

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015

Present: Ald. Ciccone (Chair), Yates, Cote, Fuller, Lipof, and Johnson

Absent: Ald. Schwartz and Harney

Also Present: Ald. Albright

City Staff: William Paille, Director of Transportation

#186-15(2) ALD. YATES, requesting a *RESOLUTION* that MassDOT include the exclusion of trucks from the sign to Quinobequin Road at the intersection with Rtes. 16 and 128. [07/15/15 @ 8:10 PM]

ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY 4-0, Ald. Johnson and Fuller not voting**

NOTE: Mr. Paille joined the Committee for discussion on this item. He provided two graphics, attached to this report.

The graphics depict the locations and sign wording. 1) Install a new sign within the existing island on a new post 'No Trucks' graphic with text Quinobequin Road' and 2) Install a new sign within the existing island on post with 'Enter Here' sign, 'No Trucks' graphic with text Quinobequin Road.

Mr. Paille said that several months ago he made this proposal to MassDOT. Today, he forwarded these graphics to MassDOT to resolve the truck exclusion issues. The City, with approval from MassDOT, would install a truck exclusion sign on the island at Washington Street and I-95 to warn trucks that they are not allowed on Quinobequin Road and a second sign at the split further down the ramp so trucks that ignore the first sign can avoid Quinobequin Road and continue onto I-95 south.

The State Police has jurisdiction on Quinobequin Road and they would be able to enforce any violators. Mr. Paille said that he is hopeful to hear of approval from MassDOT by the end of the week, once the City receives final approval from MassDOT, the City would install these signs in several weeks.

Without discussion, Ald. Yates made a motion for no action necessary with the understanding the signs will be installed in several weeks. He then said that if the truck exclusion signs are not installed in several weeks, that he would docket a new item for consideration. Committee members agreed 4-0, Ald. Johnson and Fuller not voting.

#186-15 ALD. YATES, requesting a *RESOLUTION* that MassDOT devise a system to inform drivers entering Ellis Street, Quinobequin Road and Williams Street (Wellesley) intersection that Quinobequin Road is closed to truck traffic before entering Rte. 9 ramp to be modified by the Add-a-Lane project. [07/15/15 @ 8:10 PM]

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0, Ald. Fuller not voting

NOTE: Mr. Paille joined the Committee for discussion on this item. He provided one graphic, attached to this report.

The graphic depicts the location and sign wording. Install a new sign within existing island on a new post 'No Trucks' graphic with text Quinobequin Road.

Today, he forwarded this graphic to MassDOT to resolve the truck exclusion issue. The graphic addresses the truck exclusion signage at either Route 9 or I-95. Mr. Paille recommends the existing truck exclusion sign currently at the entrance to Quinobequin Road adjacent to the access road to Route 9 be enlarged and a second sign added to the opposite side of Quinobequin Road to make it clear that trucks are prohibited. In addition, Mr. Paille recommends a truck exclusion sign be placed on the access road from Chestnut Street to Quinobequin Road (right side) to warn truck drivers of the exclusion before attempting to turn onto Quinobequin Road.

The State Police has jurisdiction on Quinobequin Road and they would be able to enforce any violators. Mr. Paille said that he is hopeful to hear of approval from MassDOT by the end of the week. Once the City receives final approval from MassDOT, the City would install these signs in several weeks.

Without discussion, Ald. Yates made a motion for no action necessary with the understanding the signs will be installed in several weeks. He then said that if the truck exclusion signs are not installed in several weeks that he would docket a new item for consideration. Committee members agreed 5-0, Ald. Fuller not voting.

#326-14 ALD. ALBRIGHT, requesting a discussion and a plan to replace all Newton parking meters within two years. [08/19/14 @ 9:16 AM]

HELD 5-0 on 09/17/14, Ald. Harney and Lipof not voting

HELD 6-0 on 02/04/15, Ald. Fuller and Johnson not voting

HELD 7-0 on 03/04/15

ACTION: HELD 5-0, Ald. Fuller not voting

NOTE: Ald. Albright and Mr. Paille joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Mr. Paille said that in 2013, a working group was created and met to discuss the process, types of meters, and the process of making recommendations to the Executive Department. In 2014, the department added a line item to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) requesting \$850,000 to \$2,000,000 for the purchase of meters and the creation of a Parking Manager position. A responsibility of the Parking Manager would be to manage and implement the meter program.

Last year, the Transportation Division had the intention to move forward working on a City request for proposal (RFP) and worked with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) on their own RFP for the purchase and installation of new meters. The MAPC created a list of recommendations on meter types, meter features including kiosk, individual pay stations, pay by cell and the various vendors who would assist the City with the purchase and installation of meters. The Executive Department reviewed MAPC recommendations and determined that the City would work on their own RFP. Once the City completed an RFP, the Executive Department decided to place the RFP on hold until a Parking Manager was hired in order to manage and implement the program. Mr. Paille said that the RFP needs to be 'tweaked' and he would like to discuss with the working group to move the process forward hopefully in spring/summer 2016. There are approximately 15 missing meters and repairs and maintenance remain a priority.

