

CITY OF NEWTON

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2014

Present: Sgt. Jay Babcock, Newton Police Department; Alicia Wilson, Resident member; William Paille, Director, Transportation Division, Acting Traffic Council Chair and Ald. Yates
Absent: Ald. Ciccone
Also Present: Ald. Leary
City Staff: David Koses, Transportation Coordinator and Zach Bosch, Transportation Engineer

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

TC61-14 WILLIAM PAILLE, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, requesting to allow parking on Baldwin Street. (Ward 1) [09/12/14 @ 4:13 PM]

ACTION: **HELD (4-0). Hold for trial of the following: Two reserved spaces in the inlet, to be signed the following: Underwood Staff Permit Parking, 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM, School Days. The Traffic Bureau will produce two parking permits to be delivered to the Underwood School Principal.**

NOTE: Mr. Bosch provided Council members with a location map and site photos of Baldwin Street. He said that Baldwin Street is a one-way street, south bound, approximately 22 feet wide at the widest section and approximately 14 feet at the narrow section. Mr. Bosch said that this item was docketed after receiving a request for additional parking for staff and residents. He recommends implementing two parking spaces at the inlet of Baldwin Street.

Ald. Leary said that she recalls in past conversations, that these parking spaces would be designated for staff parking. Mr. Paille said that Ald. Lennon expressed concern on the petition wording. Mr. Paille clarified and noted that he spoke with Ald. Lennon today; and clarified to him that this item is a request for two parking spaces on Baldwin Street, not the entire street. Ald. Leary is hopeful that these two parking spaces will be designated to staff of the Underwood Elementary School.

Ald. Leary then asked if it is permissible to park in the school parking lot, when school is not in session. Sgt. Babcock answered that this is trespassing unless you receive permission from the school.

Sgt. Babcock said that he is hesitant to reserve parking spaces for staff unless it is a parking permit program. As a trial, he would agree on reserving two parking spaces for staff parking only.

Without further discussion, Ald. Yates made the motion to hold this request for a trial to reserve two parking spaces in the inlet for the Underwood Elementary School staff, during school hours.

The Traffic Bureau will produce two parking permits to be delivered to the Underwood School Principal. Council members agreed 4-0. Mr. Koses recommends that Traffic Council notify the school requesting that they notify drivers not to park in the fire lane. He then suggested the school be notified of this trial.

TC60-14 WILLIAM PAILLE, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, requesting to allow staff of the Underwood Elementary School to utilize parking stalls along Richardson Street that is currently reserved for Parks & Recreation staff, and/or specific spaces in the Richardson Street parking lot. (Ward 1) [09/12/14 @ 4:13 PM]

ACTION: **HELD (4-0). Hold for trial of the following: Existing “Parks & Recreation Parking” signage along Richardson Street to be removed. Seven on-street spaces to be signed the following: “Underwood Staff Permit Parking 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM School Days”. The Traffic Bureau will produce seven parking permits to be delivered to the Underwood School Principal. Also as part of the trial, five meters in the Richardson Street parking lot will be taken out of circulation and the following signs will be posted: “Parks and Recreation Department Vehicles Only 8AM to 5PM, Monday -Friday”.**

NOTE: Mr. Bosch said that the Parks & Recreation Department no longer require the reserved parking for their department. He then provided Council members with a location map including the current parking restrictions, existing and proposed parking restrictions. He said that on the north side, seven parking spaces are reserved for the Parks & Recreation Department staff and there is a one-hour parking restriction from 7 am to 7 pm on Richardson Street. The Richardson Street parking lot has thirty long-term meters, nineteen three-hour meters and ten one-hour meters. Parking utilization is low. From Richardson Street, it is approximately a half-mile walk to the Underwood Elementary School and the Parks & Recreation Department.

