 14 Manitoba Road, Waban, appealing the approval of Traffic Council petition TC23-18 on June 14, 2018 prohibiting a right turn on red at Manitoba Road, northbound at Beacon Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.to 1:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., school days
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# Proposed TPR language (slide from Traffic Council meeting 6.14.18)

443-18

By INSERTING into the provisions of Sec. TPR-96 (c) Right turns on red signals are prohibited at the following intersections, the following:

Manitoba Road, northbound at Beacon St.

Angier School driveway, southbound at Beacon St.

CAN BE APPEALED
Appeal Deadline is July 5, 2018

09.06.18

# Action Taken on 6.14.18

443-18

Traffic Council

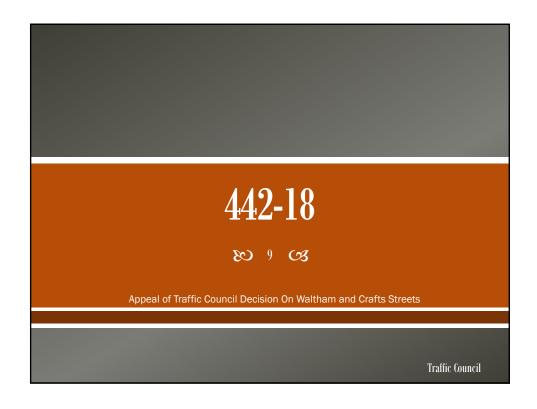
Approved the language of TPR 417. TPR 417 prohibits right turns on red from the Angier School driveway, southbound, onto Beacon Street, and prohibits right turns on red from Manitoba Road, northbound onto Beacon Street between the hours of 8:00am to 9:00am, 12:00pm to 1:00pm, and 2:30pm to 3:30pm, school days.

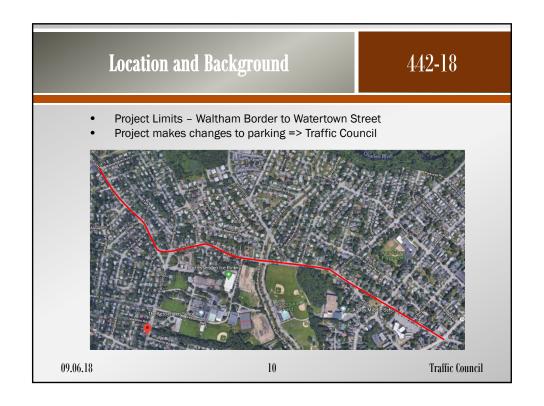
By INSERTING into the provisions of Sec. TPR-96 No Turn on Red signs, the following: (c) Right turns on red signals are prohibited at the following intersections:

Manitoba Road, northbound at Beacon Street, 8:00am to 9:00am, 12:00pm to 1:00pm, 2:30pm to 3:30pm, school days.

Angier School driveway, southbound at Beacon Street.

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# Location and Background Crash hot spot Speeding Undefined wide travel lanes Lack of crosswalks No bike facilities Location specific challenges We know there are problems! Restriping is an opportunity to make road better Waltham & Crafts Waltham & Crafts Traffic Council

# View of Waltham Street

TC33-18

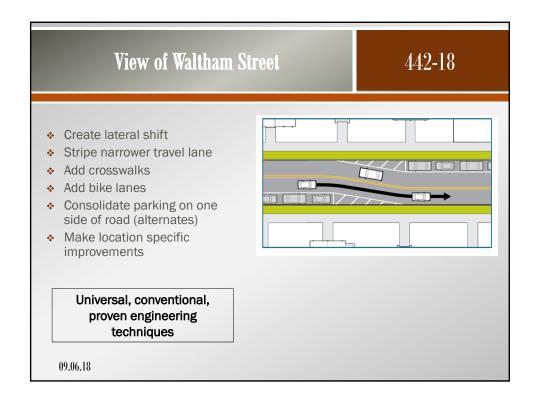
- Crash hot spot
- Speeding
- Undefined wide travel lanes
- Lack of crosswalks
- No bike facilities
- Location specific challenges

We know there are problems!