Committee members expressed their requests and suggestions.

Requests:

A Committee member asked why the City is having a difficult time hiring a Parking Manager; is it because of the candidates pool or the compensation?

Where is the position being posted and what is the marketing strategy using professional organizations?

Is the position being posted on Facebook or LinkedIn?

A request was made to be provided a criteria list based on kiosk, smart phone, etc. to compare the various options.

Suggestions:

A suggestion was made to hold this item pending a discussion with the City's Recruiting Manager on the marketing strategy that is being used.

Mr. Paille answered that the Parking Manager has been advertised three times, now in the process of advertising the position for the fourth time. He does not feel the issue is compensation. He feels the biggest challenge is finding the appropriate candidate. A candidate is not educated on becoming a Parking Manager; they are educated as a planner, civil engineer, etc. A Parking Manager's skills must be built. The candidates did not have this experience. The job description has recently been revised.

Mr. Paille said that he would speak with the Recruiting Manager inquiring where the position is being posted and what type of resources are being used.

Without further discussion, Ald. Johnson made a motion to hold this item pending a discussion with the City's Recruiting Manager on the marketing strategy that is being used. Committee members agreed 5-0, Ald. Fuller not voting.

#150-13 ALD. JOHNSON, ALBRIGHT & LINSKY, requesting the Planning Department create a traffic and parking management plan for the Education Center, Day Middle School, Horace Mann Elementary School and Carr School neighborhood area by December 2013. (Wards 1 & 2) [03/29/13 @ 9:11 AM]

HELD 7-0 on 02/04/15, Ald. Fuller not voting

HELD 7-0 on 03/04/15

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0-1, Ald. Fuller abstained

NOTE: Mr. Paille reviewed with Committee members the PowerPoint presentation provided to the Committee in February 2015, attached to this report.

Mr. Paille said that he does not anticipate a parking plan being implemented in the area of the Horace Mann Elementary School, Carr School, Education Center and Day Middle School neighborhood, although issues remain including the Newton Chinese Language School and the various street widths.

Several community meetings were held and Mr. Koses presented an update to the Committee in March 2015, on all of the improvements that have occurred, the most recent being the signalization of Linwood and Crafts Streets.

Mr. Paille addressed the February 2015, PowerPoint presentation and the concerning issues:

Horace Mann School: 70 staff at the school with 20 available parking spaces is not adequate. Staff continues to park on Albemarle Road and on nearby streets.

Carr School: School buses are authorized to park on Nevada Street, limiting access to Nevada Street during school hours. Staff is authorized to park on Linwood Avenue, which was endorsed in a public meeting by himself, Mr. Koses, the Newton School Department and Regina Moody, Transportation Director, Newton School Department. A two-hour limit, school days on Linwood Avenue, Crafts to Broadways Street, both sides and the extension of a two-hour limit on Linwood Avenue to Melville Avenue was implemented.

Education Center: In fall 2014, the parking lot was expanded with 14 additional parking spaces for staff parking. The parking lot was restriped but remains at 100% utilization. Overflow parking is available on Churchill, Crafts and Walnut Streets.

Day Middle School: 180 staff at the school with 53 available parking spaces is not adequate. Staff have been requested and encouraged to park on Albemarle Road, not in the Education Center and not on neighboring streets. There are approximately 43-48 available spaces on Albemarle Road, a short 5-6 minute walk to school. It appears that staff continues to park in the Education Center and are not parking on Albemarle Road because of various concerns. Mr. Paille stated that the City spent approximately \$30,000 on the installation of new lights, repairs to the field lights, paved shoulder and has painted a street shoulder for safe walking. Mr. Paille stated that the Day Middle School must support and enforce the request on staff parking.

Chair Ciccone said that he spoke with Supt. Fleishman about the staff parking issues who informed that when the former Aquinas College site opens, there will be less parking issues at the Day Middle School.

Committee members expressed their concerns and requests:

Concerns:

The Newton Chinese Language School area on Sundays remains very congested and asked Mr. Paille if there is a solution to the congestion?

Requests:

Committee members requested Mr. Paille speak with Mr. Cronin, Chief of Operations, Newton School Department requesting that the staff of the Day Middle School park on Albemarle Road.

Mr. Paille answered that the Newton Chinese Language School on Minot Place is public parking, with no parking restrictions. He then offered to speak with Mr. Cronin, Ms. Moody and the School Department regarding Day Middle School staff parking.

Committee members said that the installation of the signal of Linwood and Crafts Streets has been very helpful. They then agreed that the Day Middle School parking is a School Department issue.

Without further discussion, Ald. Johnson made a motion for no action necessary. Committee members agreed 5-0-1, Ald. Fuller abstained as she missed part of the discussion.

