

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016

Present: David Koses, Acting Traffic Council Chair; Sgt. Jay Babcock, Newton Police Department; Alicia Wilson, Resident member and Councilor Blazar

Absent: Gloria Son, Traffic Engineer

Also Present: Councilors Crossley, Hess-Mahan, Ciccone and Danberg

Mr. Koses provided a PowerPoint presentation on these items, attached to this report.

Nominations, Election and Discussion of term length for Traffic Council Chair

ACTION: David Koses elected Acting Traffic Council Chair for the term February 25, 2016 through March 24, 2016. (4-0)

NOTE: Sgt. Babcock made a motion to extend Mr. Koses as the Acting Traffic Council Chair effective immediately through March 24, 2016. Mr. Koses accepted. Council members agreed 4-0.

TC59-15 ALDERMEN CROSSLEY, RICE AND YATES, requesting changes to the parking regulations on Locke Road, in order to incorporate Locke Road into the Waban Village Parking District. (Ward 5) [11/24/15 @ 9:37 AM]
HELD 5-0 on 01/21/16. Pending draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) to approve 1) Parking prohibited, Locke Road, east side. 2) Two-hour limit, Locke Road, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., west side, except by Waban Resident parking permit.

ACTION: **APPROVED AS AMENDED 4-0. Approved amended TPR language.**

NOTE: Council members were provided with a draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) for review.

Without discussion, Mr. Koses made a motion to approve as amended the draft TPR to include Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays. Council members agreed 4-0. Mr. Koses stated that this item may be appealed through the close of business on March 16, 2016.

TC52-15 WARD 2 ALDERMEN, requesting a change to the parking regulations on Kirkstall Road between Walnut Street and Woodside Road. (Ward 2) [11/05/15 @ 5:09 PM]
HELD 5-0 on 01/21/16. Pending draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) to approve Kirkstall Road, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., School days, north and south side from Walnut Street to Woodside Road except by Newtonville Resident parking permit.

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0. Approved TPR language.**

NOTE: Council members were provided with a draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) for review.

Without discussion, Mr. Koses made a motion to approve the draft TPR. Council members agreed 4-0. Mr. Koses stated that this item may be appealed through the close of business on March 16, 2016.

TC56-15 DAVID KOSES, TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR, requesting a change to the parking regulations on Chestnut Street between Washington Street and Davis Street. (Ward 3) [11/18/15 @ 3:13 PM]
HELD 5-0 on 01/21/16. Pending draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) to approve 15-minute parking zone, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in front of 25 Chestnut Street.

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0. Approved TPR language.**

NOTE: Council members were provided with a draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) for review.

Without discussion, Mr. Koses made a motion to approve the draft TPR. Council members agreed 4-0. Mr. Koses stated that this item may be appealed through the close of business on March 16, 2016.

TC32-15 BEECHER PLACE & BEECHER TERRACE RESIDENTS, requesting consideration of implementing restricted parking to only one side of Beecher Place. (Ward 6) [06/18/15 @ 11:39 AM]
HELD 5-0 on 01/21/16. Pending draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) to approve Parking prohibited, Beecher Place, south side.

ACTION: **APPROVED AS AMENDED 4-0. Approved amended TPR language.**

NOTE: Council members were provided with a draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) for review.

Without discussion, Mr. Koses made a motion to approve as amended the draft to include Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays. Council members agreed 4-0. Mr. Koses stated that this item may be appealed through the close of business on March 16, 2016.

TC25-15 BARRY WHITE, 106 Sumner Street, requesting a two-hour parking restriction on the easterly side of Sumner Street from Marshall Street to Commonwealth Avenue. (Ward 6) [06/05/15 @ 8:33 AM]
HELD 4-0 on 06/25/15. Hold for trial. 2 hour limit, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Sumner Street, between Marshall Street and Commonwealth Avenue, east side, except Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays. No parking, Sumner Street, west side, Marshall Street to Commonwealth Avenue.

