

CITY OF NEWTON  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT SPECIAL MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2013

Present: Candace Havens, Acting Chair and Director of Planning and Development, Patrick Baxter, Transportation Engineer and Sgt. Jay Babcock, Newton Police Department  
Absent: Jerome Grafe, Citizen Representative, David Koses, Transportation Planner and Ald. Ciccone  
Also Present: Captain Marc Gromada, Newton Police Department, William Paille, Director of Transportation and David Turocy, Commissioner of Public Works

TC73-13      COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS requesting modifications to the intersection of Centre Street at Cypress Street and Beacon Street, including removal of all or some of the construction previously approved under Docket Item #182-12, as part of the MassWorks Infrastructure Grant to improve traffic flow. (Ward 6) [08/05/13 @ 3:45 PM]

**ACTIONS:**    1). **APPROVE (3-0) removal the stop sign on Cypress Street (northbound) at the intersection of Centre Street;** 2) **APPROVE (3-0) addition of a yield sign at Centre Street (northbound) at the intersection of Cypress Street/Centre Street.**

*Note: Traffic Council recommends the following:*

- a). Police will use emergency powers to remove yield sign (approved above) and install temporary stop sign at the intersection of Centre Street (northbound) at Cypress Street/Centre Street.*
- b). New Traffic Council petition to be filed to consider whether to make the temporary stop sign permanent.*
- c). Reconstruction work to be done by August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 before Boston College football event with 5K students arriving.*
- d). Departments will place message boards to warn drivers of construction and changes in progress.*

**NOTE:**      Mr. Baxter said that the purpose of this docket item is to undo previous actions approved by docket item #182-12. The intent was to reconfigure this intersection to “square off” Centre Street at Cypress Street and Beacon Street, making Centre Street the “through street.” Construction was complete in the beginning of July including the installation of a yield sign on Centre Street. On August 14, the Board of Aldermen approved the removal of construction returning the recently reconfigured, controversial intersection of Centre and Cypress Streets back to the original design. Their vote included an emergency preamble to eliminate the required 20-day appeals period.

Mr. Baxter said that he recommends and supports the installation of a stop sign Centre Street, rather than a yield sign and marking the street lines more clearly. Commissioner Turocy agreed, prefers and supports the installation of a stop sign on Centre Street. He then said that the Board of Aldermen recommended and approved the installation of a yield sign, not a stop sign. Reconfiguration is slated to begin on August 19. Mr. Paille asked if the Police Department had the authority to install a temporary stop sign where the yield sign was previously placed on Centre Street. Sgt. Babcock answered yes, on the condition that a message board is placed prior to August 19 notifying drivers of changes. He asked Council members if they would prefer a stop sign or yield sign.

Mr. Baxter suggested Council members approve a yield sign as the Board of Aldermen approved with the understanding the Police Department install an emergency stop sign that would be later docketed for Traffic Council's consideration.

Council members discussed the best location to install the message board. They then voted to approve the installation of a yield sign 3-0. Ms. Havens said that an item would be docketed for Traffic Council's consideration for the installation of a stop sign.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Havens, Acting Traffic Council Chair