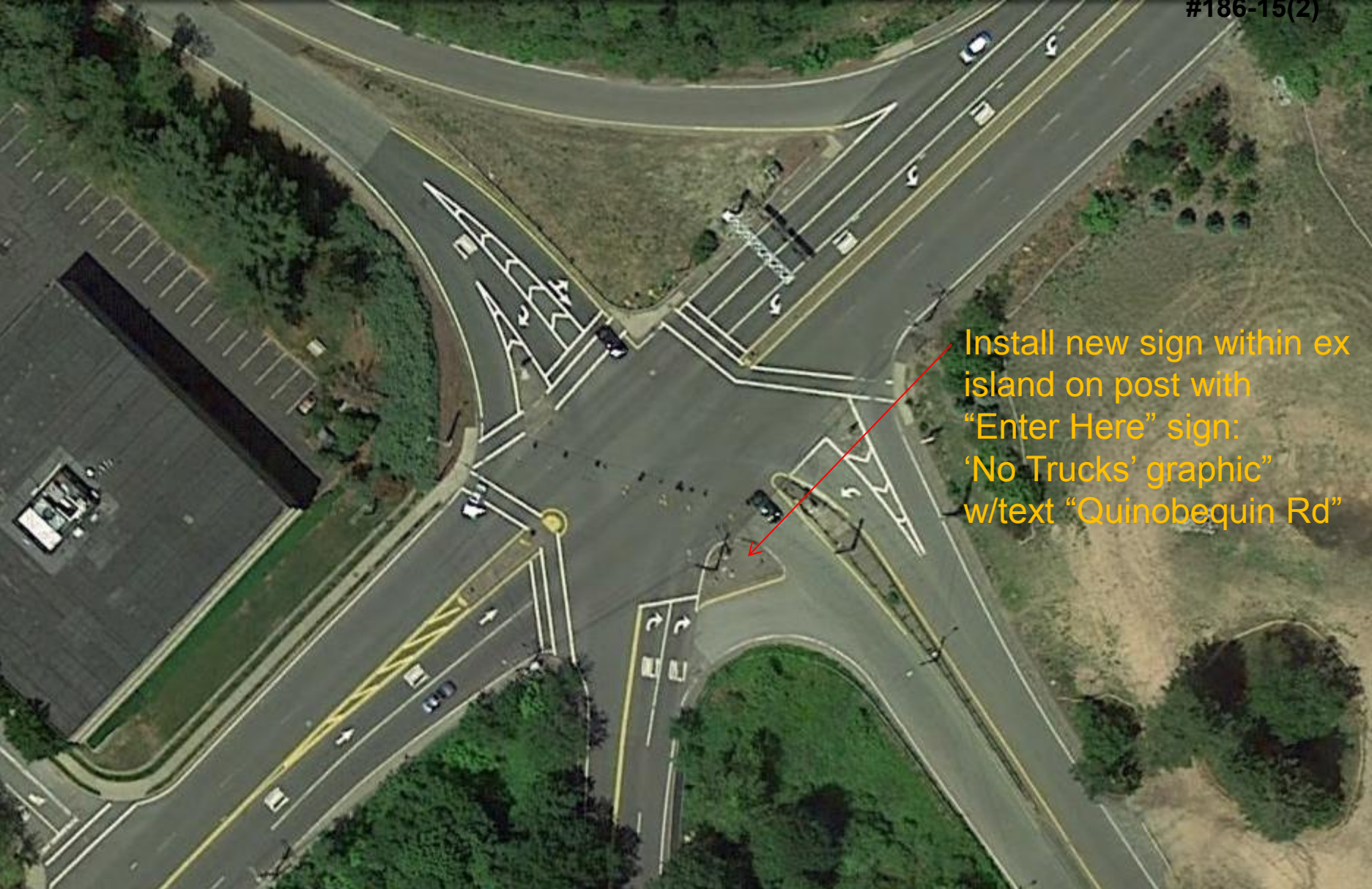
At approximately 9:00 pm, Ald. Yates made a motion to adjourn. Committee members agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chairman

Washington Street @ I-95

#186-15(2)



Install new sign within ex island on post with "Enter Here" sign: 'No Trucks' graphic" w/text "Quinobequin Rd"

Washington Street @ I-95

#186-15(2)



Install new sign within ex island on new post 'No Trucks' graphic" w/text "Quinobequin Rd"

Route 9 & Quinobequin Rd

#186-15

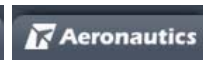


Install new sign within ex island on new post 'No Trucks' graphic" w/text "Quinobequin Rd"

#186-15 and #186-15(2)
09/28/15

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Needham-Wellesley I-95 Add-A-Lane