ACTION: **HELD 4-0. Held pending draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) to approve 1) Two-hour limit, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Sumner Street, between Marshall Street and Commonwealth Avenue, east side. 2) No parking, Sumner Street, west side, Marshall Street to Commonwealth Avenue, including Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays.**

NOTE: Mr. Koses reviewed with Council members the location map, previous site photos depicting Sumner Street being parked up and the various area parking restrictions. In June, Traffic Council held this item implementing a two-hour parking limit on Sumner Street.

Mr. Koses said that three emails were received in support of making the trial permanent, none opposed. He then opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Mr. White said that the trial has worked well and he is very pleased. The temporary parking restriction has eliminated the parked-up vehicles. It has become easier to exit driveways and the trial allows for easy emergency and trash vehicles access. He is very pleased and is hopeful that Traffic Council will consider making the restriction permanent.

Councilor Danberg agreed the trial has proven to be successful and recommends making it permanent.

Mr. Koses briefly described the Newton Centre parking study, in progress by Nelson Nygaard Consulting Associates. The purpose of the parking study is to develop a set of short and long-term solutions addressing perceived parking shortages and related issues in and around Newton Centre. A goal is to share the streets amongst the different users. .

Without further discussion, Councilor Blazar made a motion to hold this item pending a draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) to approve the above action. Council members agreed 4-0.

TC10-15 **WARD 6 ALDERMEN**, requesting one 15-minute parking space on Beacon Street, Newton Centre in front of or near Murray's Liquors, in order to serve the needs of several nearby businesses, many of whose customers need very short-term parking, and who may lose business due to the current lack of it. (Ward 6) [03/02/15 @ 11:55 AM]

HELD 3-1, Babcock opposed on 06/25/15. Hold for trial. Remove parking meter #762 in front of Murray's Liquors. Replace with the following sign: 15-minute time limit, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

ACTION: **HELD 4-0**

NOTE: Mr. Koses reviewed with Council members the location map, previous site photos and the current parking meters in the area. In June, Traffic Council implemented a trial removing meter #762, a 2-hour parking meter to implement one 15-minute parking space. He then stated that most of Newton Centre has two-hour parking meters.

Six site visits were performed at this location; data was collected in August 2015 and February 2016 proving that most vehicles are not abusing the 15-minute parking space although some vehicles were observed parking longer than the 15-minute allowance.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion to members of the public present. Mr. Greenberg, owner, Murray's Liquors provided Council members with a signed petition in support of making this 15-minute parking space permanent, on file. Mr. Greenberg said that the business owners have witnessed minimal abuse to the 15-minute parking space. He then stated that the meter or the meter head was not removed. He personally placed a sign on the meter indicating that it is a 15-minute parking space. He is hopeful Traffic Council will consider making this 15-minute parking space permanent as it has benefited the Newton Centre businesses.

Councilor Danberg agrees that people are not abusing the 15-minute parking space. The trial has been very helpful to Newton Centre businesses, many of whose customers need very short-term parking. This trial has been very beneficial, if short-term parking is not available, customers may patronize other locations.

Traffic Council members and Councilors presents expressed their concerns regarding the meter head not being removed or that the meter was not 'bagged'. Although, Mr. Koses recalls the meter being 'bagged' in August 2015, perhaps the bag had been removed.

Sgt. Babcock stated that the February 2016 data collected is inaccurate because the meter or meter head was not removed. It is necessary to remove the parking meter head to collect accurate data. A 15-minute parking space is confusing to customers because they may continue to feed the meter because the meter remains. He then stated that he remains in opposition to a 15-minute parking space because of enforcement difficulties.

Mr. Koses said that he is hesitant to approve a 15-minute parking space in the middle of a parking meter zone. The current parking meter cannot be modified to become a 15-minute meter. In the future, the City is hopeful to install Smart meters, which would open various opportunities, including even a 15-minute free parking period at a meter. He then said that the Newton Centre parking study, in progress by Nelson Nygaard Consulting Associates may implement new parking changes to Newton Centre.

Councilor Blazar agreed that the meter head should be removed in order to collect accurate data. He said that the 15-minute parking space appears to be working for the business owners and suggests continuing the trial to obtain accurate data.