Mr. Bosch provided the following timeline:

September 2011: Traffic Council approved a parking program for the Parks & Recreation Department for up to twenty employees at once allowing them to park at any meter in the Richardson Street Parking Lot that is not a one-hour meter and from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday-Friday across from 46 Richardson Street. The Parks and Recreation Department underutilize parking in the seven approved parking spaces in the Richardson Street parking lot and on Richardson Street.

October 2012: Traffic Council approved a one-hour limit, Monday through Friday, 7 am to 7 pm, except Parks & Recreation Department vehicles across from 46 Richardson Street.

June 2013: This item was appealed and discussed in Public Safety & Transportation Committee (PS&T). The vote taken during this Committee meeting was approved as amended (the vote was unclear). The plan was to docket a new item for further discussion. This never came to fruition.

Mr. Koses briefly described what was appealed. He said that the seven parking spaces on Richardson Street were appealed, the action that Traffic Council approved in October 2012. A one-hour meter limit Monday through Friday, 7 am to 7 pm, except Parks & Recreation Department vehicles across from 46 Richardson Street. The appeal was to replace the seven parking spaces on Richardson Street with meters, remove five parking meters in the Richardson

Street parking lot and designate Parks & Recreation Department parking in the Richardson Street parking lot. The Richardson Street parking lot was not part of the original Traffic Council item; therefore, it cannot be appealed. Richardson Street signs remain as Parks & Recreation Department parking only. The plan to docket a new item for further discussion never came to fruition.

Mr. Koses then stated that today, the City's Law Department informed the Transportation Division that the decision was made here tonight at Traffic Council would be amendment to the vote that PS&T and the Board of Aldermen voted in June 2013.

Ald. Leary asked for clarification. Mr. Paille explained the PS&T Committee vote. He stated that PS&T approved as amended to put back the seven parking meters on Richardson Street and reserve five parking spaces in the Richardson Street parking lot for their vans. Currently, the vans are parking at the fire station. *However, the meters were never implemented and the parking spaces were never reserved.* Mr. Paille stated that if Traffic Council moves forward with a different plan, that does not involve the Richardson Street parking lot; for instance if this item is approved, to allow the Underwood Elementary School staff parking to park on Richardson Street. The Richardson Street parking lot, that the Board of Aldermen approved as amended, still stands.

Ald. Leary then asked if the Underwood Elementary School Principal was contacted. Mr. Bosch answered yes; staff would utilize these parking spaces.

Mr. Bosch proposes converting these seven parking spaces currently reserved for the Parks & Recreation Department to the staff of the Underwood Elementary School, 7 am to 3 pm, school days. He makes note of no change to the Richardson Street parking lot or the south side of Richardson Street.

Mr. Koses noted that the City is working on a comprehensive parking plan for this area.

Mr. Paille suggests implementing a trial as Mr. Bosch proposes to determine whether the Parks & Recreation Department and Underwood Elementary School are utilizing designated areas. If the trial is not successful, meters will be installed in the Richardson Street parking lot and parking would be available to all.

Sgt. Babcock agreed on implementing a trial, although he is doubtful staff will utilize these parking spaces, especially during the winter months. He stated that Commissioner DeRubeis informed him that the Parks & Recreation Department designated parking is no longer desired. He suggested amending the time of the trial to 4 pm rather than 3 pm in order to be consistent with relating signs throughout the City. He said that if this item were approved, the Traffic Bureau would produce seven parking permits to be delivered to the Underwood School Principal. He then said that on voting day, the Police Department accommodates voters by reserving approximately six parking spaces on Richardson Street.

Ald. Leary agreed on implementing a trial as suggested and looks forward to re-evaluating the proposal at the end of the trial. She is hopeful designated parking will deter commuters from parking on Richardson Street.

Without further discussion, Ald. Yates made the motion to hold this request for a trial to reserve signage along Richardson Street to be removed and seven on-street spaces to be designated for Underwood Elementary staff, 7 am to 4 pm, school days. Mr. Paille stated that this trial would last for 90-days and as part of the trial, five meters in the Richardson Street parking lot will be taken out of circulation and the following signs will be posted: "Parks and Recreation Department Vehicles Only 8AM to 5PM, Monday -Friday". Council members agreed 4-0.

