

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

7:45 pm
Room 202

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

#254-11 NANCY BRAUDIS, 57 Theodore Road, filing on August 15, 2011 an appeal from the decision of the Traffic Council on July 28, 2011 to deny TC30-10 as follows: *Requesting a pedestrian warning beacon with a crosswalk at Theodore Road and Parker Street. (Ward 8)*

Chairman's Note: The Committee will meet jointly with the Public Facilities Committee to discuss the following two items:

REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND PUBLIC SAFETY & TRAN. COMMITTEES

#255-11 ALD. BAKER, GENTILE, SCHNIPPER, CICCONE, FULLER, SHAPIRO requesting discussion of preparation for, response during, and follow up after, Tropical Storm Irene by the City of Newton, including co-ordination by the Mayor's office and the various City Departments involved. [08/29/11 @ 2:09 PM]

REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND PUBLIC SAFETY & TRAN. COMMITTEES

#256-11 ALD. SHAPIRO, CICCONE, BAKER requesting a discussion how the City uses information systems as well as people to collect and process information from residents impacted by a storm or other emergency event, and ways to establish or improve the manner in which triage is performed and prioritized to increase public safety with the appropriate response. [08/29/11 @ 9:25 PM]

It is the Chairman's intention to entertain a motion to vote No Action Necessary on the following two items:

#147-09 ALD. VANCE, HESS-MAHAN AND DANBERG requesting discussion with members of the Administration of such possible adoption by Newton's city government of a program such as Zipcar's Fast Fleet vehicle-sharing and management system as a means of reducing the costs of vehicle usage by city employees and the impact of such usage on the environment. [05/11/09 @ 9:58 AM]

The location of this meeting is handicap accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you have a special accommodation need, please contact the Newton ADA Coordinator Trisha Guditz at 617-796-1156 or tguditz@newtonma.gov or via TDD/TTY at (617) 796-1089 at least two days in advance of the meeting.

- #65-10 ALD. YATES, SHAPIRO, JOHNSON, SWISTON AND HARNEY asking the MBTA to provide safer access to bus route 52 for residents of Nahanton Woods, and employees and students of Mount Ida College. [2/17/10 @ 10:29 PM]
HELD 5-0 on 02/23/11

ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #262-11 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting amendments to Chapter 17 of the City of Newton Ordinances, 2007 to increase fees for permits issued by the Fire Department. [08/29/11 @ 3:50 PM]
- #233-11 ALDERMEN CROSSLEY, YATES AND RICE requesting a discussion with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) regarding design and location of the recently created pedestrian access from Quinobequin Road to the revised DCR trail parallel to the Charles River, where pedestrians are concealed and unprotected from oncoming traffic, and further to consider redesign and/or relocation to make access points to the trail safe for both pedestrians and drivers. [08/01/11 @ 4:18 PM]
- #156-11 ALD. YATES requesting a report from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority on the physical condition of the bridge that carries the MBTA Green Line over Route 9 near Eliot Station. [05/02/11 @ 10:51 PM]
- #137-11 ALD. DANBERG AND FULLER requesting possible changes to City Ordinance 19-191, Parking Meter Fees, to require a minimum purchase at long-term parking meters in order to discourage short-term use. [4/26/11 @ 9:52 AM]
HELD 6-0 (Ald. Freedman not voting) on 05/18/11
- #97-11 PARTNERS HEALTHCARE applying for a bus license to operate a fixed route shuttle service with stops in Newton. [03/28/11 @ 2:19 PM]
- #85-11 ALD. CICCONE AND FULLER requesting a discussion of the financial impact of adding Police Department personnel on the overtime account. [03/14/11 @ 9:17 AM]
HELD 4-0 on 03/23/11

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANSPORTATION & FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #54-11(2) ALD. YATES, CICCONE, HARNEY, FREEDMAN AND SHAPIRO requesting that Chapter 19 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC of the Revised Ordinances be amended by reinstating the Community Parking Program in a manner that charges the participants for the full cost of the program. [05/01/11 @ 10:05AM]
HELD 6-0 (Ald. Freedman not voting) on 05/18/11

REFERRED TO PS&T AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- #41-11 ALD. JOHNSON, LENNON AND DANBERG requesting discussion of the elimination, except during snow emergencies, of the overnight parking ban which is in effect from November 15 through April 15. [01/18/11 @ 9:00 PM]
**PUBLIC FACILITIES HELD 6-0 (Ald. Salvucci not voting) on 02/09/11
HELD 6-0 on 02/09/11**
- #371-10 ALD. CICCONE on behalf of Annette Kaplan, 2 Washington Street, Newton Corner, requesting amendment to Section 19-309, *Requirements as to vehicles generally*, of the City of Newton Revised Ordinances to require taxi companies to display the company name, telephone number, and medallion number in all vehicles, visible from the back seat. [12/13/10 @ 4:10 PM]
HELD 7-0 on 01/05/11

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #363-10 ALD. ALBRIGHT & DANBERG, proposing a trial of parking meter free Saturdays between Thanksgiving and New Year for the shopping areas to support shopping at local businesses in Newton. [11/15/10 @ 6:30 PM]
HELD 5-0 (Ald. Yates and Swiston not voting) on 01/05/11
- #279-10 ALD. JOHNSON, ALBRIGHT & LINSKY, requesting the development of a comprehensive traffic and parking plan for the Newton North High School neighborhood with the following streets as its borders: Commonwealth Avenue, Washington, Harvard and Valentine Streets. This plan to be completed by November 30, 2010 will include a fix to short term (immediate needs) and longer term needs to effectively manage the traffic circulation within the neighborhood, provide pedestrian and vehicular safety, and preserve quality of life for the neighborhood, school staff and faculty. [10/06/10 @ 12:33 PM]
HELD 6-0 on 02/09/11
- #49-10 NEWTON BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN TASK FORCE seeking a discussion on a proposal to make changes to the City of Newton's bicycle-related ordinances in order to better align them with State Law and to make it possible for Newton's Safe Routes to School program to develop bike routes suitable for children. [02/09/10 @ 9:11 AM]
HELD 4-0 (Ald. Fuller not voting) on 03/03/10
- #264-09 ALD. HESS-MAHAN proposing to amend Sections 19-166, 19-219 and 26-16 of the Revised Ordinances to allow certain two wheel vehicles, including motorized vehicles that must register as limited use vehicles pursuant to the MGL CH. 90 as amended by Chapter 523 of the Acts of 2008, to continue to park on sidewalks. [09/01/09 @ 11:40 AM]

#261-09 ALD. JOHNSON requesting a review of the City of Newton Ordinances Chapter 24, Sections 26–34 Alarm System Regulations to more clearly express the fines and penalties to residential and commercial property owners for false alarms. [08/19/09 @ 9:53 AM]

REFERRED TO PS&T COMMITTEE by TRAFFIC COUNCIL on 10/23/08

#235-09 ALD. SANGIOLO, HARNEY & GENTILE on behalf of residents on
TC2(2)-08 Wolcott Street requesting that the traffic control signal located at Wolcott and Lexington Streets be moved to a different location or removed altogether. (Ward 4) [3/28/08 @ 9:59 AM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE on 05/04/09

