

CITY OF NEWTON  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2014

Present: Sgt. Jay Babcock, Newton Police Department; Zach Bosch, Transportation Engineer;  
Alicia Wilson, Resident member and Candace Havens, Director, Planning & Development  
Acting Traffic Council Chair

Absent: Ald. Ciccone

Also Present: Ald. Norton

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

HP3-14      LOUIS MASTROMATTEI, requesting a handicap parking space in front of 58  
Churchill Street. (Ward 1) [06/19/14 @ 9:58 AM]

**The Newton Commission on Disability voted to approve as requested on  
07/14/14.**

**ACTION:      APPROVED 4-0**

**NOTE:**      Louis Mastromattei did not attend tonight's discussion.

Mr. Bosch provided an area map and site photos of the 58 Churchill Street location. Currently, there is unrestricted parking on both sides of Churchill Street and there are no handicap parking spaces provided on Churchill Street.

Sgt. Babcock said that Mr. Mastromattei attended the Newton Commission on Disability meeting explaining his need for a handicap parking space. It is easier for Mr. Mastromattei to enter and exit a vehicle from the front of the home. Cars are parking at the edge of his driveway and park in front of his home making it difficult for him especially during the school season. Churchill Street is parked up by vehicles from the Education Center making it difficult and limits parking in front of his home. He then said that Mr. Mastromattei understands that if this handicap parking space is granted, it is available to the public.

Without discussion, Sgt. Babcock made the motion to approve as requested a handicap parking space in front of 58 Churchill Street. Council members agreed 4-0. Handicap parking space approvals cannot be appealed.

TC36-14      WARD 2 ALDERMEN, requesting study of traffic problems focusing on Beach  
Street and Court Street area to determine how to manage the flow of parking and  
traffic in that area. (Ward 2) [05/09/14 @ 8:40 AM]

**HELD 5-0 on 06/26/14**

**ACTION:      HELD 4-0**

**NOTE:** Ms. Havens said that it is her intent to hold this item until September in order to gather additional data.

Without discussion, Mr. Bosch made the motion to hold this item. Council members agreed 4-0.

TC39-14 ALD. NORTON, requesting review and possible change of the time limits on the parking meters located on the north side of Washington Street between Walnut Street and Central Avenue. (Ward 2) [06/09/14 @ 3:17 PM]

**ACTION:** **HELD 4-0**

**NOTE:** Ald. Norton said that she docketed this item on behalf of a business owner requesting the possibility of extending the time limits from a one-hour limit to perhaps a two-hour limit on some or all of the parking meters located on the north side of Washington Street between Walnut Street and Central Avenue.

Mr. Bosch provided an area map and site photos of the location. There are ten one-hour metered parking spaces (including one handicap space) between Central Avenue and Walnut Street. Mr. Bosch did not have available exact locations of one-hour and two-hour meter limits in the area on the north and south side of Washington Street.

Sgt. Babcock said that he is concerned with other business owners in the area who may request all meters on Washington Street be changed to accommodate their own business needs. He suggested a comprehensive approach be considered and also suggested holding this item for additional information.

Without further discussion, Sgt. Babcock made the motion to hold this item allowing Mr. Bosch the opportunity to collect additional data and to consider extending the location of this item an additional block in both directions including the south side of Washington Street. Council members agreed 4-0.

TC43-14 ALD. NORTON, requesting a stop sign on Bridges Avenue, at the intersection of Norwood Avenue. (Ward 2) [06/20/14 @ 10:58 AM]

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 4-0**  
**This item may be appealed through the close of business August 20, 2014.**

**NOTE:** One email was received in support, on file.

Ald. Norton said that she docketed this item on behalf of constituents concerns. It appears that parents driving to and from the Cabot Elementary School have the tendency to speed on Bridges Avenue and do not stop at the intersection of Norwood Avenue.

Mr. Bosch provided Council members with a location map, site photos and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) warrants for stop sign applications. This intersection meets one of the three required data provided by MUTCD for installing stop signs. Meeting criteria b) a restricted view exists that requires road users to stop in order to adequately observe conflicting traffic on the through street or highway. Mr. Bosch observed the same

concerns and recommends a stop sign be installed on Bridges Avenue at the intersection of Norwood Avenue. Sgt. Babcock recommends a crosswalk with ADA compliant ramps also be installed.