TC48-14 ZACH BOSCH, TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER, requesting a stop sign at Broadway Street at Linwood Avenue. (Ward 1) [08/20/14 @ 1:15 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVE (4-0).**

This item may be appealed through the close of business October 22, 2014.

NOTE: Mr. Bosch provided Council members with photos including crossing guard locations for the Carr Elementary School and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidance for stop signs. The Police Department has ordered an emergency temporary stop sign at this location because of the "T" intersection at Broadway Street at Linwood Avenue. He then said that the use of stop signs on minor street approaches should be considered if engineering judgment indicates that a stop is required. This location does not meet the vehicular traffic volumes and does not meet crash record data. However, based on field observations this location meets the criteria of vehicles on Broadway Street need to come to a stop in order to observe conflicting traffic adequately. A stop sign would create a safer pedestrian crossing.

Sgt. Babcock stated that there have been no accidents at this location but the department has ordered an emergency temporary stop sign because of the safety measures and drivers are rolling through the intersection.

Ald. Leary agreed a stop sign is necessary. Without further discussion, Ald. Yates made the motion to approve this item. Council members agreed 4-0. This item may be appealed through the close of business October 22, 2014.

TC54-14 SGT. BABCOCK, requesting No Parking except Sat, Sun, Holidays - Tow Zone Area on Cypress Street from Bowen Elementary School driveway up to (opposite 275 Cypress Street) Westbound. (Ward 6) [08/27/14 @ 9:49 AM]

ACTION: **APPROVE (4-0).**

This item may be appealed through the close of business October 22, 2014.

NOTE: Mr. Bosch provided Council members with photos and the various current parking restrictions. The Police Department has ordered an emergency temporary no parking restriction on Cypress Street, westbound opposite the Bowen Elementary School due to visibility issues. Cypress Street is approximately 28 1/2 feet wide from curb to edge of pavement; the shoulder varies from 3 to 5 feet wide.

Sgt. Babcock said that the department has ordered an emergency temporary no parking restriction on Cypress Street, westbound opposite the Bowen Elementary School for safety measures. Winter exacerbates the problem, Cypress Street narrows and the buses have difficulty traveling. Visitors and guests are not parking on the shoulder; they are parking on the street. He would prefer they park on the opposite side.

Without discussion, Ald. Yates made the motion to approve this item. Council members agreed 4-0. This item may be appealed through the close of business October 22, 2014.

DISCUSSION ITEM: Discussion to determine whether the on-street handicap parking spaces list should be incorporated into the Traffic and Parking Regulations (TPR). [05/22/13 @ 12:30 PM]

ACTION: NO ACTION TAKEN

NOTE: Mr. Paille stated that there are approximately 65 on-street handicap parking spaces throughout the City. City Ordinance requires the clerk notify the owner and or occupant in January of every odd-numbered year to verify that the space continues to be utilized by a disabled person or disabled veteran. The Traffic and Parking Regulations (TPR) includes operation of vehicles, traffic signs, signals, markings and zones, stopping, standing and parking and tow away zone regulations. On-street handicap parking spaces need to be documented in a central location. Recently, the Department Public Works has been following up with the handicap requestor to evaluate and determine if this space is still desired. Administratively, tracking is necessary for painting purposes to ensure spaces are marked properly as they are with yield signs, stop signs and speed signs. Mr. Paille recommends the on-street handicap parking spaces list should be incorporated into the TPR. Currently, the handicap parking list is not incorporated in the TPR or ordinance.

Ald. Yates asked if the TPR was an administrative document or was the TPR adopted by the Board. Mr. Paille answered that the TPR is not part of the City Ordinance.