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES & FINANCE COMMITTEES on 02/17/09

#60-09 ALD. SANGIOLO, GENTILE AND HARNEY requesting the installation of traffic islands on CONCORD STREET to be funded with the Cabot, Cabot and Forbes Traffic Mitigation Fund for Lower Falls (Ward 4). [02/03/09 @ 1:01 PM]
FINANCE NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0 on 03/08/10
HELD 6-0 (Ald. Freedman not voting) on 04/06/11

#21-08 ALD. LINSKY AND DANBERG requesting discussion with appropriate personnel from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) relative to ongoing service levels and conditions on mass transit and rail lines affecting Newton residents. [01/04/08 @ 10:19 AM]

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chairman

APPEAL OF TRAFFIC COUNCIL DECISION
CITY OF NEWTON TRAFFIC COUNCIL, ROOM 101A
1000 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
NEWTON CENTRE, MA 02459

This form shall be completed by residents or an alderman who wish to appeal a Traffic Council decision. This form must be completed and filed with the clerk of the board within twenty (20) calendar days of the Traffic Council vote. Requirements for signatures in the matter of appeals are described in Sec.19-33 and 19-34 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Newton, 2007, as amended by Ordinance Z-12. The Appellant and other parties who may in the Council's judgment be substantially affected by such petition will be notified with the first date the petition will be discussed by the Board of Aldermen. NOTE: There are additional appeal requirements for Resident Only Permit Areas; see Sec. 19-201 of the City of Newton Ordinances. If you have further questions, please call the Clerk of the Board's Office at (617) 796-1210.

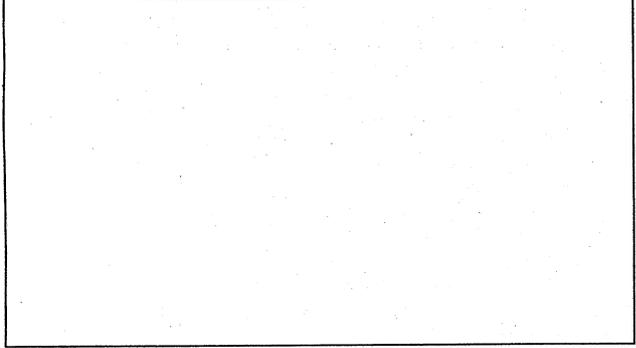
Complete both sides and submit to the Clerk of the Board's Office (PLEASE PRINT):

APPELLANT'S NAME Nancy Braueris SIGNATURE: [Signature]
ADDRESS: 57 Theodore Rd, Newton, MA, 02459 Unit # _____
TELEPHONE (DAY): 617-650-0725 (EVENING): same

PETITION #: TC - 30 - 10

REASON FOR APPEAL: ① 4 SCHOOLS WITHIN 1/2 MILE OF PARKER ST
(MAIN ACCESS STREET) ② HIGH VOLUME + HIGH SPEED —
SPEED LIMIT 30MPH, AVERAGE SPEED 39MPH (PER TRAFFIC
COUNCIL)
③ inexperienced high school drivers ④ FAMILIES VERY
RELUCTANT TO CROSS
PARKER TO ACCESS
SCHOOLS → LEADS TO
INCREASE IN CAR
CONGESTION

THIS SECTION FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:



11 AUG 15 A 9 11
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA 02459

Last Revised November 16, 2009

REQUIRED SIGNATURES (Please Print)

♦ Appeals for intersectional controls/regulations (traffic signals, stop signs, no turn on red, etc.) require a total of six (6) signatures (including appellant's) from owners or tenants whose building or lot of land is located within five-hundred (500) feet of the affected intersection (one signature per household or business).

♦ Appeals for parking restrictions, truck exclusions, speed limits, and all other traffic regulations must be signed by one (1) owner or tenant of at least half of the residential, commercial and/or non-profit units which abut the affected street or way, provided that in no event shall more than ten (10) signatures (including appellant's) be required (one signature per household or business).

NAME: Nancy Braouis SIGNATURE: [Signature]
ADDRESS: 57 Theodore Rd, Newton, MA 02459 UNIT# -
TELEPHONE (DAY): 617-650-0745 (EVENING): 617-332-2248

NAME: Chris Myers SIGNATURE: [Signature]
ADDRESS: 52 Theodore Rd, Newton, MA 02459 UNIT# -
TELEPHONE (DAY): 617-374-8065 (EVENING): 617-527-1776

NAME: Orit Dalal SIGNATURE: [Signature]
ADDRESS: 48 Theodore Rd, Newton, MA 02459 UNIT# -
TELEPHONE (DAY): 617-699-2187 (EVENING): 617-699-2187

NAME: Abigail Schwartz SIGNATURE: [Signature]
ADDRESS: 56 Roosevelt Rd UNIT# -
TELEPHONE (DAY): 617 429 0019 (EVENING): 617 969 1769

NAME: Howard Goldberg SIGNATURE: [Signature]
ADDRESS: 27 Theodore Rd UNIT# -
TELEPHONE (DAY): 617-332-3588 (EVENING): 617-332-3588

NAME: Mendel Zou SIGNATURE: [Signature]
ADDRESS: 28 David Road UNIT# -
TELEPHONE (DAY): (617) 384-9529 (EVENING): 617-969-6629

NAME: Chih Ying Cheng SIGNATURE: [Signature]
ADDRESS: 51 Theodore Rd UNIT# -
TELEPHONE (DAY): 617-969-8951 (EVENING): 617-969-8951

NAME: Nechama Prus SIGNATURE: [Signature]
ADDRESS: 380 Parker St UNIT# -
TELEPHONE (DAY): 617 872-6993 (EVENING): 617-969-1170

NAME: Heather Wolensky SIGNATURE: [Signature]
ADDRESS: 39 Theodore Rd @ Newton, MA UNIT# -
TELEPHONE (DAY): 617-332-7621 (EVENING): -



Countryside School Survey

March 2011

11 AUG 15 A 9 12
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA. 02459

To be included in the survey the participant had to answer yes to the following questions:

