

CITY OF NEWTON

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2013

Present: Sgt. Jay Babcock, Police Department, Patrick Baxter, Transportation Engineer, Ald. Ciccone, Jerome Grafe, Citizen Representative and David Koses Transportation Planner
Also present: Ald. Albright, Blazar, Danberg, Harney, Linsky, Ana Gonzalez, Executive Department, Captain Marc Gromada, Newton Police Department and Amanda Stout, Planning Department

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

TC41-12 PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, requesting Traffic Council assess and if appropriate relocate the handicap parking space on Madison Avenue. (Ward 2) [10/04/12 @ 1:26 PM]

The Newton Commission on Disability unanimously voted on 12/10/12, on moving Newtonville's HP space to be in front of "Oom Yung Doe" & "In Shape" on Walnut St. north bound, east side.

ACTION: APPROVE AS AMENDED 5-0. Relocate the existing handicap parking space located on Walnut Street, east side, first space north of Madison Avenue to Walnut Street, east side, south of Newtonville Avenue, north of bumpout and crosswalk. The existing handicap parking space on Walnut Street, north of Madison Avenue, will become a metered parking space. This item may be appealed through the close of business February 6, 2013.

NOTE: This item was docketed from previous discussions in the Public Safety & Transportation Committee and Traffic Council meetings as recommended by the Police Department due to recent observations that indicate that some drivers back into the crosswalk when exiting the handicap parking space.

Mr. Baxter provided the site history, location of existing handicap parking space, location of proposed handicap parking space, area photos and his recommendations. Mr. Baxter said that the recommendation is to consider relocating the handicap parking space to the first space on Walnut Street, east side, south of Newtonville Avenue where the space is protected by a bump out and no parking space will be lost. Sgt. Babcock agreed this is a much safer location.

Ald. Ciccone made the above motion. Council members agreed 5-0. Mr. Koses said that this item may be appealed through the close of business February 6, 2013.

TC31-12 ALD. BLAZAR, DANBERG & SCHWARTZ, on behalf of several Union Street merchants, requesting examination of additional long and short term parking opportunities in Newton Centre, which may include new parking meters on Centre Green and Lyman Street, and/or changes to the time limits at some existing meters on Herrick Road, Union Street, Langley Road between Beacon and Braeland, Beacon Street between Chesley and Langley, Sumner Street between Beacon and Willow, Lyman Street, Willow Street, and Centre Street between Lyman and Homer, and the parking meter zone on Braeland Avenue. (Ward 6) [06/27/12 @ 3:41 PM]
[REVISED 01/09/13 @ 9:03 AM]

ACTION:

(A) APPROVE 5-0. Change all parking meters on Lyman Street to 12-hour meters, with no parking permitted between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Monday to Friday.

This item may be appealed through the close of business February 6, 2013.

(B) APPROVE 5-0. Change all the existing one-hour limit meters on Herrick Road to two-hour limit meters;

Change all the existing one-hour limit meters on Union Street to two-hour limit meters;

Change all the existing one-hour limit meters on Braeland Avenue to two-hour limit meters;

Change the one-hour limit meters on Langley Road between Beacon Street and Braeland Avenue to two-hour limit meters;

Change the one-hour limit meters on Beacon Street between Langley Road and Chesley Road to two-hour limit meters;

Change the one-hour limit meters on Sumner Street between Beacon Street and Willow Street to two-hour limit meters;

Change the one-hour limit meters on Centre Green to two-hour limit meters;
This item may be appealed through the close of business February 6, 2013.

(C) APPROVE 5-0. Change nine of the eleven two-hour meters on Centre Street, east side, between Lyman Street and Willow Street to 12-hour meters. Maintain two (2) two-hour meters on Centre Street, east side, south of Willow Street.

This item may be appealed through the close of business February 6, 2013.

(D) APPROVE 5-0. Add two-hour parking meters along the currently unmetered section of Centre Green, east side.

This item may be appealed through the close of business February 6, 2013.

NOTE: Mr. Baxter provided background information, area photos and the various existing parking meter times and locations. He said that existing parking conditions and restrictions leave few locations for business owners and employees to park all-day. Some may park at short-term meters and return several times a day to feed the meter. Better solutions are necessary to provide long-term parking without impacting the availability of convenient short-term spaces for patrons. It appears one-hour meters do not allow sufficient time for some patrons to conduct their business.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Approximately four merchants and residents spoke expressing their concerns and suggestions. They all agree

that one-hour meters do not allow sufficient time for patrons to conduct their business and longer time is necessary for businesses to thrive. They feel a compromise is necessary.