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Project Area

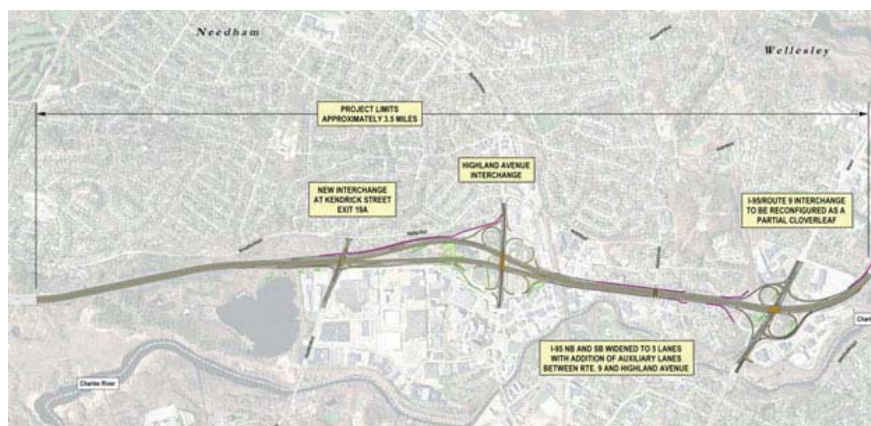
The work on I-95 begins approximately 1,000 feet north of the Needham Branch RR Bridge in Needham and continues to 5,000 feet north of Route 9 in Wellesley, approximately 3.8 miles.

Project Overview

This project is the sixth and final contract to provide an additional travel lane and shoulder toward the median on I-95 from approximately Route 24 in Randolph to Route 9 in Wellesley. This widening includes restoring the breakdown lanes for their intended use. This sixth contract is a 3.8-mile segment of I-95 from just north of the Needham Branch railroad bridge in Needham to about 5,000 feet north of Route 9 in Wellesley.

Work under this project includes:

- ▶ Additional travel lane and shoulder to I-95 northbound and southbound toward the median along the entire length of the project.
- ▶ A new interchange at Kendrick Street and two collector-distributor roads connecting Kendrick Street and Highland Avenue.
- ▶ Seven new noise barriers.
- ▶ Upgrades to the interchanges at Highland Avenue and Route 9 to improve safety and mobility to reduce traffic diversions to local roads.
- ▶ Two additional auxiliary lanes between Highland Avenue and Route 9.
- ▶ Four new bridges: Kendrick Street over I-95, a new flyover ramp at the Kendrick Street interchange, Highland Avenue over Route 128, and I-95 over Route 9.
- ▶ Widening of the bridge carrying Central Avenue over I-95.



Project Status

Barletta Heavy Division, Inc. is the prime contractor. Construction began in January 2015 and is expected to be completed in Spring 2019. MassDOT established an interim milestone requiring a portion of the new Kendrick Street Interchange to be open to traffic in Fall 2016.

The project has been split into five major stages to minimize impacts to the traveling public. Stage 1 (January 2015 to October 2015) includes the following:

- ▶ Widening the northern half of the Kendrick Street Bridge while maintaining the existing three lanes on the structure.
- ▶ Building Kendrick Street ramp bridge to I-95 NB.
- ▶ Commencing construction of the new Highland Street Bridge while maintaining traffic on the existing spans.
- ▶ Initial construction at the interchange of I-95 and Route 9.
- ▶ Demolition of the railroad bridge over I-95.

Current Construction Activities: Week of September 28

Throughout the week of September 28, 2015, Barletta Heavy Division (BHD), MassDOT's contractor for the Route 128 Add-a-Lane Bridge V project, will continue construction operations. Work will be performed during the standard working hours of 7:00AM to 3:00PM and will take place project-wide.

At Kendrick Street, work will include the installation of the waterline and electrical ductbanks, curing and stripping the deck, and forming and reinforcing the sidewalk and approach slabs. Starting Tuesday, September 29th, work on Kendrick Street will also include installing the wall H precast barrier.

At ramp K1, work will focus on forming and pouring level up along wall B. At ramp K2, drainage will be installed. At Highland Avenue, work will include the installation of drainage and utilities at the East Abutment as well as the delivery and installation of structural steel.

At Central Avenue, operations on Monday, September 28th will focus on installing a work zone barrier as well as excavating and lagging the center arch. Throughout the week at Central Avenue, the center walls will be formed and reinforced.

At Route 9, the upper shoulders of W2 and W1 will be widened. Along the mainline, work on Monday, September 28th and Tuesday September 29th will include reconstructing the median south of Kendrick Street. Throughout the week, work will focus on the installation

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of temporary drainage for the crossover. On Wednesday, September 30th, a test strip south of Kendrick Street will be paved along the mainline.

Upcoming Meetings

No meetings are planned at this time.