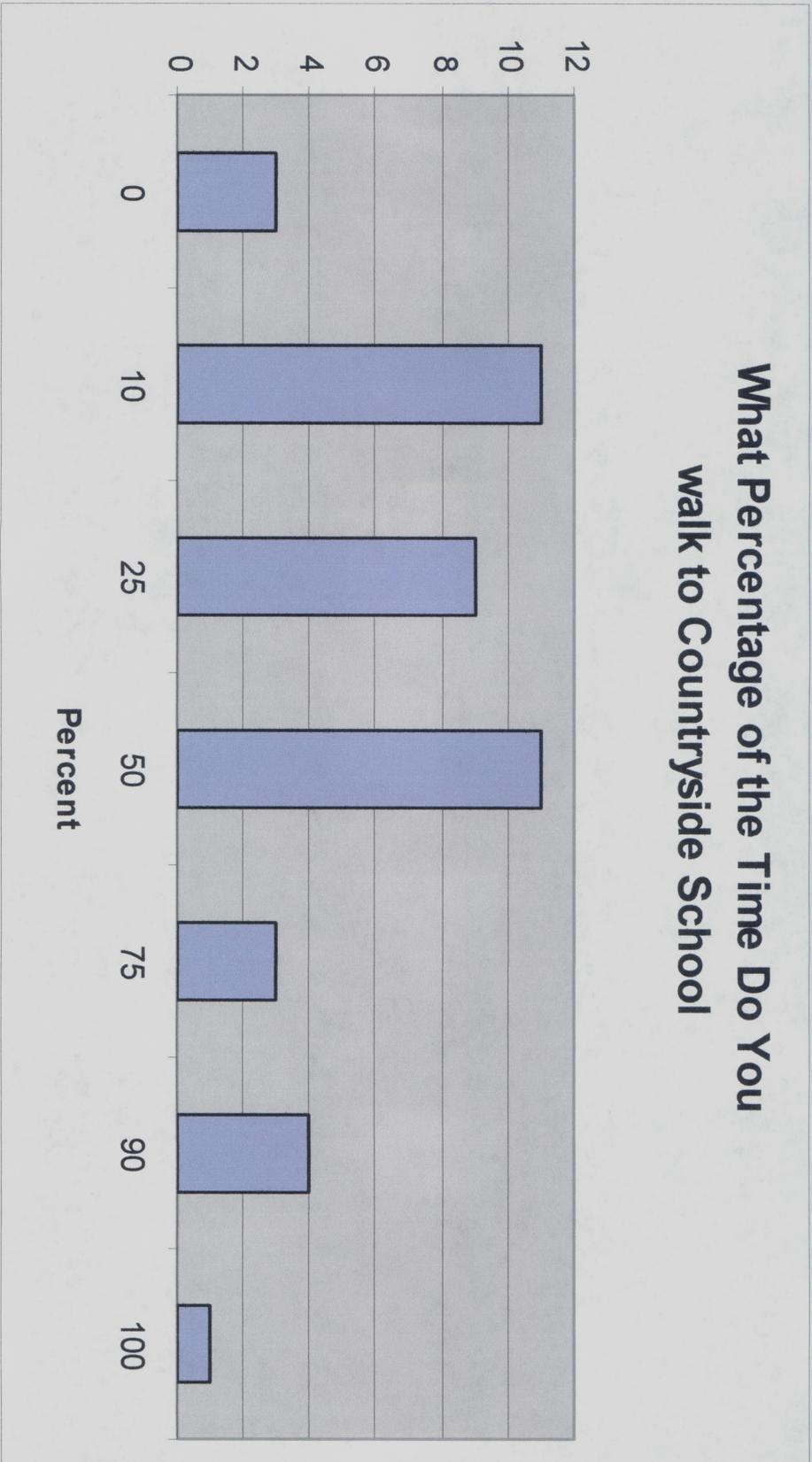
- Do you live within walking distance to Countryside School?
- Do you have to cross Parker Street to get to Countryside School?



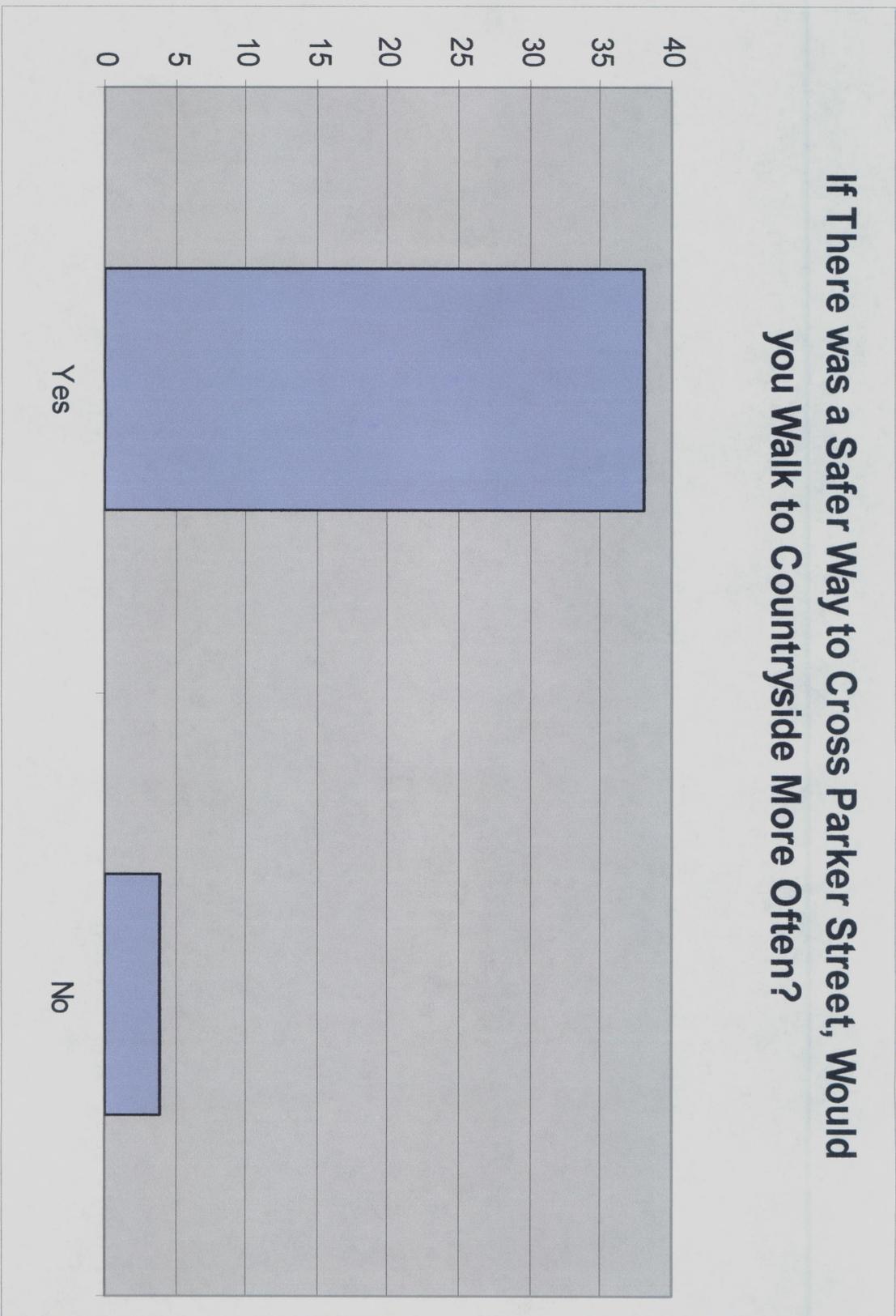
Results

- 42 families responded
- 62 children were represented
- 98% of respondents had concerns about crossing Parker Street