Without further discussion, Sgt. Babcock made the motion to approve this request. Council members agreed 4-0. This item may be appealed through the close of business August 20, 2014.

TC42-14      RICHARD THOMAS, 15 Cousens Circle, requesting Resident Restricted Area parking on Cousens Circle to deter commuter parking. (Ward 6) [06/20/14 @ 9:54 AM]

**ACTION:**      **HELD 4-0 for trial of the following: parking restriction on Cousens Circle from 7 AM to 9 AM and 7PM to 9PM, weekdays.**

**NOTE:**      Joan Thomas joined Traffic Council members for discussion on this item. Ms. Thomas said that this item was docketed hoping to deter commuter parking, especially when they park at the entrance of Cousens Circle (a cul-de-sac), both sides. Parking on both sides makes it difficult for trash removal, contractor parking and snow plowing. Drivers are moving trash barrels to park.

Mr. Bosch provided Council members with an area map, various area parking restrictions, unrestricted parking restrictions, site photos and observed data. Mr. Bosch said that administratively the Department of Public Works could restrict parking 50' from the intersection of Beacon Street at the entrance of Cousens Circle where the Circle is 35 feet wide, eliminating parking on both sides and install signs No Parking 5 feet from driveway.

Mr. Bosch made four different site visits and observed an average of three to four cars parking on Cousens Circle. On each of these days there were the same two cars parked. He could not determine if the cars belonged to commuters. Mr. Bosch then suggested installing a stop sign on Cousens Circle.

Ms. Havens opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. A resident spoke in support of this item and shared her concerns that drivers are blocking driveways and commuters are returning late at night to their cars and nearby restaurant employees park until the early morning hours. A home business owner spoke and said that he has limited parking for staff. Employees are parking on Cousens Circle in order to provide street parking to clients. He said that he understands the concerns of Cousens Circle residents but feels Resident Restricted parking would create a hardship for his business. Residents did not feel a stop sign was necessary.

A resident asked for clarification on Resident Restricted parking. Ms. Havens answered that parking is limited to residents only. Sgt. Babcock briefly explained the process on obtaining resident permit parking stickers. He stated that the homeowner would visit the Police Department, pay the annual registration fee of \$25 per vehicle and they may obtain one permit per vehicle and two free visitor passes per household.

Sgt. Babcock said that the Police Department would visit the site to determine who is parking on Cousens Circle (commuters, home business employees, or visitors).

Ms. Havens suggested implementing a two-hour parking restriction in the morning and evening hours rather than a Resident Restricted Area as the least restrictive hoping to deter commuters. A two-hour parking restriction would still allow contractors and visitors an opportunity to park.

Sgt. Babcock then requested the home business owner to accommodate his staff by allowing them to park during the early morning hours and to inform them to park on the street after 9 AM.

Without further discussion, Sgt. Babcock made the motion to hold this item as suggested for a trial of a parking restriction on Cousens Circle from 7AM to 9AM and 7PM to 9PM, weekdays. With the understanding that administratively the Department of Public Works could restrict parking 50' from the intersection of Beacon Street at the entrance of Cousens Circle where the Circle is 35 feet wide. Mr. Bosch stated that during this trial residents must also obey the parking restrictions. Council members agreed 4-0.

TC44-14      SGT. BABCOCK, requesting the creation of a school zone at the Little Peoples School/Learning Prep School on 1507 Washington Street. (Ward 3) [06/24/14 @ 12:59 PM]

**ACTION:      APPROVED AS AMENDED 4-0 to include Prospect Street.  
This item may be appealed through the close of business August 20, 2014.**

**NOTE:**      Mr. Bosch said that the Learning Prep School occupies two buildings on Washington Street between Perkins Street and Auburn Street. He said that he supports the creation of a school zone and suggests extending the school zone to include Prospect Street.