Concerns

Merchants said that the twelve-hour meters located on Centre Street are not convenient, too far to walk. They are concerned with postal workers queuing up in the area to load their vehicles, recent ticketing and feel that parking control officer should be eliminated in village centers.

Suggestions

Merchants suggested extending meter times to perhaps two or three-hours, and to implement a sticker program to allow employees and merchants to park. They then suggested removing parking restrictions and signs on neighboring streets. A resident disagreed and said that commuters park-up the area and restrictions are necessary. The neighborhood streets are narrow making it difficult to travel when cars are parked-up on both sides. They all agreed that a parking plan is necessary in Newton Centre. Merchants requested an area be designated for long-term employee parking. One merchant said that it was disappointing when the City eliminated the Commercial Permit Parking Program.

Ald. Danberg briefly described the reasons why the Commercial Permit Parking Program was eliminated and why it was not successful. She said that she understands the parking needs for employees, merchants and patrons. She is in favor of increasing one-hour meters to two-hour meters. She then suggested increasing meter times on Lyman Street to twelve-hours with a two-hour restriction and two-hour meters on Langley Road hoping to deter commuters. Ald. Blazar suggested converting all meters to three-hours.

Ald. Ciccone said that the one-hour meters were installed to allow turnover. He understands that they are not beneficial to merchants and patrons. He suggested increasing the time on meters to two-hours. He then said that a two-hour parking restriction was implemented on Braeland Avenue and Chase Street to deter commuters allowing residents to park. Mr. Baxter and Mr. Koses agree that one-hour parking is not sufficient. Mr. Baxter said that two-hour meters would be beneficial and would deter commuter parking. Currently, the City uses one, two, three and twelve-hour meters. Three-hour meters are rare.

Mr. Koses briefly described the comprehensive parking plan being developed for the area around Newton North High School. He agreed that a plan is necessary because of the various parking restrictions. He then suggested changing parking meters on Lyman Street and Centre Street to twelve-hours.

Council members agreed that one-hour meters do not allow sufficient time to conduct business in the Centre. A balance is necessary for residents, employees, employers and commuters. A suggestion was made to increase high demand area meters with a higher cost as a short-term solution and the comprehensive parking plan would solve issues as a long-term solution. Another suggestion included keeping one-hour meters for errands, two-hour meters at storefronts, three-hour meters at restaurants still allowing turnover.

Sgt. Babcock stated that the parking control officers would not be eliminated. He briefly addressed the benefits, intentions and goals of having parking control officers. In Newton Centre, there is one police car and one walker. He suggested that the majority of the meters be consistent to allow the parking control officers to patrol the area; employees should be educated as to where to park. Sgt. Babcock then suggested working with the Post Office, to request that postal workers load their vehicles in the Langley Road parking lot.

Council members agreed to the above actions, 5-0. Mr. Koses said that these approvals may be appealed through the close of business February 6, 2013.

TC15-12 ALD. DANBERG, BLAZAR & SCHWARTZ, requesting removal of a parking space in Newton Centre in the area near J.P. Licks to allow for the installation of a bike corral. (Ward 6) [05/10/12 @ 10:35 AM]
HELD (4-1, Grafe) on 09/27/12.

**ACTION: APPROVE 5-0. Remove the first parking space, Langley Road, north/east side, west of Sumner Street. Add metered parking space, Langley Road, south/west side, just west of the right turn slip lane.
This item may be appealed through the close of business February 6, 2013.
Note: Traffic Council recommends that the bicycle lane on Langley Road between Centre Street and Beacon Street be restriped as a sharrow.**

NOTE: Mr. Koses said that this item was previously held to allow Ald. Danberg to meet with the merchants and bicyclists to determine the best location for a bike corral.

Mr. Baxter provided an overview of Newton Centre, recommendations and a proposed location. He recommends Council members consider locating the bike corral in the existing no parking zone east of the last parking space on Langley Road. Future improvements to sidewalks and curbs could provide a bumpout with a permanent off-street bike corral. A benefit to this recommendation is that parking would not be eliminated.

Sgt. Babcock said that he remains concerned with safety issues at this proposed location because of the lack of a crosswalk and curb cuts. He said that bicyclists and children would not travel to use the crosswalk at Langley Road and Sumner Street. He suggested that the bike corral be located closer to Sumner Street at the crosswalk. Mr. Baxter said that he is concerned with traffic queuing up at this location.

Ald. Danberg said that she is in favor of Mr. Baxter's recommendation because merchants have expressed their concerns about losing one parking space to accommodate a crosswalk in front of J.P Licks. Mr. Baxter said that two parking spaces would be eliminated.