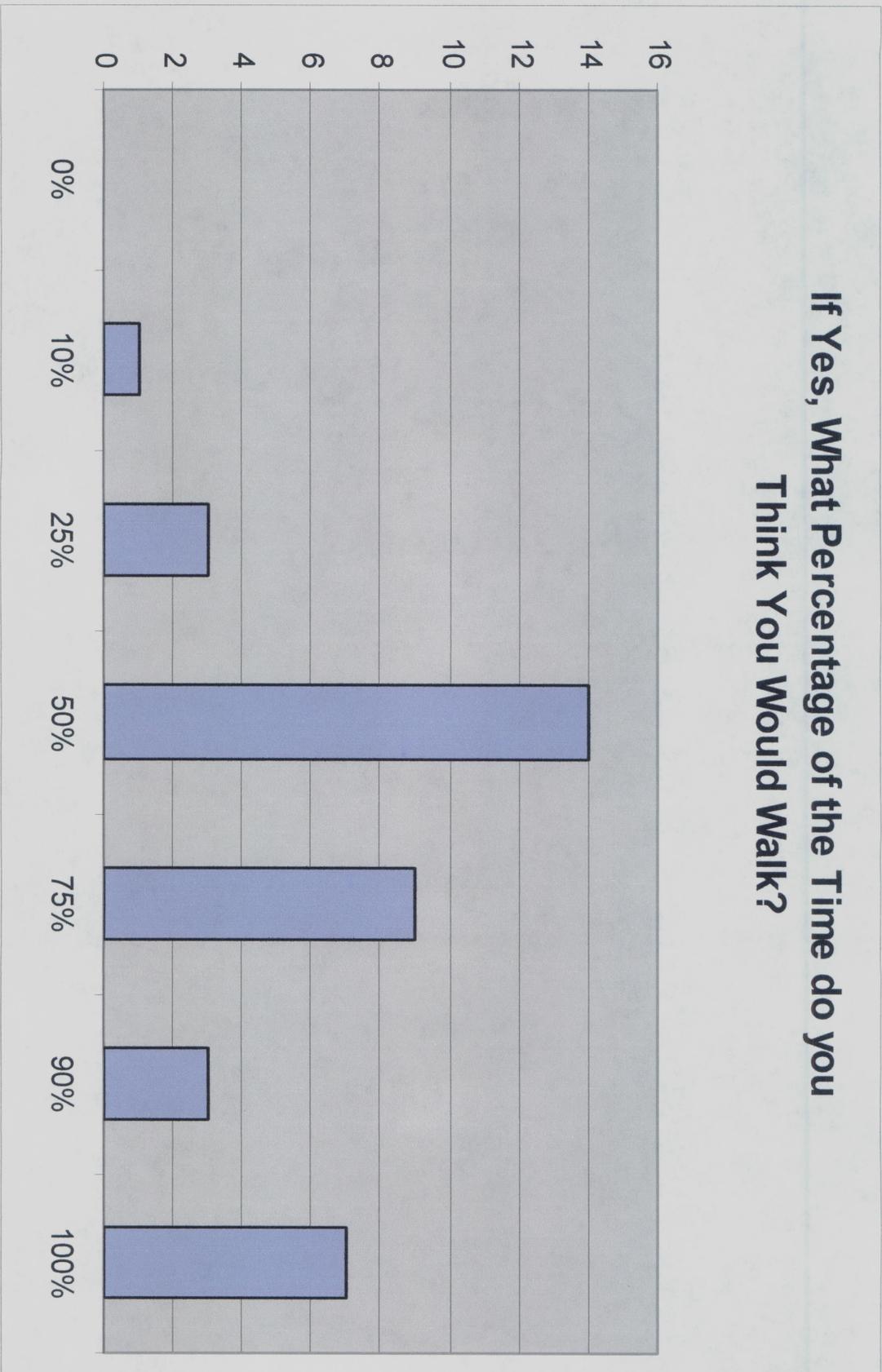
What Percentage of the Time Do You walk to Countryside School



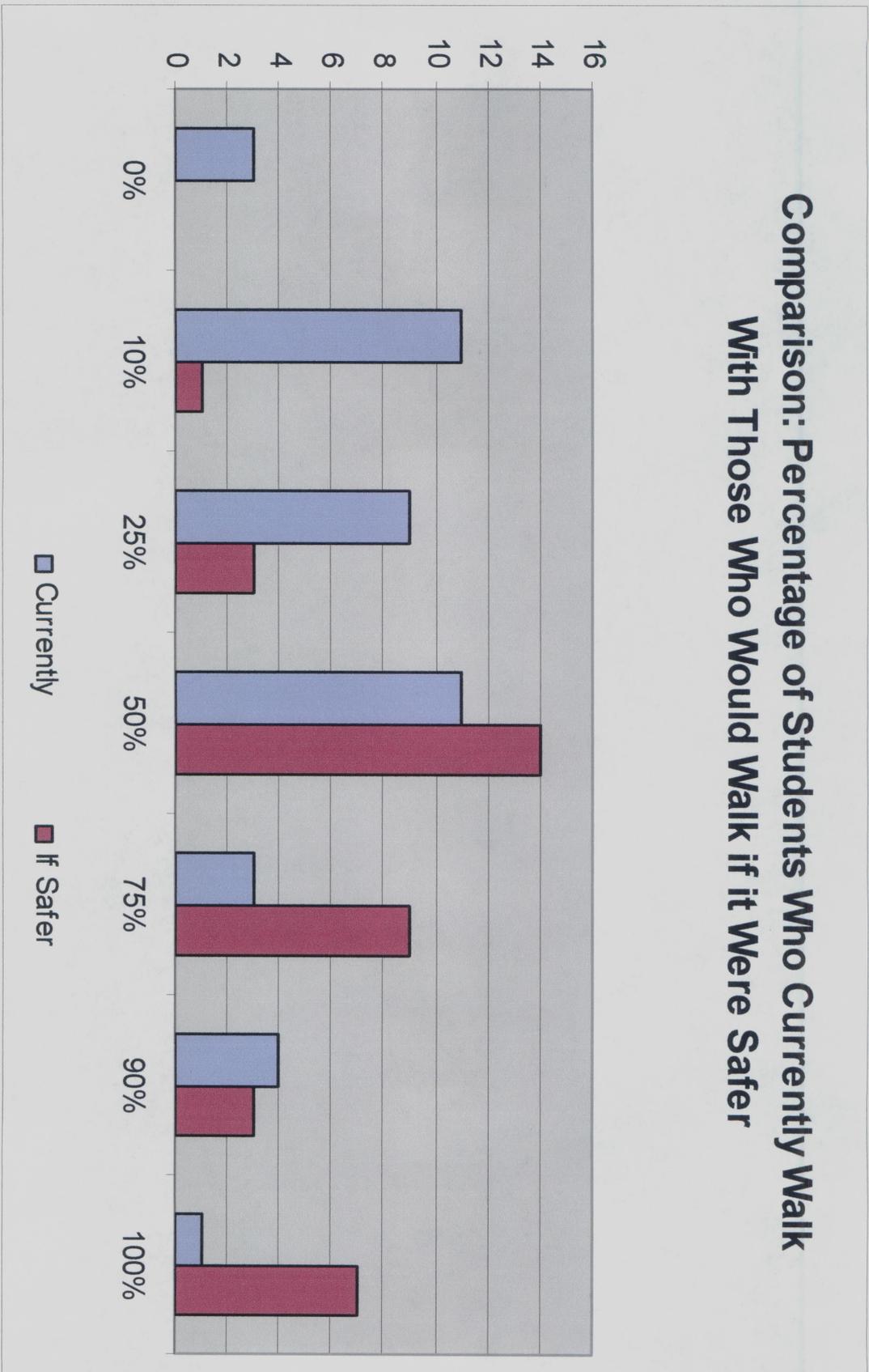
If There was a Safer Way to Cross Parker Street, Would you Walk to Countryside More Often?