Mr. Bosch provided Council members with an area map and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) warrants for school zones. The MUTCD provides guidance on school speed limits and end school speed limits. The beginning point of a reduced school speed limit zone should be at least 200 feet in advance of the school grounds, a school crossing, or other school related activities; however, this 200-foot distance should be increased if the reduced school speed limit is 30 mph or higher.

Sgt. Babcock said that the Learning Prep School does not have a school zone. He docketed this item due to safety reasons and after receiving concerning phone calls. It is necessary to create a school zone and to reduce vehicle speeds for safety reasons.

Ms. Havens opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. The Learning Prep staff and parents spoke expressing their concerns. They said that the area is heavily congested, major backups, drivers try to beat traffic signals, difficulty crossing the street and drivers have the tendency to speed. They agree a safety zone is necessary and suggest the installation of 'Your Speed Is' sign and Police enforcement for safety reasons. A staff member said that students cross the street approximately fourteen times per day from 730AM to 3PM, accompanied by staff. The school has 145 staff members, an average of 238 students and approximately 93 buses per day enter and exit the school.

Mr. Bosch answered that 'Your Speed Is' signs cost approximately \$4,500 per sign; two signs would be necessary. Sgt. Babcock asked if mitigation funding was available to help with the cost of purchasing school zone signs. Ms. Havens answered that she did not have this information available. A Council member asked what hours of day is a school zone in effect. Mr. Bosch answered that a school zone is always a school zone, not only when school is in session. The City could program specific times when the lights would flash.

Mr. Bosch agreed to review road striping perhaps thatching the roads so that drivers would not block the intersections making drivers aware of a school zone. Sgt. Babcock said that the Police Department would place several message boards educating drivers making them aware they are approaching a school zone for several weeks then the Police Department would conduct strict enforcement and ticket violators.

Sgt. Babcock made the motion to approve as amended to include Prospect Street. Council members agreed 4-0. This item may be appealed through the close of business August 20, 2014.

**Committee Clerks Note:** On 08/15/14, Ms. Havens informed the Committee Clerk that mitigation funding was unavailable for purchasing school zone signs in this area. Ms. Havens stated that the Transportation Director, William Paille informed her that the Transportation Division had on hand several flashing school zone signs that could be used.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Havens, Director, Planning &  
Development  
Acting Traffic Council Chair

# Traffic Council

City of Newton

July 31, 2014

# Agenda

- ❖ HP3-14 LOUIS MASTROMATTEI, requesting a handicap parking space in front of 58 Churchill Street.
- ❖ TC36-14 WARD 2 ALDERMEN, requesting study of traffic problems focusing on Beach Street and Court Street area to determine how to manage the flow of parking and traffic in that area.
- ❖ TC39-14 ALD. NORTON, requesting review and possible change of the time limits on the parking meters located on the north side of Washington Street between Walnut Street and Central Avenue.
- ❖ TC43-14 ALD. NORTON, requesting a stop sign on Bridges Avenue, at the intersection of Norwood Avenue.
- ❖ TC42-14 RICHARD THOMAS, 15 Cousens Circle, requesting Resident Restricted Area parking on Cousens Circle to deter commuter parking.
- ❖ TC44-14 SGT. BABCOCK, requesting the creation of a school zone at the Little Peoples School/Learning Prep School on 1507 Washington Street.