Sgt. Babcock said that he is hesitant to incorporate the on-street handicap parking spaces list into the TPR due to the recent changes on motor vehicle violations that the Board of Aldermen incorporated into the TPR from the City Ordinance. The department has been encountering issues at court. The court has been dismissing motor vehicle violations due to the TPR being a regulation, not an ordinance therefore it is not enforceable. Because of the dismissals, the City has lost significant revenue. Sgt. Babcock then stated that the Law Department informed him due to the motor vehicles violations being incorporated into the TPR; the courts are not recognizing the citations because it is a regulation not an ordinance. Currently, the department is either issuing warnings or use the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR), not City Ordinance. He is hopeful motor vehicle violations will be put back into the ordinance. He suggests that before Traffic Council makes any decision on incorporating the handicap parking list into the TPR to request the City Law Department to inquire and determine if handicap violations will be accepted or dismissed at court.

Mr. Paille said that the reason why the TPR became a separate document than the ordinance was to allow Traffic Council the ability to approve a location, without having Board of Aldermen approval.

Mr. Koses said that the reason why the TPR became a separate document than the ordinance was due to the many monthly changes made by Traffic Council. At the time, the thought was TPR would be much easier to manage than the ordinance. The handicap parking list is not incorporated in the TPR or ordinance, an item should be docketed to determine where the handicap parking list should be kept.

Council members did not take action on this discussion item and agree a meeting is necessary with the Law Department.

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

HELD (4-0) on 07/31/14

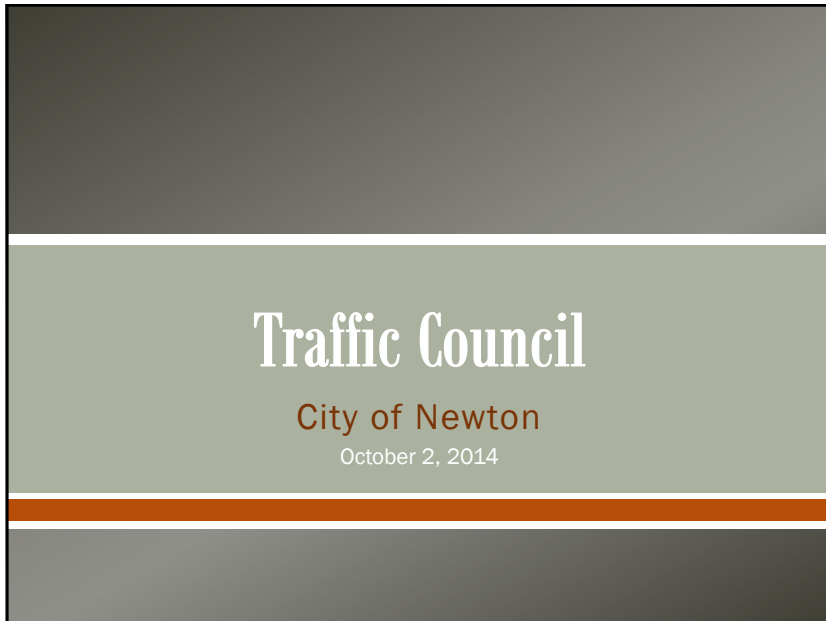
ACTION: HELD (4-0).

NOTE: Mr. Paille requested this item be held as Court Street residents were attending another City meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

William Paille, Director, Transportation Division
Acting Traffic Council Chair



Traffic Council
City of Newton
October 2, 2014



Agenda

- ❖ TC61-14 WILLIAM PAILLE, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, requesting to allow parking on Baldwin Street.
- ❖ TC60-14 WILLIAM PAILLE, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, requesting to allow staff of the Underwood Elementary School to utilize parking stalls along Richardson Street that is currently reserved for Parks & Recreation staff, and/or specific spaces in the Richardson Street parking lot.
- ❖ TC48-14 ZACH BOSCH, TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER, requesting a stop sign at Broadway Street at Linwood Avenue.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ TC54-14 SGT. BABCOCK, requesting No Parking except Sat, Sun, Holidays - Tow Zone Area on Cypress Street from Bowen Elementary School driveway up to (opposite 275 Cypress Street) Westbound.