Councilor Danberg stated that the 15-minute parking space has drastically reduced the number of vehicles double parking and illegal parking near the fire hydrant on Beacon Street. She supports removing the parking meter head to continue the trial in order to obtain accurate data. If data collected proves that people are not abusing the 15-minute parking space, she would support the trial becoming permanent.

Traffic Council members agree that the parking meter head should be removed in order to collect accurate data. Without further discussion, Councilor Blazar made a motion to hold this item for the trial to continue once the meter head is removed in order to obtain accurate data. Council members agreed 4-0. Mr. Koses stated that he would request the Department of Public Works to remove meter head #762 in order to continue the trial.

TC39-15 PATRICIA ENG, 112 Cedric Road, requesting that during soccer season parking be allowed on one side of Cedric Road. No parking 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Saturdays, April 15 – November 30 on Cedric Road. (Ward 6) [09/02/15 @ 12:18 PM]

ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY 4-0**

NOTE: Ms. Eng did not attend tonight’s discussion. Mr. Koses stated that Cedric Road residents were notified including Ms. Eng by U.S. mail of this meeting.

Mr. Koses provided Council members with a location map, site photos and characteristics. He stated that Cedric Road is 286 feet long, 28 feet wide, mostly no curbing, there are no current parking restrictions on either side of Cedric Road that abuts the Weeks playground. A 28 foot street can typically accommodate parking on both sides including emergency vehicle access without difficulties. Newton streets are often 24 feet wide.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. A Rowena Road resident stated that he supports this parking restriction on Cedric Road and suggests that it include Sundays because soccer season includes events on Sundays. He then said that parents are also parking close to driveways and have the tendency to park on Rowena Road.

Councilor Blazar stated that he is hesitant to approve a parking restriction on Cedric Road because people will begin to park on adjacent streets including Rowena Road, Allerton Road, Oxford Road and Locksley Road. He said that he cannot support a road by road approach although he realizes parents need a place to park when attending Weeks playground. He then stated that a more comprehensive parking study and conversations with the residents is necessary. Sgt. Babcock agreed.

Sgt. Babcock asked whether there have been parking concerns on Cedric Road in the past. Councilor Blazar answered that he was not aware of parking concerns regarding Cedric Road. He has knowledge of parking concerns on Rowena Road, Allerton Road, Oxford Road and Locksley Road.

Mr. Koses said that he is hesitant to restrict parking to one side of a street that is 28 feet wide, unless it is a safety issue. He then noted that it is illegal to park within 5 feet of a driveway.

Sgt. Babcock stated that he would prefer to hold this item for discussion until after April 15, in order to take adjacent street measurements, photographs and to observe parking habits on Cedric Road and adjacent streets.

Councilors Blazar and Danberg agreed that no action should be taken on this item in order to incorporate Cedric Road into a larger comprehensive parking plan allowing the residents to provide input on affected streets and to provide their suggestions. Councilor Danberg stated that the neighbors have agreed to provide the Ward 6 Councilors with a list of potential affected streets and streets that desire a one-side parking restriction.

Without further discussion, Councilor Blazar made a motion for no action necessary. Council members agreed 4-0.

TC47-15 ENRIQUE MITMAN, 27 Bow Road, requesting “no parking this side” on the east side of Bow Road during school hours to address safety concerns. (Ward 6)
[10/26/15 @ 11:14 AM]

ACTION: **HELD 4-0. Held pending draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) to approve Parking prohibited, east side, including Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays.**

NOTE: Jonathan Mitman, on behalf of his father, was present for tonight’s discussion.

Mr. Koses provided Council members with a location map, site photos and characteristics. He stated that Bow Road is a cul-de-sac, 909 feet long, width varies between 22 -23 feet, with no current parking restriction on either side. Utility poles and fire hydrants are located on the east side. Bow Road abuts the Bowen Elementary School accommodating staff and parent parking on Bow Road. Streets that are 22-23 feet wide usually often have restricted parking on one side to allow access for trash pick-up and emergency vehicles.