If Yes, What Percentage of the Time do you Think You Would Walk?



Comparison: Percentage of Students Who Currently Walk With Those Who Would Walk if it Were Safer



Countryside Elementary School

What are your concerns about crossing Parker Street?

- We tried to cross couple of time, often needed to wait for more than 3 minutes. Traffic hardly stops for pedestrians.
3/15/11 11:03AM
- speed of traffic
3/7/11 11:41AM
- Traffic does not stop during morning rush hour Traffic speeds during morning rush hour
3/6/11 10:35AM
- Cars drive way too fast and often don't stop at the crosswalk.
3/5/11 11:46AM
- Cars don't slow down or yield right of way. Crosswalk is not painted or marked on the street
3/4/11 8:14PM
- Getting hit by a car trying to cross,because nobody will stop.
3/4/11 8:07PM
- The nearest way to go to school for us, we take Truman road, but there is no safe way to cross near Truman road.
3/4/11 6:29PM
- The crosswalk at Hagen Rd. is not visible enough and the volume and speed of the traffic is high during to school and home from school times.
3/4/11 5:13PM
- Cars are going too fast and won't let children cross. No cross walk, etc at Theodore Rd where many children cross.
3/4/11 3:41PM
- safety
3/4/11 12:43AM
- Risking my life! Whether it be walking my kids to school (in the warmer weather) or crossing as I get off the bus from work, it is a real risk! Newton should consider this proposal strongly as there have been numerous children hit near schools. Drivers today are distracted and in a hurry and they need to slow down where children and ANY pedestrian in this case are involved in crossing a busy street.
3/4/11 12:26AM
- Traffic is too busy. There are need a traffic light.
3/4/11 11:15AM
- I am crossing with 5 children and the cars don't stop for us. Often have to wave frantically or step into the street to get someone to stop and let us cross.
3/4/11 10:41AM
- The light over by the middle schools doesnt work most of the time.
3/4/11 10:38AM

- Traffic is very heavy and crossing can be difficult with morning commute.
3/4/11 10:36AM
- The traffic (especially in the morning) is very heavy on Parker Street. Even at the crosswalk at Hagen Road, cars often do not stop for children. It is difficult for the kids to know when it is safe to cross as drivers do not seem to be aware of their responsibility to stop at the crosswalk.
3/4/11 9:39AM
- We always have an adult be with the kids when they cross Parker St. Our 5th grader can walk to school on her own, but we never let her cross Parker St without supervision. It's much too dangerous. Cars go too fast. They turn the corner on Hagen Road too quickly. They often do not stop at the crosswalk.
3/4/11 8:58AM
- very busy at that time in the morning
3/4/11 8:51AM
- Traffic does not pay attention or stop for pedestrians. There should be a crosswalk light
3/4/11 8:19AM
- Heavy traffic and sometimes high speed
3/4/11 6:55AM
- I am concerned for the safety of my son crossing the street on his own. He does not prefer to walk up to Wheeler to cross at the light. You not only have traffic on Parker but also traffic of parents and students getting out of the side routes from the high school onto Parker to be concerned with.
3/3/11 11:03PM
- there are limited crosswalk locations that are close. 2. cars travel faster than the speed limit and will not see and stop for kids in the crosswalk
3/3/11 9:14PM
- That people in their cars will be rushing to work or school or using their phone and not paying attention to stopping for the children.
3/3/11 8:56PM
- Heavy traffic that is reluctant to stop for pedestrians.
3/3/11 8:52PM
- cars not stopping for us
3/3/11 7:42PM
- It's a very busy intersection: Hagen and Parker. Many students from SHS drive - they are still inexperienced drivers. Very often, cars don't stop at the crosswalk, even if a kid is waiting! Once, a driver almost killed my son, Countryside student, crossing this part of the road. It's a very dangerous intersection.
3/3/11 7:37PM
- Cars don't yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk at Hagen and there needs to be another crosswalk, maybe at Roosevelt. It would be great if the police gave tickets to people who don't yield at crosswalks. We live near the private way on Parker Terrace, which seems like it could easily be turned into a pedestrian trail. I would be happy to discuss further.
Fred Meyer 617.398.0796
3/3/11 7:35PM

- Traffic accident, don't want my child harmed by a car.
3/3/11 7:24PM
- There is no crosswalk nearby and the traffic is very busy and fast moving. I will not allow my kids to go by themselves. I will not cross Parker St after dusk.
3/3/11 7:05PM
- People often do not stop at the crosswalk. Hagen and Parker is very busy and the are times when walkers cross but vehicles turning may not see them. Parker and Hagen corner is a frequent mva site.
3/3/11 6:55PM
- Cars do not stop for pedestrians in crosswalk especially by Hagen road we should have a stop light for use by pedestrians
3/3/11 5:51PM
- very dangerous street to cross in the a.m.
3/3/11 5:32PM
- Cars drive very quickly without regarding to crosswalks.
3/3/11 5:18PM
- The safety of all children and concern when my children go home with friends. Also, I drive to work via Parker St. and it is a dangerous area and I think families should be able to walk to school safely. NOT one single car STOPS- it is terrible. Also, I would like my children who attend Brown to walk to Countryside to picjk up sibligns but I worry for their safety.
3/3/11 5:06PM
- Cars will see you in the crosswalk and drive faster to get past you - cars do not obey the laws of the road.
3/3/11 5:05PM
- Busy traffic during the school opening/closing time. Since the school bus stops by our house, my child uses the bus and never walks to the school.
3/3/11 5:00PM
- Presently, we do not cross Parker, however in 2 years my elder child will need to cross when he's attending Brown Middle School.
3/3/11 4:42PM
- Busy traffic that doesn't stop for pedestrians or bikers.
3/3/11 4:38PM
- fast traffic
3/3/11 4:36PM
- Cars often do not stop when there are pedestrians waiting at the crosswalk to cross. I have seen a couple of instances of a car almost hitting a biker and a walker at the crosswalk near Hagen Road.
3/3/11 4:35PM
- Dangerous - cars never stop and fearful of children getting injured.
3/3/11 4:28PM

- Not always a crossing guard. police officer. Very. Often have people speeding and towing through stop signs.
3/3/11 4:28PM
- Crossing Parker St during morning rush hour with little ones in tow.
3/3/11 4:28PM
- traffic too fast, don't always stop, no crossing guard, inexperienced high school drivers
3/3/11 9:48AM