7.31.14

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Traffic Council

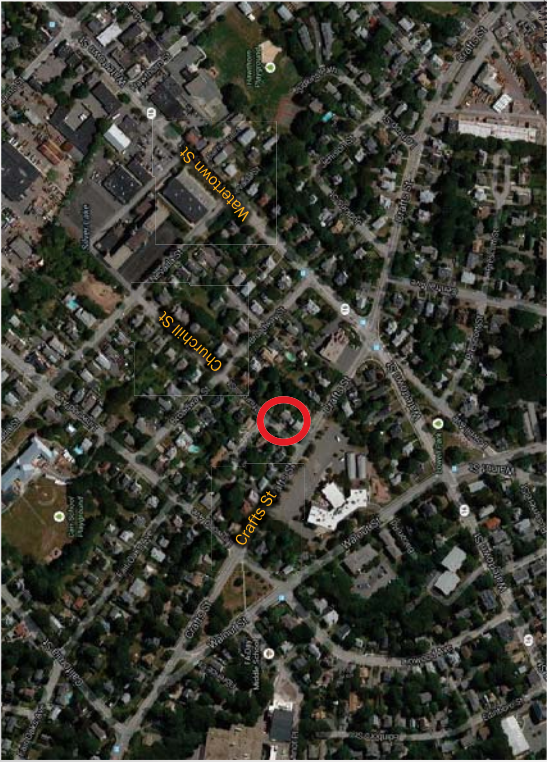
# HP3-14

Request for handicap parking space in front of 58 Churchill Street.

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## Location Map

HP3-14



7.31.14

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## Site Photos



7.31.14

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## HP3-14



## Background Information

## HP3-14

- ❖ The Newton Commission on Disability voted to approve as requested on 07/14/14.
- ❖ Unrestricted parking on both sides of Churchill St
- ❖ No other HP spaces provided on Churchill St
- ❖ Path direct to front door (exterior stairs).

12.19.13

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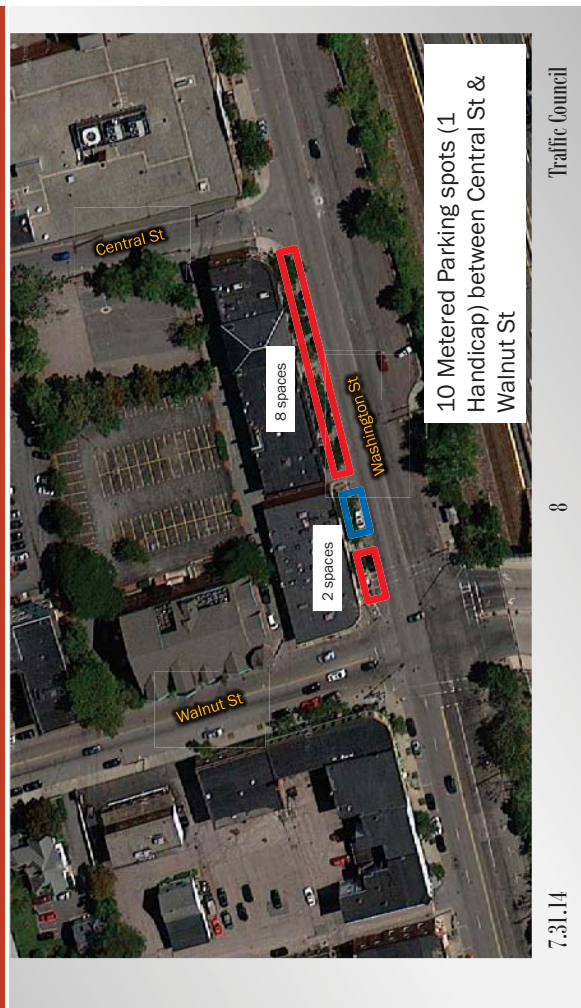
# TC39-14

8 7 03  
Parking meters on Washington Street between Walnut Street and Central Avenue.

7.31.14  
Traffic Council

# Location Map

TC39-14



## Parking meters

TC39-14

- ❖ Currently 1 hour Parking
- ❖ 10 Metered Parking spots (1 Handicap) between Central St & Walnut St
- ❖ Demand from businesses to change spaces from 1 hour parking to 2 hour parking

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# TC43-14

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Request for a stop sign on Bridges Avenue at Norwood Avenue.