10.2.14 2 Traffic Council

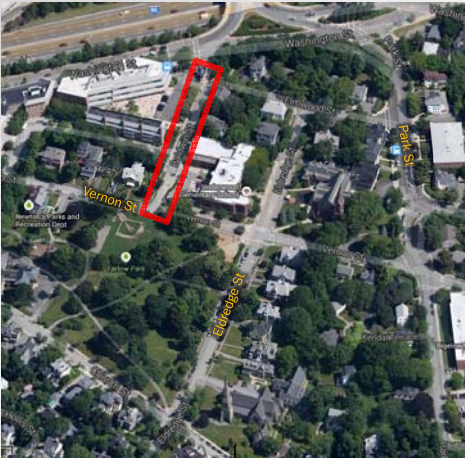
TC61-14

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Request to allow parking on Baldwin Street


10.2.14 Traffic Council

Location Map **TC61-14**



10.2.14 Traffic Council

Site Photos	TC61-14
 <p data-bbox="233 1081 289 1101">10.2.14</p> <p data-bbox="867 1081 961 1101">Traffic Council</p>	

Site Photos	TC61-14
 <p data-bbox="1136 1081 1192 1101">10.2.14</p> <p data-bbox="1766 1081 1860 1101">Traffic Council</p>	

TC60-14



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Requesting to allow staff of the Underwood Elementary School to utilize parking stalls along Richardson Street, and/or specific spaces in the Richardson Street parking lot.

10.2.14 Traffic Council

Location Map **TC60-14**

10.2.14 8

Existing	TC60-14
 <p>23.5'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Approved 9/22/11: The Parks and Recreation Department may issue parking stickers for up to 20 employees at once, to be valid at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ at any meter in the Richardson Street Parking Lot that is not a one-hour meter ▪ In the "Parks and Recreation Department Vehicles Only 8AM to 5PM, Monday-Friday" zone located across from 46 Richardson Street. ❖ Parks and Rec permit parking in Richardson St Lot & on-Richardson St: underutilized. ❖ 10/25/12: TC approved 1-hr limit, Mon - Fri, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, except Parks & Rec Vehicles across from 46 Richardson St ❖ BOA appealed. 6/5/13 vote was unclear. Plan to docket new item for further discussion.
10.2.14	9
	
Traffic Council	

Proposed	TC60-14
	
10.2.14	10
Traffic Council	

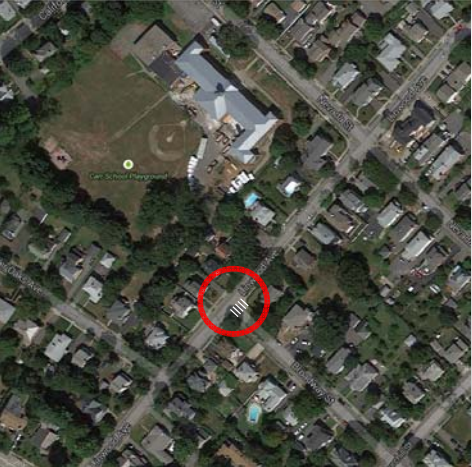
TC48-14

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Request for a stop sign at Broadway Street at Linwood Avenue

10.2.14 Traffic Council

Site Photos **TC48-14**



10.2.14 Traffic Council

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Site Photos</h2>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">TC48-14</h2>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div data-bbox="226 1078 289 1104">10.2.14</div> <div data-bbox="348 639 821 1105">  <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Crossing Guard Locations for Carr School</p> </div> <div data-bbox="863 1078 961 1104">Traffic Council</div> </div>	