Mr. Koses said that Traffic Council received one e-mail supporting this request, on file. He then opened the discussion to members of the public present. Mr. Mitman said that his father docketed this item because Bow Road is a narrow cul-de-sac, vehicles have the tendency to block driveways making it difficult to exit, and drivers regularly park on both sides of the street but not in a staggered approach making it difficult for emergency vehicle access especially at the bend of the road. Although inconvenient, it is necessary to implement a parking restriction on one side of the street during school hours to ensure safety and to allow emergency vehicle easy access. Approximately five residents spoke expressing their concerns.

Concerns:

A resident stated that drivers are not obeying the ‘no parking here to corner signs’. Driving is difficult when large vehicles park at the bend of Bow Road, opposite each other. Sometimes the trash truck must back up into Cypress Street. It is difficult to exit driveways. A resident stated that winter exacerbates all the issues. A resident stated that Bow Road is regularly filled with parked vehicles, owned either by parents dropping-off or picking-up students, or by Bowen Elementary School staff. It is concerning that the Bowen Elementary School does not have adequate parent or staff parking. A resident stated that a parking restriction may not be necessary for the entire street. Residents present agree that a parking restriction is necessary to address safety concerns.

Mr. Koses stated that staff should be encouraged to park on Langley path. A resident stated that Principal Guzzi of the Bowen Elementary School has been very accommodating on addressing staff and parents parking needs. He then noted that the lighting on Langley path is either broken or missing and is quite dark at night.

Councilor Blazar asked the residents present if they knew how the remaining approximate twenty residents feel on implementing a one side parking restriction. Some residents said that they feel the other residents agree and are supportive to a one side parking restriction.

Sgt. Babcock said that most recently the Police Department made three consecutive site visits to Bow Road observing a car parked at the bend of the road making it difficult for a police vehicle

to pass. He recommends eliminating parking on one side because Bow Road is 22 feet wide and cannot accommodate parking on both sides. Sgt. Babcock then explained that it is necessary to restrict parking at all times because the school may hold an event at times other than school hours or adjacent visitors may park on Bow Road. It is a public safety concern. He then recommended that parking be eliminated on the east side; the utility poles and fire hydrants are located on the east side.

Without further discussion, Ms. Wilson made a motion to hold this item pending a draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) to approve the above action. Council members agreed 4-0.