Brown Middle School**What are your concerns about crossing Parker Street?**

- It's a very dangerous crossing. Very often, cars don't stop. Unless there is a light or crossing guard, it's an accident waiting to happen.
4/2/11 2:31PM
- For all of Parker St there is only the one light at Wheeler and I worry that kids don't all cross there. It is an extremely busy street.
4/2/11 1:50PM
- Too many cars
4/2/11 7:51AM
- where to cross safely
4/1/11 12:15AM
- As long as the people wait for the signal at the cross walk, there is no safety issue. When there is no signal at the cross walk, the car is required to stop by the state law. Some car drivers are crazy
4/1/11 9:43AM
- It is a very dangerous road and I think there should be a crossing guard near Hagan road because people have to cross to get to countryside and to brown.
4/1/11 1:55AM
- There are vehicles passing continuously both sides including trucks and driving students car. There should be more crosswalk and yield sign along Parker Street.
4/1/11 1:12AM
- the light at Parker is TOOOOOOO long
3/31/11 10:31PM
- The drivers on Parker Street do not always look out for pedestrians. The traffic during the school transit time can be quite busy.
3/31/11 9:33PM
- High speed and traffic volume.
3/31/11 9:04PM
- Drivers often go too fast on Parker Street. Dedham Street, and Needham Street are very bad too. Harried drivers are not paying attention and often drive as if entitled. "Gotta go first, gotta get there 10 seconds sooner." All you have to do is observe the chaos pulling out of Dunkin Donuts parking lots all over the city. Not only are drivers not looking out for pedestrians but think nothing of cutting off other vehicles. A high percentage are driving one-handed with their mobile phone in the other. Very inconsiderate and unsafe. Middle school students are at particular risk because they are usually not accompanied by adults going to school. Typical teenage lack of attention, not crossing in crosswalks, general poor judgement add to the risk. We have the recent accidents around Day Middle School where students narrowly missed serious injury as examples. Several years ago when people were touting the utopian "walking school bus" concept, I

contacted the school committee to point out the problem and requested remediation for Dedham Street. But of course, no action was taken. Several strategically placed blinking yellow lights and very visibly marked crosswalks or crossing guards would help..

3/31/11 7:03PM

- Cars are always driving too fast or on cell phones and do not stop for children even when they are waiting on the crosswalk. Especially in the mornings when people are rushing to work.

3/31/11 6:06PM

- Quite simply, Parker Street is a pedestrian unfriendly street. There is NO safe crossing area as cars drive at speeds too high to stop safely. Crossing safely is tenuous and someone is going to get hit before long.

3/31/11 5:08PM

- Very busy street, fast vehicles, no police presence, no visible signs or pedestrian crosswalks or school zone, wreckless drivers, speeding, known thoroughfare for alternate routes east/west

3/31/11 4:44PM

- speedy cars

3/31/11 4:29PM

- This is a very busy road where the speed limit is 30 but cars are often going much faster and do not routinely stop for pedestrians waiting to cross.

3/31/11 4:14PM

- the light there doesn't always work

3/31/11 4:02PM

- traffic speed; length of walk signal/green light off of Wheeler SNOW/ICE REMOVAL AND SHOVELING--WHEN PEOPLE DON'T SHOVEL IT INCREASES THE DANGERS IMMENSELY. Failure of the city to impose fines was a COMPLETE abdication of responsibility. NOTE: questions 6 and 7 don't apply since we walk almost all the time as it is.

3/31/11 2:45PM

- Cars move quickly, no great place to cross. Area over bridge is particularly dangerous with traffic congested and turning cars in all directions simultaneously

3/31/11 2:24PM

- Cars turning right from Wheeler st to Parker st. It's very hard to cross the intersection even on the green light.

3/31/11 2:14PM

- The crossing light is close to the curb....

3/31/11 1:47PM

- not certain the children will get crossed safely

3/31/11 1:42PM

- In the morning, the sun is too bright for drivers to see anyone as they turn the bend on Dedham Street, so that crosswalk is useless, there should be a good crosswalk with blinking lights at the intersection of Dedham and Parker.

3/31/11 12:55AM

- need a traffic light
3/31/11 12:54AM
- light is broken. No crossing guard. Afraid a child will get hit.
3/31/11 12:13AM
- Pedestrian light doesn't turn on often enough. Drivers crashing the light.
3/31/11 11:54AM
- Crossing safely with distracted drivers, student drivers, etc.
3/31/11 11:49AM
- excessive congestion, speeding drivers and, lack of safe passage across rte 9 bridge
3/31/11 11:47AM
- Crossing Parker and Route 9 is hazardous.
3/31/11 11:44AM
- it is a very busy street that most of the time is really hard to cross. 2) That my daughter will be hit by a car because some car drivers don't respect that the passengers rights
3/31/11 11:43AM
- very busy and difficult to cross
3/31/11 11:41AM
- Sometimes drivers do not pay attention to pedestrians crossing in crosswalks
3/31/11 11:29AM
- many cars and driving fast
3/31/11 11:27AM
- Very very dangerous- the lights do not always work and there is insufficient time for children to cross.
3/31/11 11:18AM
- Traffic light did not work a couple of times. It takes very long to switch to red after button is pushed, motorists speed through it even after its back to red.
3/31/11 11:18AM
- People do not stop at stop sign and often drive too fast.
3/31/11 11:17AM
- My child walks to/from school with friends who need to cross Parker Street. The largest concern is that the kids will not cross using the light at Parker & Wheeler. Roosevelt Rd is a common place to see kids crossing diagonally/with difficulty toward Truman. Cars speed down this stretch at 50 mph+. If a friend walks home to our house after school (non-traffic light route) then I either drive them home or walk to the corner of Roosevelt and be their crossing guard. Because of the Bus Stop and the many High Schoolers who walk down Roosevelt Rd. I would like to see a crossing guard for HS through Elementary school crossings (7:10 am through 8:35 am). After school is more complex but would still like to have a crossing guard at this corner. Thank you! I hope we can implement this or similar for Fall 2011.
3/31/11 11:14AM

- Drivers frequently deem stopping at pedestrian crosswalks to be optional -- often they drive right through the one at Parker and Hagen, even though there are children and parents waiting to cross. I have personally seen a driver sail right through that crosswalk while pedestrians were waiting to cross -- with a police officer (and cruiser) standing there in plain sight. And at the stoplight at Wheeler and Parker, drivers on Wheeler try to turn right at a red light on to Parker while kids are crossing the street.
3/31/11 11:10AM
- Corner of Dedham and Parker there is no cross walk.
3/31/11 11:06AM
- Aggressive cars at intersection of Parker and Wheeler
3/31/11 11:06AM
- Cars don't stop...ever!...at the posted crosswalk at Parker and Hagen! We need a crosswalk light!
3/31/11 11:05AM
- safety
3/31/11 10:58AM
- Parker is a busy street with a lot of traffic. There is no crossing line or anything that tells drivers that children may cross the street.
3/31/11 10:56AM
- Traffic light very short. Weeler st. can take right on red and often not stoping. Overall drivers are too fast on parker.
3/31/11 10:56AM
- speed of traffic; poorly marked crosswalks.
3/31/11 10:53AM
- Like on most of the main street, drivers are going too quickly and often maneuver around stopped cars not seeing a pedestrian crossing. Even the crosswalk light is dangerous with many drivers are busy looking to see if they can turn right on red. Beyond that one area, the walk to school is just as dangerous. The stop sign on the corner of Walnut and Dedham Streets is not visible (or at least drivers pretend it isn't) and drivers use Elenor St. or Walnut as a bypass to the dangerous Rt. 9.entrance. Every week I see an accident with cars trying to get onto Walnut being hit by cars entering Rt. 9.
3/31/11 10:03AM
- Watching kids that walk home try to cross with so many cars rushing past.
3/30/11 8:36AM

Oakhill Middle School

What are your concerns about crossing Parker Street?