Getting Involved

Please [sign up for e-mail updates](#) on the project. Send questions and comments to: NWi95@dot.state.ma.us

For additional information, please contact:

[Nathaniel Curtis](#), Howard/Stein-Hudson, Public Involvement Specialist
Tel: (617)482-7080 x236

or

[Donny Dailey](#)
MassDOT Legislative Liaison

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#326-14 ALD. ALBRIGHT, requesting a discussion and a plan to replace all Newton parking meters within two years. [08/19/14 @ 9:16 AM]

HELD 5-0 on 09/17/14, Ald. Harney and Lipof not voting

HELD 6-0 on 02/04/15, Ald. Fuller and Johnson not voting

ACTION: HELD 7-0

NOTE: Mr. Paille, Ald. Albright and Ald. Leary joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

This item was previously held for Mr. Paille to provide an update on the installation of new parking meters that will begin to be installed in January/February 2015.

Mr. Paille summarized the existing conditions of the City parking meters. Currently there are approximately 1,750 parking meters including 1,000 on-street parking meters. The remaining 750 meters are installed in the City's municipal parking lots, Cypress Street parking lot does not have parking meters; it has a Kiosk. It costs the City approximately \$12,000 to \$15,000 per year in repairs and maintenance.

Mr. Paille said that today he provided a draft parking meter replacement plan to the parking meter group and the Executive Department. Over the past several years, Mr. Paille has conducted a smart meter technology four-stage meter replacement plan. The plan is to replace approximately 50% of all City meters by the end of 2015. The Executive Department suggests the City do their own request for proposal process. Meter replacement is now timely because the Police Department hand-held computers can now verify if meters have been paid. Meter revenue is approximately 1.8 million dollars per year. This does not include tickets.

Mr. Paille briefly described the four-stage meter replacement plan.

Stage 1 May 2015, begin initial installation as a pilot to accept feedback, review and decide on plan.

Stage 2 If stage 1 is successful; begin installing 750 municipal meters through November 2015.

Stage 3 spring 2016, will begin installing off-street meters.

Stage 4 Decision process and if successful, all 1,750 meters will be replaced by the end of 2016.

Once this plan is tweaked and finalized, Mr. Paille will provide copies to this Committee.

Committee members and Aldermen present are pleased that broken parking meters in the City will be replaced and will be capable of receiving other forms of payment. Suggestions included increasing parking costs if paid by coin, increase parking costs in high demand locations and review security measures.

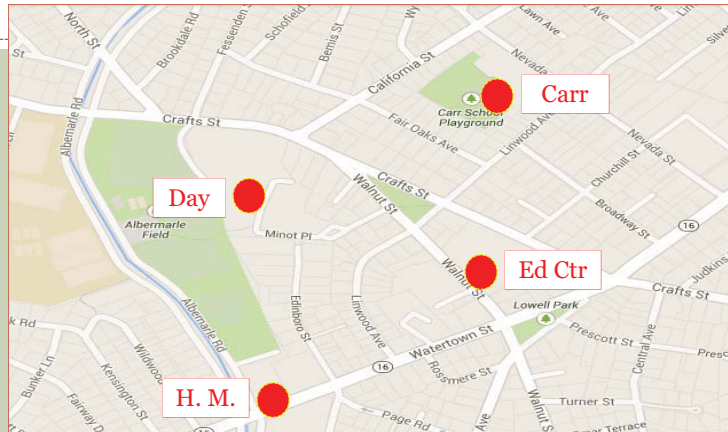
Ald. Lipof made the motion to hold this item until meter replacements come to fruition. Committee members agreed 7-0.

At approximately 9:40 pm, the Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chairman

ED CENTER, DAY MIDDLE, HORACE MANN AND CARR SCHOOL TRAFFIC AND PARKING PLAN

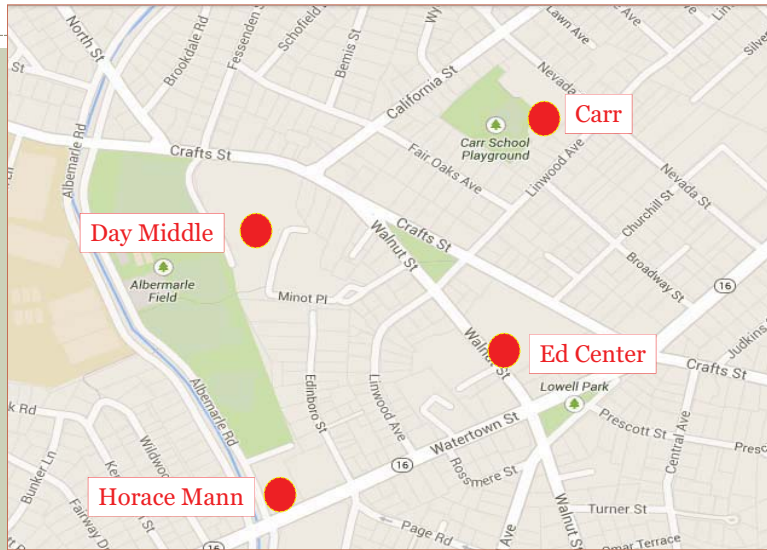
*Public Safety and Transportation Committee
February 4, 2015*