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Guidance</h2>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">TC48-14</h2>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Section 2B.06 STOP Sign Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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:</i> A. <i>The vehicular traffic volumes on the through street or highway exceed 6,000 vehicles per day;</i> B. <i>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</i> C. <i>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.</i> ❖ Criteria A: Not Met ❖ Criteria B: Based on field observations, vehicles on Broadway St need to come to a stop in order to observe conflicting traffic adequately. Also, a stop sign would create a safer pedestrian crossing. ❖ Criteria C: Not Met <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <div data-bbox="1129 1078 1192 1104">10.2.14</div> <div data-bbox="1478 1078 1512 1104">14</div> <div data-bbox="1759 1078 1871 1104">Traffic Council</div> </div>	

TC36-14

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Request to study traffic problems focusing on Beach Street and Court Street area to determine how to manage the flow of parking and traffic in that area

10.2.14 Traffic Council

Docketed Wording **TC36-14**

- ❖ WARD 2 ALDERMEN, requesting study of traffic and parking problems focusing on Beach Street and Court Street area to determine how to manage the flow of parking and traffic in that area. It is understood that there are plans for a 40B project in this area but the existing situation is of current concern and in need of immediate attention.

11.21.13 16 Traffic Council

Location Map		TC36-14
		
10.2.14	17	Traffic Council


Traffic Circulation		TC36-14
		
10.2.14	18	Traffic Council

Parking Overview **TC36-14**

10.2.14 19 Traffic Council

Site Photos **TC36-14**

10.2.14 20 Traffic Council

Site Photos	TC36-14
	
10.2.14	21 Traffic Council

Traffic Data Collected	TC36-14
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Beach Street<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Collected July 18th - 24th▪ AADT - 431 Vehicles<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AM peak Friday 11 AM - 50 vehicles• PM peak Tues 4 PM - 64 vehicles❖ Court Street<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Collected July 18th - July 28th▪ 85th Percentile - 26 MPH▪ 10 MPH pace - 18 MPH - 27 MPH▪ AADT - 316 vehicles▪ Parking<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Average of 4 cars parked along Court street	
10.2.14	22 Traffic Council

Delivery Data — Cabot's	TC36-14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tuesdays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 truck deliveries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 off-street (in their lot) • 2 on Beach Street – average delivery time: 15 minutes ❖ Wednesdays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 truck deliveries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In their lot ❖ Fridays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 truck deliveries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 off-street (in their lot) • 2 on Beach Street – average delivery time: 15 minutes 	
10.2.14	23 Traffic Council

Conclusions	TC36-14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Current conditions on Beach Street and Court Street do not warrant any actions from the Public Works Department. ❖ Traffic is comprised of low volume/speeds. Parking has low utilization on Court Street, high utilization on Beach Street, and moderate utilization on Washington Street. ❖ Based on pictures provided from residents on Court Street, enforcement of existing parking regulations would be beneficial to provide proper access to neighborhood. ❖ Removing 2-4 parking spaces along a small stretch of Washington Street would improve line of sight exiting Beach Street onto Washington. 	
10.2.14	24 Traffic Council

TC54-14

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Request No Parking except Sat, Sun, Holidays - Tow Zone Area on Cypress Street from Bowen Elementary School driveway up to (opposite 275 Cypress Street) Westbound.


10.2.14 Traffic Council

Site Photos **TC54-14**



10.2.14 Traffic Council

Current Restrictions	TC54-14
 <p data-bbox="323 841 554 873">No Parking, No Stopping</p> <p data-bbox="604 786 793 818">No Parking any time</p> <p data-bbox="373 971 575 1003">Prohibited 8am -4pm</p> <p data-bbox="233 1081 289 1105">10.2.14</p> <p data-bbox="863 1081 961 1105">Traffic Council</p>	

Current Restrictions	TC54-14
 <p data-bbox="1136 1081 1192 1105">10.2.14</p> <p data-bbox="1486 1081 1518 1105">28</p> <p data-bbox="1766 1081 1864 1105">Traffic Council</p>	

Current Restrictions	TC54-14
	
10.2.14	29 Traffic Council

Current Restrictions	TC54-14
	
10.2.14	Traffic Council