- My daughter does not have good judgment about crossing streets and although she is in 8th grade, I could never have her walk to school alone, or even take the bus home, because of the dangers of crossing Parker Street.
3/20/11 11:52AM
- There is not enough pedestrian walkers for the cars to think about people much of the time so crosswalks are ignored a lot by cars. There is only one light on Parker and that is at Wheeler Road.
3/16/11 8:44AM
- At the Route 9 crossing with Parker Street it is highly unregulated and cars (and trucks and buses) are coming from all directions. Parker Street and Route 9 need better marked cross walks and a stop light system (like most other busy intersections) so that cars, pedestrians and bicyclists can safely maneuver thru the intersection.
3/15/11 10:23PM
- Crossing Parker St is NOT limited to walkers. It is also an issue for those kids riding Bus 52 which runs down Parker Street. Do not limit your intake info to just the WALKERS, Please. TONS of kids take bus 52!!!
3/15/11 8:50PM
- Speeding cars
3/15/11 3:54PM
- it is very unsafe to cross Parker street because many drivers don't pay attention to the children and my child almost got hit a number of times in broad day light! We need a set of traffic light at the corner of Rt. 9 and Parker Street or a crossing guard.
3/15/11 12:38AM
- Only has to cross Parker to take bus in a.m.
3/15/11 9:43AM
- traffic, speeders, and crossing such a busy street
3/15/11 7:40AM
- No crosswalk or light where my daughter crosses.
3/15/11 6:10AM
- excessive speed of drivers between Newton Centre and Route 9 heading south towards school.
3/14/11 10:21PM
- People don't stop readily at the crosswalk at Parker/Daniel, often speeding by too
3/14/11 10:07PM
- Cross walk between Parker St. and Boylston St. bridge.
3/14/11 10:04PM
- Being killed by maniacs and idiots at the Route 9 intersection
3/14/11 9:53PM

- My daughter takes the MBTA bus down Parker Street to Oak Hill. To get the bus, she must cross Parker Street. She uses the cross walk and I feel pretty comfortable with that.
3/14/11 9:52PM
- The traffic is very heavy and the drivers don't pay attention to the children. Driver don't pay attention to the children crossing the up-and-down ramps of Rt. 9 and come very close to hitting the children as they are crossing. They need a traffic light or a crossing guard to assist the children.
3/14/11 9:28PM
- 90% of the time my kids cross Parker st. in the morning to get the T bus
3/14/11 9:13PM
- Cars do not stop at cross walks unless you aggressively walk into the cross walk.
3/14/11 8:37PM
- traffic
3/14/11 8:35PM
- Cars often don't stop to allow young people to cross, and the route 9 exit/entrance ramps are very hectic.
3/14/11 8:33PM
- Way too much traffic in the morning, going to South, Brown and Oak Hill. Lots of new drivers and people in a rush to get to work and school.
3/14/11 8:13PM
- crazy traffic especially in morning
3/14/11 8:08PM
- Speeding cars, no safe crosswalk, Parker street bridge intersections very dangerous
3/14/11 8:08PM
- Cars ran too fast. And in the morning, ride vehicles are parked in side view obscures a lot.
3/14/11 8:04PM
- I'm more concerned about crossing rt 9, while on parker
3/14/11 7:30PM
- So much traffic!
3/14/11 7:04PM
- Very busy, and traffic goes very fast.
3/14/11 6:44PM
- The street is a death trap for anyone not in a car, and at least mildly hazardous for people in cars.
3/14/11 6:16PM
- We used to live in the neighborhood. Cars fly down Parker street as there is no light or stop sign anywhere. The worst part of it is where route 9 inputs onto Parker. Cars coming westbound from Boston and having to take a right on Parker have NO visibility. I saw quite a number of near hits (both involving pedestrians and wheels -cars or bicycles-)
3/14/11 6:16PM

- My child on occasion cross Parker Street to take the city bus to Oak Hill. Even though there are crosswalk, cars just speed by too quickly in the morning and very small percentage of cars will stop. Oftentimes we wait for 10-15 cars to go by before one will stop.

3/14/11 6:15PM

- Volume of traffic during school dropoff/pickup, too many cars rush through the Wheeler/Parker intersection

3/14/11 6:11PM

- No good places to cross.

Onaly Kapasi, M.D., FAAOS, FAANOS (Hon)
356 Parker St., Newton, MA 02459
Phone: 617-965-5162
arthroscopy@live.com
www.Massortho.com

Reference: TC30-10

September 12, 2011

Danielle Delaney
Committee Clerk
Public Safety and Transportation Committee
City of Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Via Internet-communication:ddelaney@newtonma.gov

Dear Ms. Delaney,

I moved to 356 Parker Street in August 1976 and since that time continuously lived at the same address. I am writing in support of Nancy Braudis as I believe in the legitimacy of her request for a pedestrian warning beacon at the crosswalk of Theodore road/Parker Street.

Newton citizens who live on Parker Street and adjoining streets know and understand the importance of public safety especially for the neighborhood children walking to the three vicinity Newton public schools. Parker Street over the years has become a very busy thoroughfare for motor vehicles, heavy equipment trucks, utility trucks, eighteen wheelers and other vehicles plying between US Route 1 and US Route 9.

I believe that Pedestrian safety can only be ensured and enhanced by installing proper crosswalks however it is just as important to restrict heavy-duty commercial vehicles on Parker Street(as it is on other neighborhood streets) and strictly monitor speeding vehicles as it has made living on Parker Street challenging and also risky. *Just last Saturday it took me twelve minutes to cross from my sidewalk to the opposite sidewalk!*

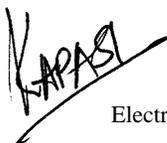
I am a senior citizen therefore I do not have the speed and agility of a youngster whilst crossing across our street.

With great respect for the mayor, council members and alderman I recommend that the public safety committee exercise diligence and rescind the denial of TC30-10 and also additionally discuss a proposal for limiting commercial traffic and an improved monitoring of speeding vehicles on Parker Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Onaly Kapasi, M.D., FAAOS, FAANOS (Hon)

Cc to:



Electronic Signature

Please excuse transcription errors as this record is electronically transcribed using speech recognition technology



PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTICE

Dear Resident:

The Public Safety & Transportation Committee of the Board of Aldermen will be discussing the following item, which may be of interest to you, at its next meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 7:45 pm in Room 202, Second Floor, City Hall. The meeting is open to the public and if you would like further information on the item, you are encouraged to attend.

#254-11 NANCY BRAUDIS, 57 Theodore Road, filing on August 15, 2011 an appeal from the decision of the Traffic Council on July 28, 2011 to deny TC30-10 as follows: *Requesting a pedestrian warning beacon with a crosswalk at Theodore Road and Parker Street. (Ward 8)*

This is not a public hearing, but written opinions will be accepted. If you would like to offer an opinion in writing, please send to the following address: Clerk of the Board, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton Centre, 02459 or e-mail to Danielle Delaney at ddelaney@newtonma.gov by September 14, 2011.