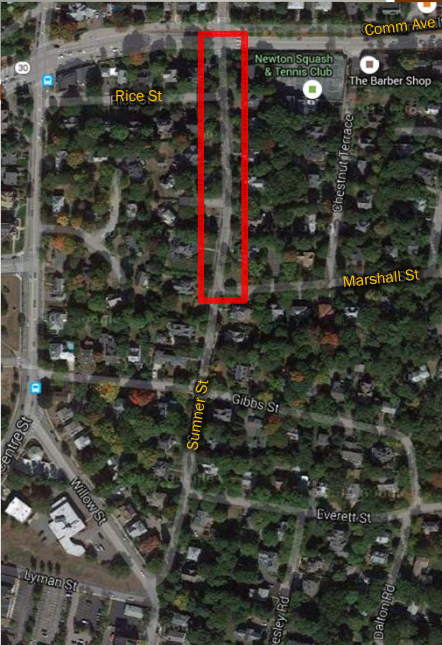
Respectfully submitted,



David Koses, Transportation Coordinator
Acting Traffic Council Chair

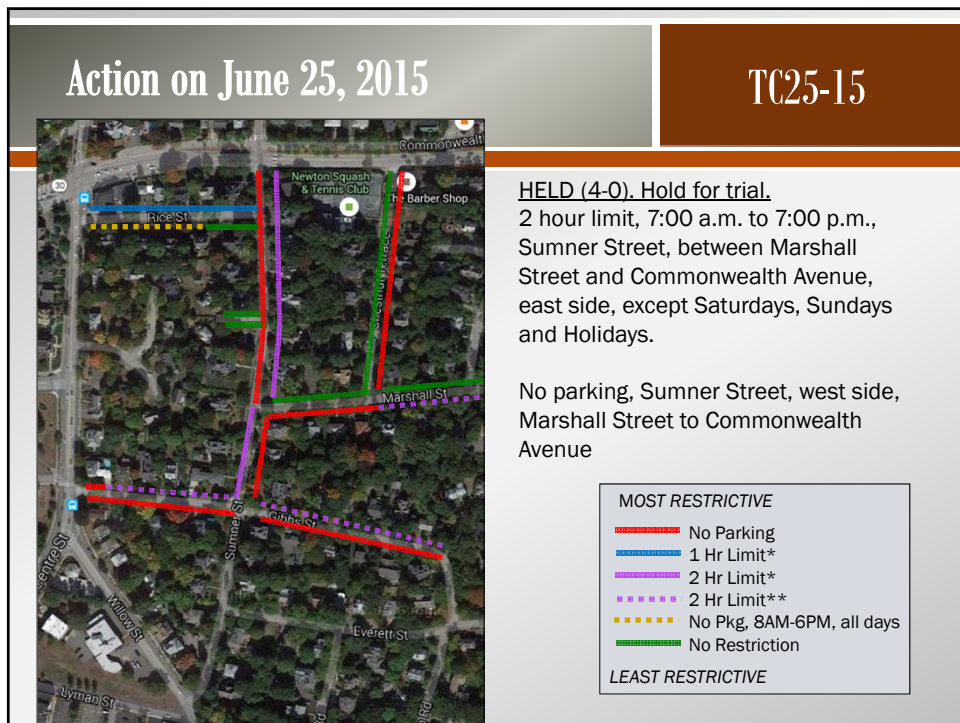
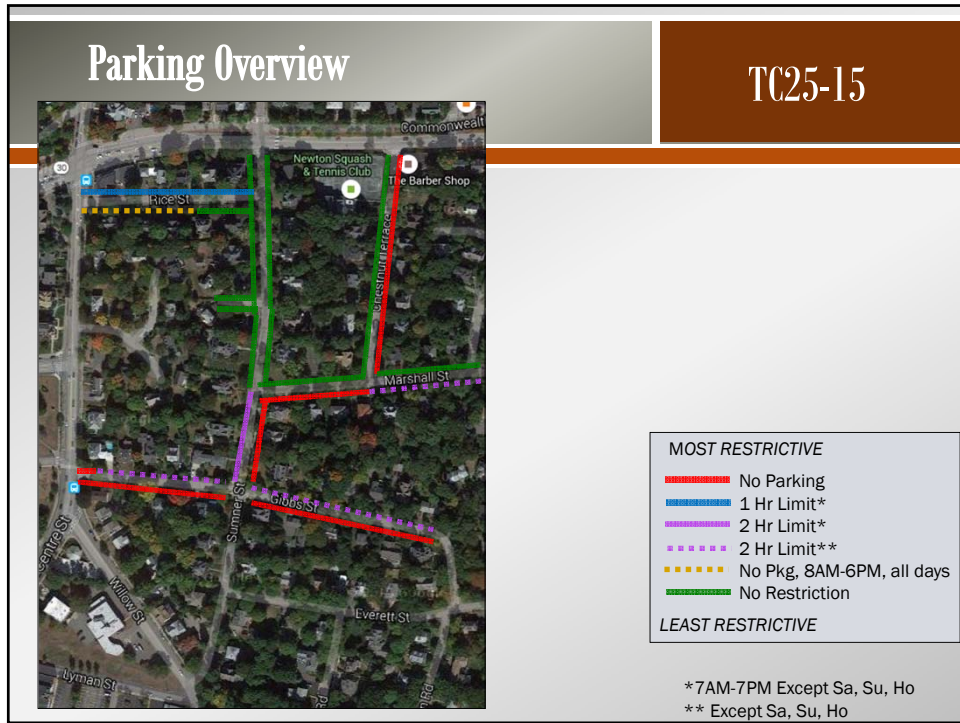
Traffic Council – Part 2
City of Newton
February 25, 2016

TC25-15
∞ 2 ∞
Two-hour parking restriction on the easterly side of Sumner Street from
Marshall Street to Commonwealth Avenue