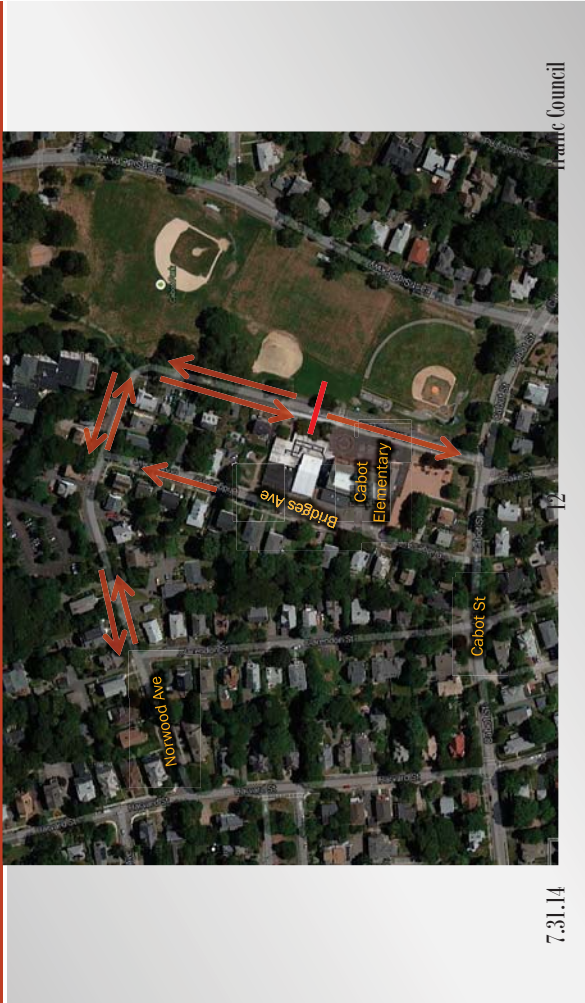
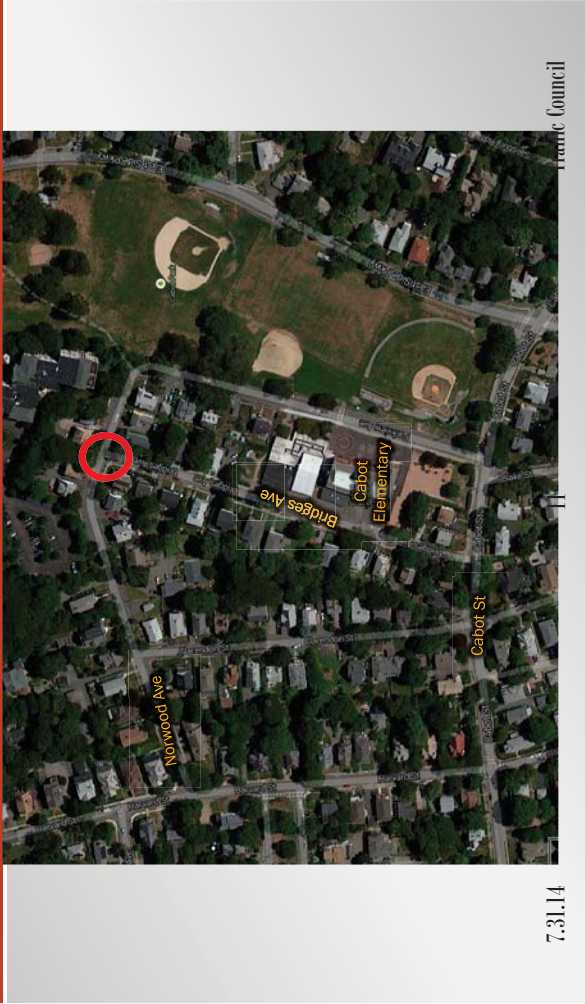
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Location Map

Traffic Circulation

TC43-14



7.31.14

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Site Photos

Site Photos

TC43-14



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Traffic Council

TC43-14

Site Photos

Site Photos

TC43-14

## Guidance

TC43-14

❖ Section 2B.06 STOP Sign Application

*At intersections where a full stop is not necessary at all times, consideration should first be given to using less restrictive measures such as YIELD signs (see Sections 2B.08 and 2B.09). The use of STOP signs on the minor-street approaches should be considered if engineering judgment indicates that a stop is always required because of one or more of the following conditions:*

- A. *The vehicular traffic volumes on the through street or highway exceed 6,000 vehicles per day;*
- B. *A restricted view exists that requires road users to stop in order to adequately observe conflicting traffic on the through street or highway; and/or*
- C. *Crash records indicate that three or more crashes that are susceptible to correction by the installation of a STOP sign have been reported within a 12-month period, or that five or more such crashes have been reported within a 2-year period. Such crashes include right-angle collisions involving road users on the minor-street approach failing to yield the right-of-way to traffic on the through street or highway.*