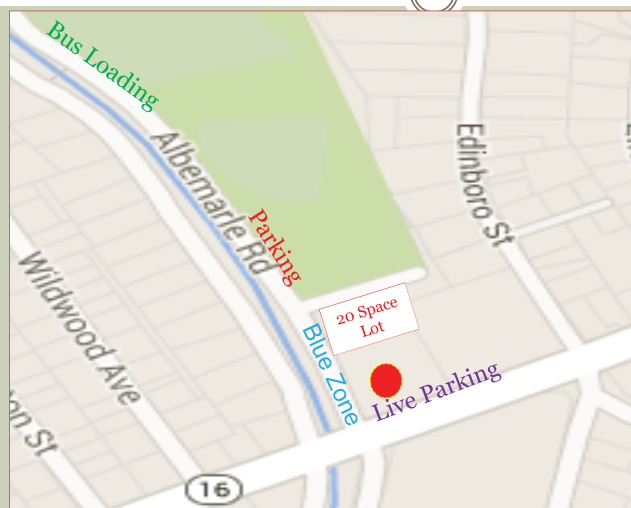
Docketed Item

#150-13 ALD. JOHNSON, ALBRIGHT & LINSKY, requesting the Planning Department create a traffic and parking management plan for the Education Center, Day Middle School, Horace Mann Elementary School and Carr School neighborhood area by December 2013.

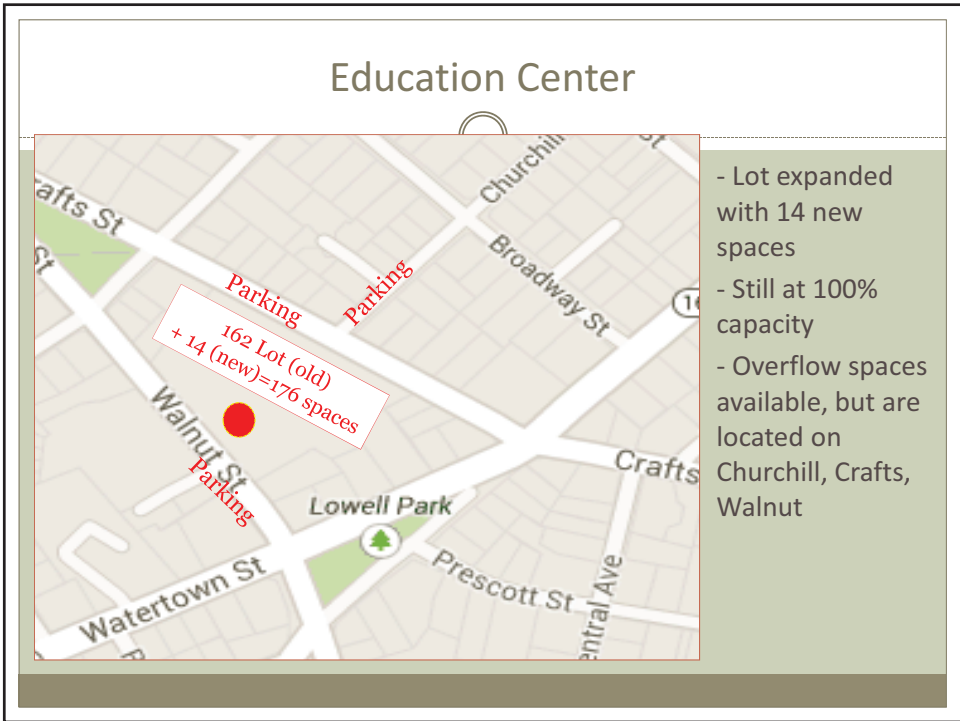
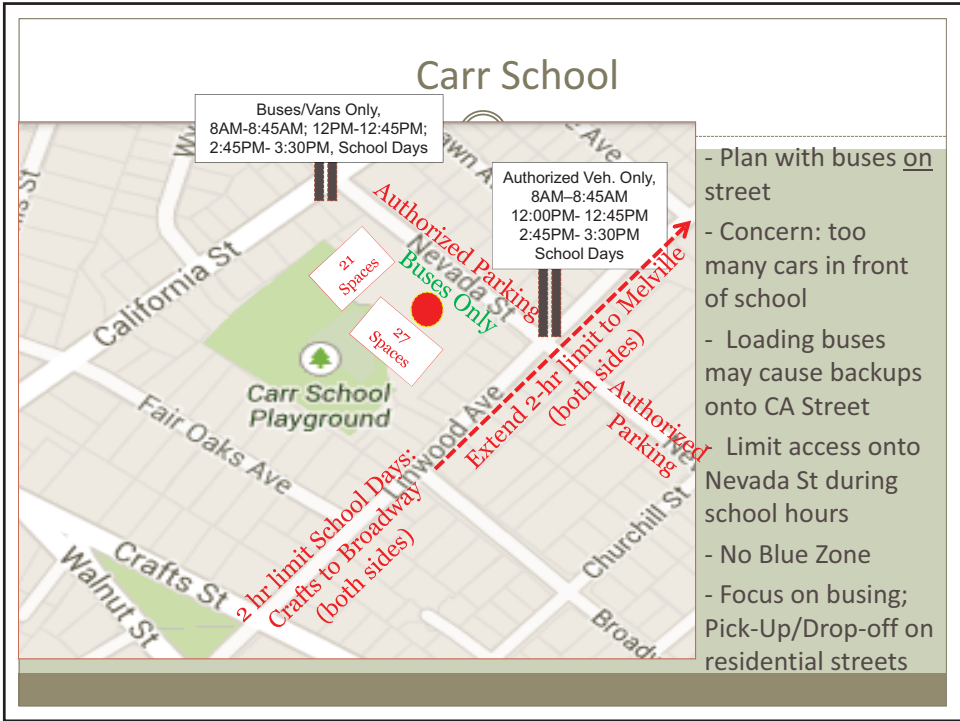
Overview Map