Traffic Council

<h2>Location Map</h2>	<h2>TC25-15</h2>
<p>2.25.16</p> 	

<h2>Site Photos – Sumner St</h2>	<h2>TC25-15</h2>
 <p>Street Width 24'</p>	<p><<<<<< Sumner St looking north toward Commonwealth Ave</p>  <p>Sumner St looking south toward Marshall St >>>>></p>
<p>2.25.16</p>	



TC10-15



15-minute parking space on Beacon Street, Newton Centre
in front of or near Murray's Liquors

Traffic Council

Location Map

TC10-15



Site Photos — Beacon St

TC10-15



Beacon Street looking west toward Langley/Sumner St

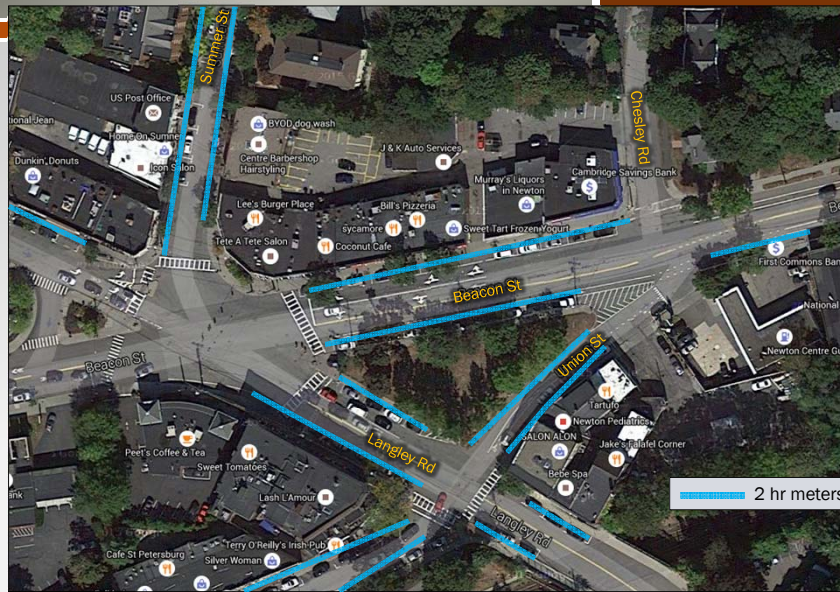
2.25.16

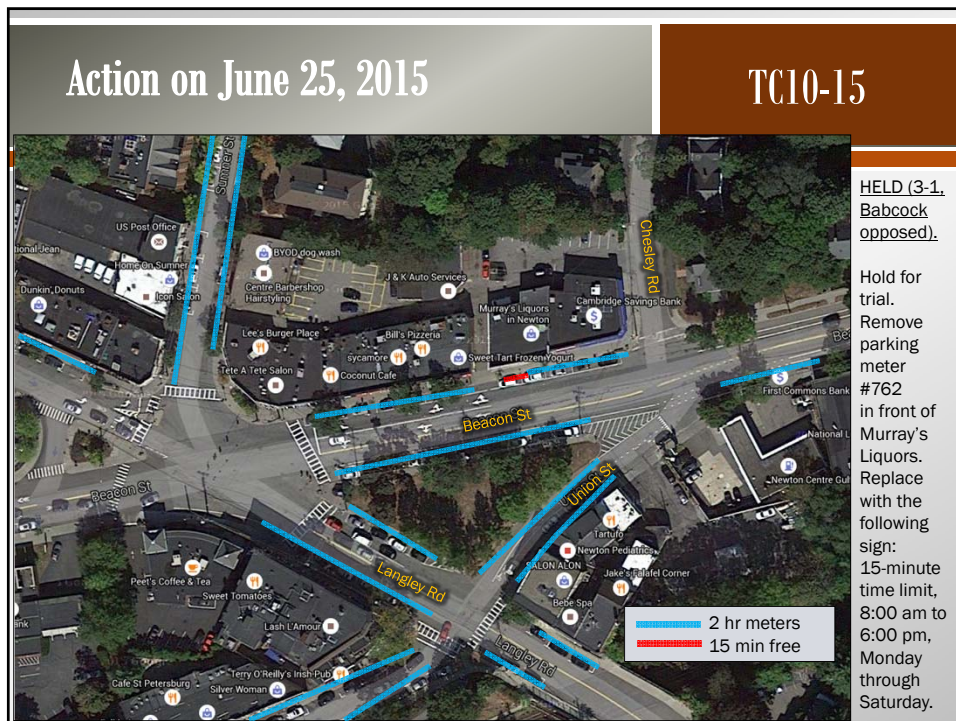