Council members expressed their concerns and discussed proposed locations. There are pros and cons to each location. They agree education and signs are necessary.

Mr. Baxter made the above motion assuring Council members that this location would allow adequate site distance with the recommendation that the bicycle lane on Langley Road between

Centre Street and Beacon Street be restriped as a sharrow. Mr. Koses said that an item would have be docketed requesting the funding to purchase the bike corral.

Council members agreed 5-0. Mr. Koses said that this item may be appealed through the close of business February 6, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

David Koses, Traffic Council Chair

Traffic Council
 City of Newton
 January 17, 2013

Traffic Council

TC41-12
 80 3 03
 Walnut Street at Madison Avenue
 Handicap Parking Space Relocation

Traffic Council

Agenda

1. TC41-12: Public Safety and Transportation Committee, requesting traffic Council approval for the relocation of handicap parking spaces on Madison Avenue.
2. TC31-12: Aldermen Blazar, Danberg and Schwartz, behalf of Union Street merchants, requesting examination of additional long and short term parking opportunities in Newton Centre, which may include new parking meters on Centre Green and Lyman Street, and/or changes to the time limits at some existing meters on Herick Road, Union Street, Langley Road between Beacon and Braeland, Beacon Street between Chesley and Langley, Sumner Street between Beacon and Willow, Lyman Street, Willow Street, Centre Street between Lyman and Homer, and the parking meter zone on Braeland Avenue.
3. TC15-12: Heidi (4-1, Grafo) on 09/27/12. Aldermen Blazar, Danberg and Schwartz, requesting traffic Council approval for Newton Centre in the area near J.P. Licks to allow for the installation of a bike corral.

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Site History **TC41-12**

- ❖ Handicap parking space originally designated on Madison Avenue, first space east of Walnut Street, north side
- ❖ Handicap parking space relocated to Walnut Street, first space north of Madison Avenue
 - TC20-10, Approved (5-0) – November 18, 2010
- ❖ Recent observations that drivers may back into crosswalk from handicap parking spot

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Area Map

Legend
 Existing HP space
 Proposed HP space

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Photos

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Recommendations

- ❖ Consider relocating handicap parking spot to the first spot on Walnut Street, east side, south of Newtonville Avenue
 - No meter currently provided
 - Space is protected by recently constructed bump out.
- ❖ Replace meter for spot north of Madison Avenue
- ❖ Existing space provides 10' clearance to crosswalk
 - Sufficient for safe sight distance for southbound vehicles
 - Allows room for vehicles to back up ½ car length before exiting the space

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TC31-12

8 03
 Newton Centre
 Long and Short Term Parking Opportunities

1/17/2013 Traffic Council

Background Information TC31-12

- ❖ Existing parking conditions and restrictions leave few locations for business owners and employees to park all-day
- ❖ Some may park at short term meters and return several times to feed meter
- ❖ Need better solutions to provide long term parking without impacting availability of convenient short term spaces for customers
- ❖ One hour parking meters may be insufficient for some customers

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Area Photos TC31-12

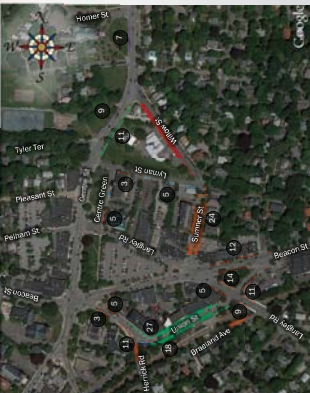


3 Hr Meter Zone on Lyman St
1/17/2013



2 Hr Pkg Meters on Centre St (north of Lyman)
Traffic Council

Existing Parking Meter Locations TC31-12



Legend

- No Parking
- 1 Hour Meter
- 2 Hour Meter
- 3 Hour Meter
- 12 Hour Meter
- HP Space

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Area Photos TC31-12




Centre Green 1 Hour Limit Zone
1/17/2013



Centre Green 1 Hour Meter Zone
Traffic Council

TC15-12


 13 C3
 Newton Centre
 Bicycle Corral


1/17/2013 Traffic Council

Recommendations **TC15-12**

- ❖ Consider locating bicycle corral in existing no parking zone east of the last parking space on the south side of Langley Road
- ❖ Future improvement to sidewalks and curbs could provide a bumpout with permanent off-street bicycle rack

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Aerial Photo **TC15-12**



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Potential Location **TC15-12**



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Sample Bike Corral

TC15-12



1.17.13

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Traffic Council