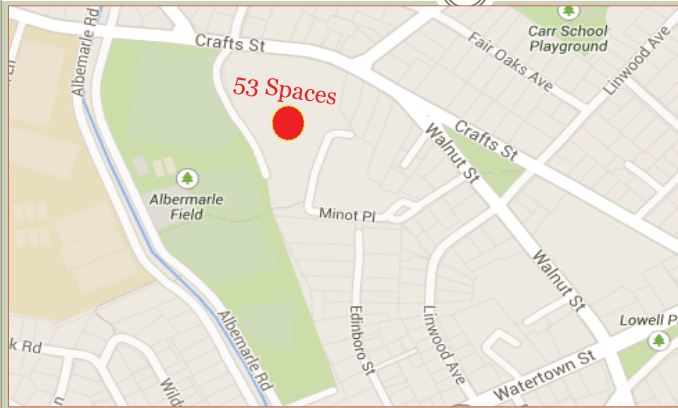
Horace Mann School



- 70 staff
- 20 Space School Lot
- Adequate overflow on street parking available on Albemarle Road

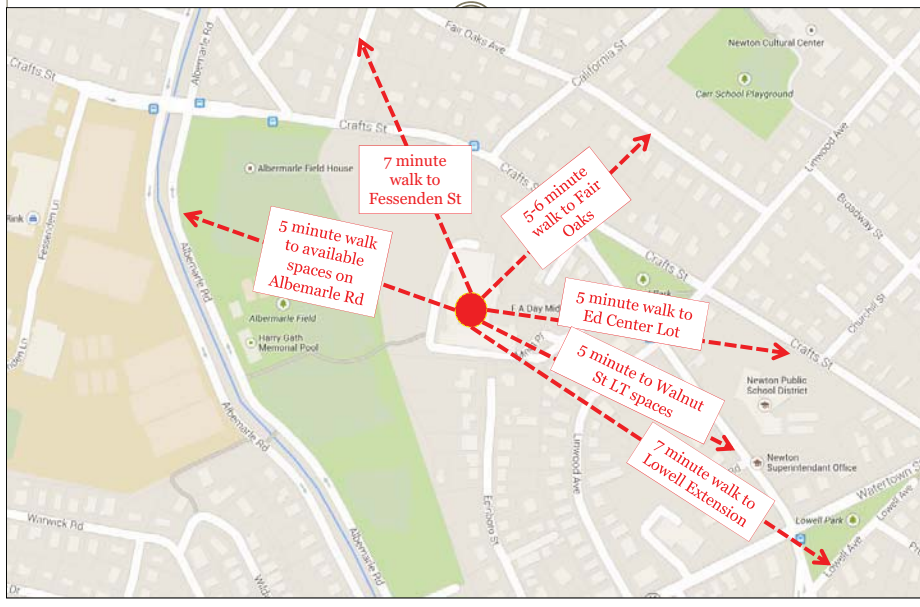


Day Middle School – On-site Parking



- 180 staff
- 53 spaces on-site
 - 50 general
 - 3 handicap

Walk Time to/from Day Middle School



Albemarle Road



Albemarle Road to Day Pathway

Lit >>>>>

Salted >>>>>



Progress To Date

- **Develop and Implement Carr School traffic and parking plan**
 - Permit system in place for residents and staff on 2 blocks of Nevada Street.
 - Restricted vehicular access to one block of Nevada Street
- **Encourage Day staff not to park in Ed Center lot**
 - Memo from Principal to Day staff, regular reminders
 - Permits issued to Ed Center employees to park in the Ed Center Lot
 - Improved pathway between Albermarle Road and Day MS, including lighting
- **Walnut Street Changes**
 - Added a School Zone near the Ed Center
 - Restricted parking near crosswalks near Ed Center (due to poor visibility)
 - Added short-term parking zone near Ed Center (for parent pick-up/drop off)
- **Expand Ed Center Parking Lot by 14 spaces**
 - However, Ed Center use continuing to intensify