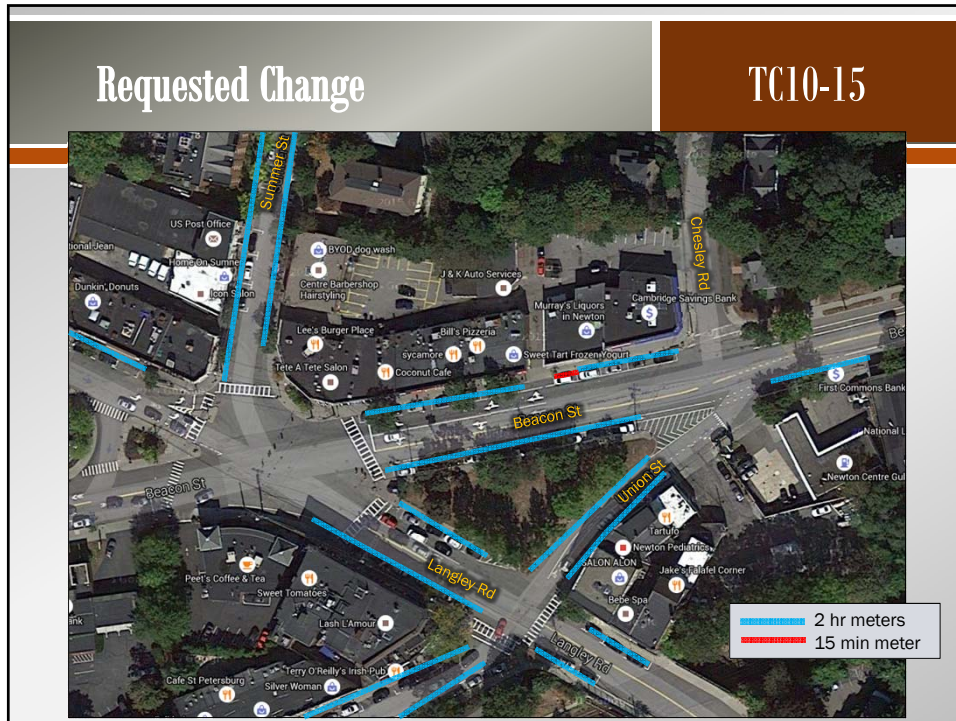
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Traffic Council

Current Parking Meters in the area

TC10-15





15-minute parking space on Beacon St, in front of Murray's Liquors-Observations			TC10-15			
Date	Time	Vehicles parked less than 5 minutes	Vehicles parked 5 to 15 minutes	Vehicles parked 16 to 30 minutes	Vehicles parked over 30 minutes	
August 11 2015	11AM to 1PM	2	3	0	0	
August 14 2015	11AM to 1PM	0	1	2	1	
February 1 2016	11AM to 1PM	1	1	1	1	
February 2 2016	1:30PM to 3:30PM	3	2	0	0	
February 3 2016	1:30PM to 3:30PM	6	2	0	0	
February 4 2016	11AM to 1PM	3	5	1	0	