Sincerely,

Danielle Delaney
Committee Clerk
Public Safety & Transportation Committee

#254-11

Appeal of Traffic Council decision to deny TC30-10: request for a pedestrian warning beacon with a crosswalk at Theodore Rd. and Parker St.

Aerial Photo



Newton DPW Crosswalk Policy

- Adopted by Board of Aldermen: 2007.
 - Criteria for new crosswalks:
 - 85th Percentile Speed < 40 mph.
 - ≥ 20 pedestrians crossing per hour.
 - > 3,000 vehicles per day on road.
 - < 9,000 vehicles per day on road.
 - If > 9,000 vpd, additional special treatments are required.
 - > 300' from existing crosswalks.
 - Adequate Stopping Sight Distance required.
-

Parker St. Data

- Average Daily Traffic: 13,800 vpd.
 - 1% Trucks.
 - Speed Limit: 30 mph.
 - Mean Speed: 33 mph.
 - 85th Percentile Speed: 39 mph.
-

1-Hour Pedestrian Counts



Conclusions

- Parker St. volume exceeds maximum for the installation of simple crosswalk setup (paint & signage).
 - FHWA study recommends against installing marked crosswalks alone on two lane roads with daily traffic volumes greater than 12,000 veh./day.
- Parker St. speeds at maximum for installation of any crosswalk.

Typical Enhanced Crossings



TC30-10 NANCY BRAUDIS, 57 Theodore Road, requesting a pedestrian warning beacon with a crosswalk at Theodore Road and Parker Street. (Ward 8) [08/30/10 @ 11:45 AM]

HELD (4-1, Grafe) on 12/16/10 until additional counts can be taken during warmer weather.

ACTION: DENIED (5-0). This may be appealed through August 17, 2011.

NOTE: Mr. Danila reviewed with Council members the Department Public Works crosswalk policy, data on Parker Street including average daily traffic counts, vehicle speeds and pedestrian counts.

Criteria for New Crosswalks must meet the following Guidelines: 85th percentile speed less than 40 mph, greater than 20 pedestrians crossing per hour during two peak hours per day, more than 3,000 vehicles per day on road, less than 9,000 vehicles per day on road. If more than, 9,000 vehicles per day, additional special treatments are required. Greater than 300' from existing crosswalks and adequate stopping sight distance is required. He then said that the Board of Aldermen adopted the Crosswalk Policy in 2007.

Parker Street Data proved the following:

Average Daily Traffic: 13,800 vehicles per day, 1% Trucks. Speed Limit is 30 mph, the mean speed is 33 mph. and 85th Percentile Speed is 39 mph.

Pedestrian Counts proved the following in December 2010 and May 2011- (On a school day)

Parker Street at Wheeler Road-December: 0 Adults and 10 students; May: 2 adults and 30 students

Theodore Road crossing Parker Street-December: 6 adults and 3 students; May: 4 adults and 13 students

Parker Street at Hagen Road-December: 0 adults and 4 students; May: 1 adult and 3 students

Conclusions:

Parker Street volume exceeds maximum for the installation of simple crosswalk setup (paint and signage). Parker Street speeds at maximum for installation of any crosswalk. Pedestrian volumes do not meet minimum requirements for crosswalk installation. The Department of Public Works will not install a crosswalk at this location because it does not meet the minimum requirement of twenty pedestrians per hour.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion for public comment.

Nancy Braudis provided Council members with a survey from Countryside School, notes of concerns crossing Parker Street from Oak Hill Middle, Brown Middle and Countryside Elementary Schools, attached to this report. She feels the pedestrian counts appear very low. 98% of survey respondents had concerns about crossing Parker Street. If there were a safer way to cross Parker Street, more families would walk. A crosswalk is necessary due to the high volumes and speed. Another resident agreed.

Ald. Lappin said that data proves 17 people cross Parker Street; re-consideration is necessary for the installation of the crosswalk to meet the 20 people guideline. She then asked Mr. Danila for suggestions on how Traffic Council could proceed.

Mr. Grafe said that he did not support a hold in December because action was necessary. He then said that he would not support a vote of no action necessary or denial because the area is too dangerous and safer crossing is necessary. He believes additional pedestrians would use the crosswalk if they were installed and safer crossing is necessary in this area and he would support the installation of a crosswalk with a pedestrian warning beacon. He suggested narrowing Parker Street.

Mr. Koses reviewed locations in the City that have pedestrian warning beacons. The City has not been very satisfied with the results because compliance has not been met and observations prove that many cars do not stop. Ald. Ciccone agreed and suggested the crosswalk to be installed at Wheeler Road where the guidelines would be met.

Ald. Fischman provided Council members with photos depicting Parker Street as straight where speeding is evident, attached to this report. He said that the area is dangerous and agreed that re-consideration is necessary. He suggested that Traffic Council consider Hagen and Wheeler Roads for crosswalk locations, remove the "Right Turn on Red" sign at Wheeler Road and install additional signage at Hagen Road.

Mr. Koses said that Traffic Council does not have the authority to fund a flashing yellow beacon. He feels that additional discussion is necessary with the Board of Aldermen regarding the criteria approved by the Board. Ald. Lappin suggested that Traffic Council approve the crosswalk and pedestrian beacon and forward the recommendation to the Board of Aldermen for funding.

Ald. Fischman said that he would not support with a denial vote because it is imperative to make the area safe. He suggested holding this item until additional counts and issues could be provided. Mr. Koses asked Mr. Danila whether, if the item was denied, the Transportation Division would be able to provide additional information and pedestrian counts for the Public Safety & Transportation Committee's review. Mr. Danila agreed that this additional information could be provided.

Ald. Ciccone made the motion to hold this item pending additional information as requested. The motion failed to carry 1-4 (Grafe, Koses, Danila, Mintz opposed). Mr. Danila made a motion to deny this item. If appealed, a Board of Aldermen Committee would review. Council members agreed 5-0. This item may be appealed through August 17, 2011. Mr. Koses briefly described the appeals process.

TC9-11 WARD 8 ALDERMEN, requesting a review of traffic and pedestrian safety in the area of Memorial-Spaulding School, including parking, traffic signals, street markings, blue zones, student walking routes and any other considerations relevant to safety and traffic flow. (Ward 8) [03/15/11 @ 9:40 AM]

ACTION: No parking Brookline Street, South Side, from 50' south of Spaulding Lane to 261 Brookline Street, 8AM-4PM School Days (5-0). This may be appealed through August 17, 2011. Remove existing Blue Zone located on the south side of Brookline Street, east of Oak Hill Street (5-0). This may be appealed through August 17, 2011. Add a Blue Zone on the south side of Brookline Street, west of Oak Hill Street (5-0). This may be appealed through August 17, 2011.

Danielle Delaney

From: **Onaly Kapasi <arthroscopy@live.com>**
To: **<ddelaney@newtonma.gov>**
Subject: **TC30-10**
Date sent: **Mon, 12 Sep 2011 10:52:58 -0400**

Dear Ms Delaney plplease find enclosed as an attachment my letter of support fo reconsideration of the denial. I am always available for advice and comments.

Regards

OAK

Onaly A. Kapasi, MD, FAAOS, FAANOS(Hon)

www.massortho.com

icbones@ymail.com