Restriping is an opportunity to make road better



09.06.18





# Waltham Street — City Line to Annapolis Road



# Waltham Street — Annapolis Road to Crafts Street



Crafts Street — Waltham Street to Richards Circle



# Crafts Street — Richards Circle to Albemarle Road

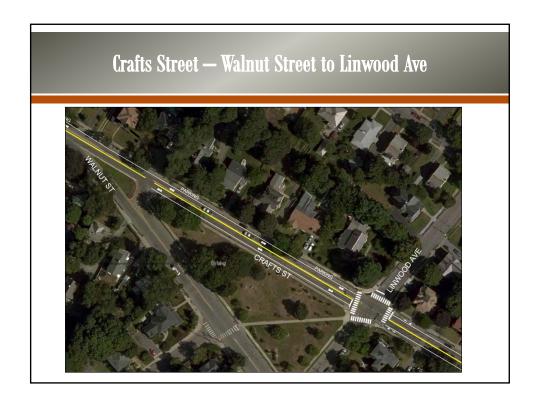






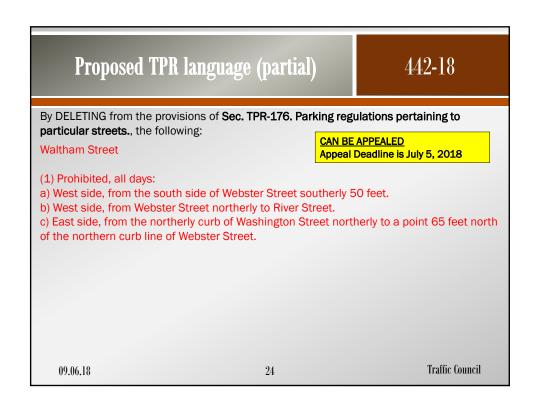
# ${\it Crafts\ Street-Fessenden\ Street\ to\ Walnut\ Street}$











# Proposed TPR language (partial)

442-18

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

Waltham Street

Appeal Deadline is July 5, 2018

- (1) Prohibited, all days:
- a) West side, from Hazelhurst Ave to Annapolis Road
- b) West side, from a point 150 feet north of Lodge Road to Fuller Terrace
- c) West side, from River Street to Webster Street
- d) West side, from the Webster Street to a point 50 feet southerly
- e) East side, from Washington Street to a point 65 feet north of Webster Street
- f) East side, from Crafts Street / Waltham Street (westerly leg) to Fuller Terrace
- g) East side, from a point across from Lodge Road to a point across from Annapolis Road
- h) East side, from a point across from Bonita Road to Kensington Road

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# Proposed TPR language (partial)

442-18

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

### Crafts Street

CAN BE APPEALED
Appeal Deadline is July 5, 2018

- (1) Prohibited, all days:
- a) East side from Washington Street to Lenglen Road.
- b) West side, from Washington Street to opposite Ashmont Avenue.
- c) Both sides from Central Avenue to Watertown Street.
- d) East side from Watertown Street to Churchill Street.
- e) West side from Watertown Street northerly 200 feet.
- f) Both sides, from Waltham Street easterly 300 feet.
- g) East side, from a point 95 feet north of Lenglen Road 40 feet northerly.
- h) South side from Walnut Street to Linwood Avenue.
- (2) Prohibited, west side from Linwood Avenue to Walnut Street.
- (3) One-hour limit, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m
- a) East side, from Lenglen Road northerly 95 feet.
- b) East side, from a point 135 feet north of Lenglen Road to Ashmont Avenue.

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# Proposed TPR language (partial)

442-18

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

Crafts Street

CAN BE APPEALED
Appeal Deadline is July 5, 2018

- (1) Prohibited, all days:
- a) East side from Washington Street to Lenglen Road.
- b) East side, from a point 95 feet north of Lenglen Road 40 feet northerly.
- c) East side from a point across Central Avenue to Watertown Street.
- d) East side, from Watertown Street to Linwood Avenue
- e) East side, from a point 110 feet south of California Street to a point 280 feet north of California Street
- f) East side, between Fessenden Street and North Street
- g) East side, from North Street to a point across from Richards Circle
- h) East side, from Morrill Street to a point 75 feet north of Harding Street
- (2) One-hour limit, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m
- a) East side, from Lenglen Road northerly 95 feet.
- b) East side, from a point 135 feet north of Lenglen Road to Ashmont Avenue. 09.06.18 27 Traffic Council

# Proposed TPR language (partial)

442-18

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

Crafts Street

CAN BE APPEALED
Appeal Deadline is July 5, 2018

Prohibited, all days:

- a) West side, from Waltham Street (western leg) to Richards Circle
- West side, from a point 175 feet north of Albemarle Road (western side) to Watertown Street
- c) West side, from Watertown Street to Central Avenue
- d) West side, from Washington Street to opposite Ashmont Avenue.

09.06.18

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Traffic Council

# Proposed TPR language (partial) By INSERTING into the provisions of Sec. TPR-176. Parking regulations pertaining to particular streets., the following: Crafts Street Prohibited, all days: a) West side, from Waltham Street (western leg) to Richards Circle b) West side, from a point 175 feet north of Albemarle Road (western side) to Watertown Street c) West side, from Watertown Street to Central Avenue d) West side, from Washington Street to opposite Ashmont Avenue.



# Action Taken on 6.18.18

442-18

<u>Approved the language of TPR 420</u>. TPR 420 restricts parking along sections of Crafts Street (Watertown Street to Waltham Street) and along sections of Waltham Street (Crafts Street to the Waltham City Line).

(See text of TPR 420)

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