Continued Work

- **Current Traffic Council Items:**
 - DAVID KOSES, requesting discussion and possible action related to parking regulations and parking flow on Crafts St between North St & Washington St
 - EMILY NORTON, requesting discussion and possible implementation of parking restrictions on the east side of Albemarle Road between Crafts St & Watertown St
 - ALD LENNON, requesting to extend the resident permit provision to Linwood Avenue of the established Carr School parking district
- **Neighborhood permit system not optimal solution**
 - Adds additional signage, new restrictions for residents
 - In many cases, staff parking would be further walk from school
- **Day MS Principal continue to encourage Staff to park on Albemarle Rd, not in Ed Ctr Lot, not on neighborhood streets**
 - 43-48 empty, available spaces/day between on Albemarle Road.
 - × 5-6 minute walk to Day MS

Discussion



#150-13 ALD. JOHNSON, ALBRIGHT & LINSKY, requesting the Planning Department create a traffic and parking management plan for the Education Center, Day Middle School, Horace Mann Elementary School and Carr School neighborhood area by December 2013. (Wards 1 & 2) [03/29/13 @ 9:11 AM]

HELD 7-0 on 02/04/15, Ald. Fuller not voting

ACTION: HELD 7-0

NOTE: Mr. Paille, Sgt. Babcock and Ald. Albright joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

This item was previously held to allow Mr. Paille the opportunity to discuss traffic concerns at the Education Center, Day Middle School, Horace Mann Elementary School and Carr School neighborhood.

Mr. Paille described locations where traffic and HAWK signals are installed in this area. Traffic signals are installed at the Watertown and Walnut Streets intersection and at the Albemarle Road, Watertown and Crafts Streets intersection. A HAWK beacon is installed at Crafts Street and Linwood Avenue allowing protected pedestrian crossings, stopping traffic only as needed. The signals are coordinated together allowing traffic to flow easier. Mr. Paille noted that eight locations are slated for improvement this year. He will continue to collect new data and the geometry of these two locations.

Mr. Paille then said that he is in the process of reviewing additional traffic signals at Walnut and Crafts Streets and California and Crafts Streets locations. He feels that if traffic were controlled in these areas, pedestrian and vehicle safety would increase. He described the two locations.

Walnut and Crafts Streets:

In 2011, traffic counts were performed at this location. Mr. Paille did not have traffic counts available to determine if this intersection met the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) warrants. This intersection is slated for improvement in FY17.

California and Crafts Streets:

In 2006, traffic counts were performed at this location. Mr. Paille will review this traffic data and research accident data. Mr. Paille did not have traffic counts available to determine if this intersection met the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) warrants. Sgt. Babcock did not have accident data available.

Committee members expressed their concerns, requests and suggestions.

Concerns

- It appears traffic is queuing up at the intersection of California and Crafts Street.
- HAWK beacons are confusing.

Requests

- Committee members would like these intersections to be improved prior to FY17.
- Please provide accident data at the intersection of California and Crafts Streets.
- Committee members requested a list of approved traffic signal projects and prioritization that has not been funded.

Suggestions

- During Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) discussions, review and ensure that the lists of priorities are reflected.
- Employees of the Horace Mann Elementary Schools should be informed that they should park on Albemarle Road.
- Host neighborhood meetings to receive resident input regarding the creation of a traffic and parking management plan for the Education Center, Day Middle School, Horace Mann Elementary School and Carr School neighborhood.
- Invite the School Department/School Committee members to the neighborhood meetings.

Mr. Paille said that the Executive Department assured the Department of Transportation that they will not have to wait for funding to be approved, if it is necessary to begin these projects. He then answered that two traffic signal projects were approved for Beacon and Grant Streets and Winchester and Nahanton Streets. These have been removed from the list of approved traffic signal projects that have not been funded but did not know the reason of how they moved forward. He then said that zero traffic signal projects remain on the list. Traffic signals are prioritized by signal age, number of accidents, crash data, locations and importance.

Chair Ciccone offered to contact Supt. Fleishman requesting that Horace Mann Elementary School employees be directed to park on Albemarle Road.

Without further discussion, Ald. Lipof made the motion to hold this item to host neighborhood meetings to receive resident input regarding the creation of a traffic and parking management plan for the Education Center, Day Middle School, Horace Mann Elementary School and Carr School neighborhood. Chair Ciccone suggested including residents of Linwood Avenue, Crafts and Walnut Streets. Committee members agreed 7-0.