- ❖ **Does not meet Criteria A**
- ❖ **Meets Criteria B**
- ❖ **Does not meet Criteria C**

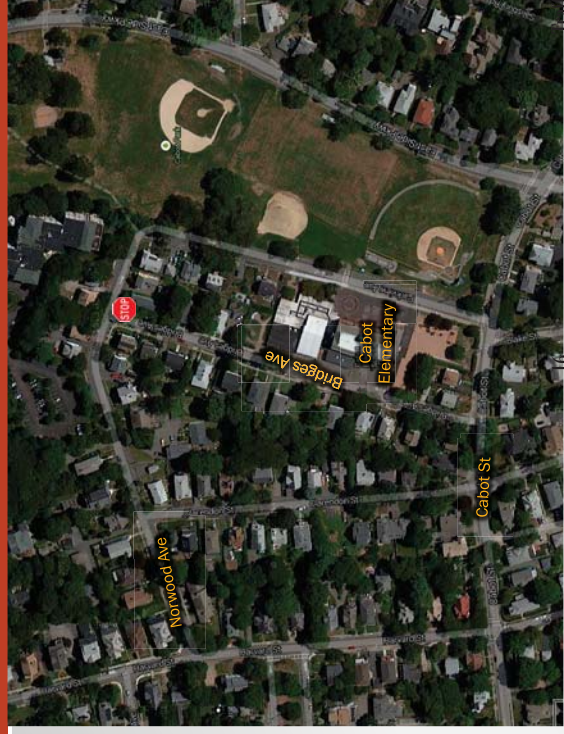
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## Recommendation

TC43-14



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# TC42-14

∞ 17 03

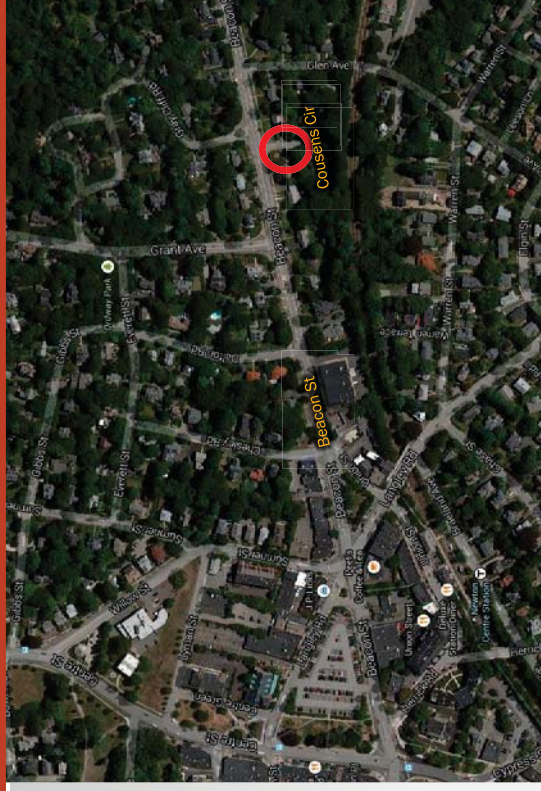
Request Resident Restricted Area parking on Cousens Circle