2.25.16 Traffic Council

TC39-15

∞ 14 ∞

No parking on one side, 9AM-5PM, Saturdays, April 15 - Nov 30 on Cedric Rd

Traffic Council

Location Map — Cedric Road

TC39-15



Cedric Road looking South

TC39-15



2.25.16

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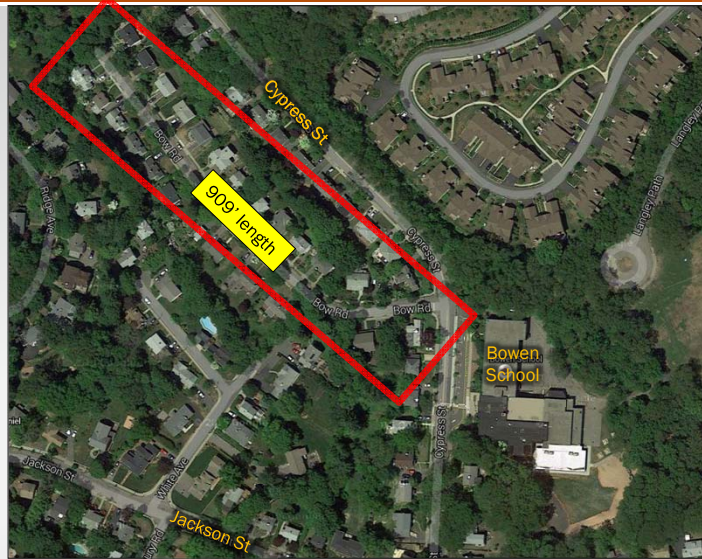
Traffic Council

Cedric Road Characteristics	TC39-15
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NO CURRENT PARKING RESTRICTIONS, EITHER SIDE• 286 feet long• 28 feet wide• Abuts Weeks Playground• Mostly no curbs <p data-bbox="386 926 448 953">2.25.16</p> <p data-bbox="797 926 821 953">17</p> <p data-bbox="1122 926 1232 953">Traffic Council</p>	

<p data-bbox="699 1446 919 1524">TC47-15</p> <p data-bbox="732 1570 889 1604">∞ 18 ∞</p> <p data-bbox="485 1650 1130 1684">No parking on east side of Bow Road during school hours</p>
<p data-bbox="1117 1797 1232 1824">Traffic Council</p>

Location Map — Bow Road

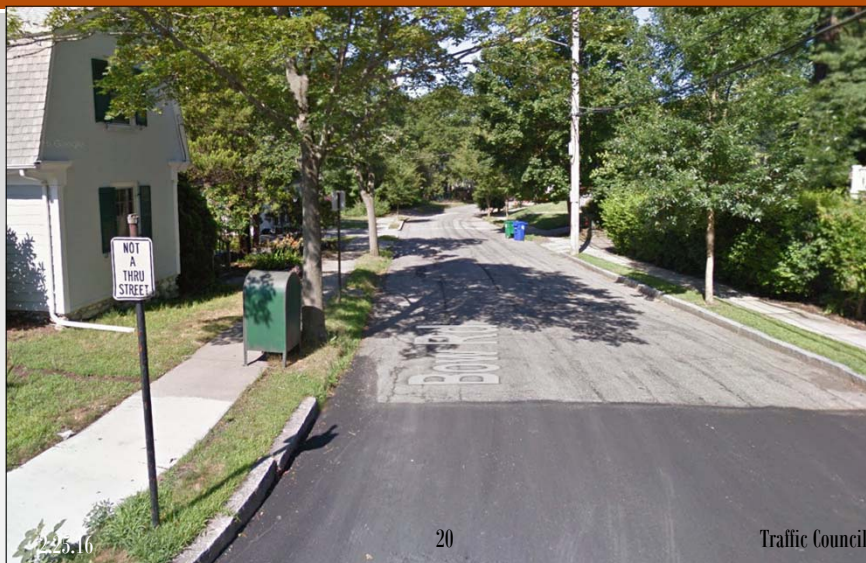
TC47-15



2.25.16

Bow Road looking from Cypress St

TC47-15



2.25.16

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Traffic Council

Bow Road Characteristics

TC47-15

- NO CURRENT PARKING RESTRICTIONS, EITHER SIDE
- 909 feet long
- 22 to 23 feet wide
- Utility Poles and fire hydrants are on the north side
- Abuts Bowen School
- Accommodates Bowen staff and parent parking

2.25.16