7.31.14

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## Location Map

TC42-14



7.31.14

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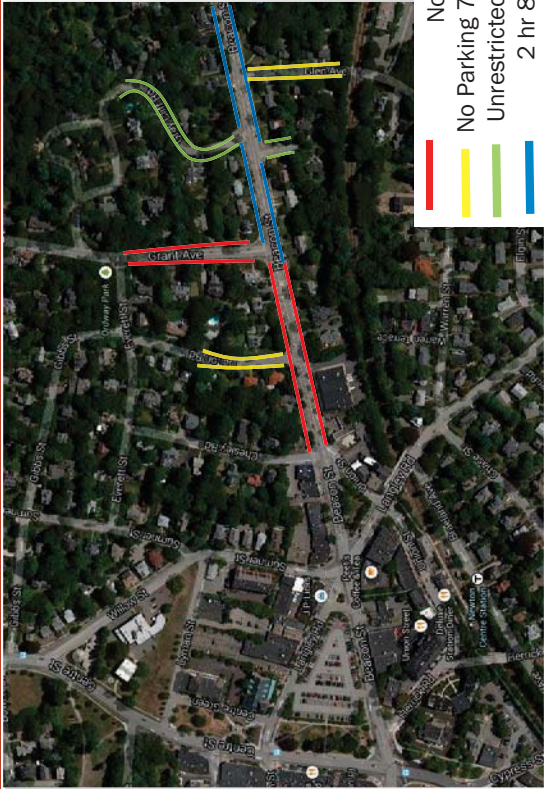


# Surrounding Parking Map

# Site Photos

TC42-14

TC42-14



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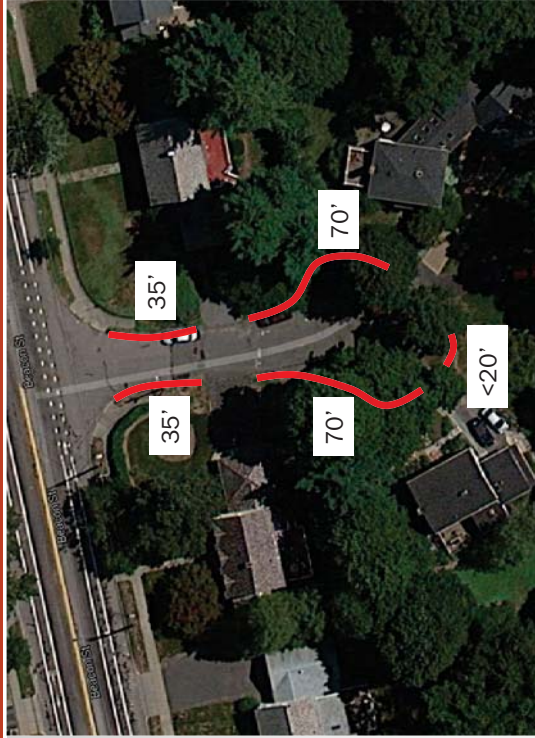
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## Street Layout

TC42-14



7.31.14

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## Observed Data

TC42-14

- ❖ July 17<sup>th</sup> 11am – 3 Cars
- ❖ July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2pm – 4 Cars
- ❖ July 24<sup>th</sup> 10am – 4 Cars (1 contractor)
- ❖ July 29<sup>th</sup> 10pm – 3 Cars
- ❖ Each of these days had the same 2 cars parked there.

7.31.14

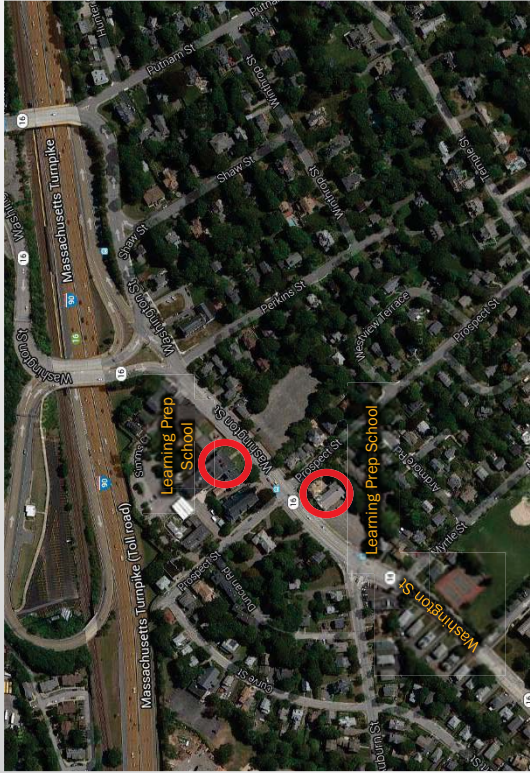
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# Location Map

TC44-14



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# TC44-14

20 23 03

Request the creation of a school zone at 1507 Washington Street

7.31.14

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