# CITY OF NEWTON

# **BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

# TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2012

Present: David Koses, Transportation Planner; Sgt. Jay Babcock, Newton Police Department; Ald. Ciccone, Jerome Grafe, Citizen Representative and Patrick Baxter, Transportation Engineer

Also Present: Capt. Marc Gromada, Newton Police Department; Ald. Linsky and Albright

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

HP3-12HELEN SITU ZHOU, 135 Algonquin Road, requesting a handicap parking space<br/>in front of 135 Algonquin Road. (Ward 7) [06/04/12 @ 11:40 AM]<br/>The Newton Commission on Disability voted on 07/09/12, to recommend to<br/>the Traffic Council that a HP space be designated in front of 135 Algonquin Road.<br/>APPROVE (5-0).

**NOTE:** The petitioner did not attend tonight's meeting.

Mr. Baxter provided Council members with existing parking restrictions and said that the street has a two-hour parking restriction. He observed zero vehicles parking on street. Mr. Koses summarized the Traffic Council Policy #2, requests for a Handicap Parking Space that provides guidance to the Traffic Council members' decision making process. He then said that the petitioner has met all necessary requirements for this handicap request.

Without discussion, Sgt. Babcock made the motion to approve this request. Council members agreed 5-0. Mr. Koses said that this item may not be appealed.

TC7-12PATTY GREENE, 39 Jefferson Street, requesting Resident Permit Parking Only<br/>or a one-hour parking restriction on Nonantum Place. (Ward 1) [03/27/12 @<br/>1:09 PM]

# **<u>ACTION:</u>** APPROVE (3-2, Grafe, Koses opposed) Resident Permit parking, Monday-Friday.

This item may be appealed through the close of business November 14, 2012.

**NOTE:** Mr. Baxter provided Council members with various area parking restrictions, observations made and the average vehicle occupancy. Jefferson Street has a 2-hour parking restriction and a no parking restriction. Nonantum Place has a no parking restriction and Permit Parking Only from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Mr. Koses said that because of the various parking restrictions in the area, it appears that employees 'juggle' their cars throughout the day to prevent violating parking restrictions. He then said that balance is necessary for residents and the public who wish to use the park. He suggested implementing a more comprehensive parking plan in Newton Corner. Mr. Grafe said that one of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recommendations is to re-evaluate resident parking options until a comprehensive plan is completed and implemented. He said that he would not support a resident parking only plan, although he understands the need for balance. He said that public streets should provide access to all and suggested a short term parking restriction that would allow public parking. Sgt. Babcock said that residents should not have to wait for a parking plan to be completed, approved and implemented, it is necessary now.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Ms. Greene spoke in favor of the resident parking permit request but if it were not an option a one-hour parking restriction would be adequate. There are approximately 3-4 homes without driveways. It is not fair and frustrating to residents to allow commuters and employees the opportunity to park all day in this neighborhood. She then said that the commuters do not park at the 12-hour meters available on Charlesbank Road perhaps because it is an inconvenient walk or because they do not want to pay for parking.

Sgt. Babcock said that he would support resident permit parking but would oppose a one-hour restriction because it is difficult for the department to enforce. He said that commuters and employees should use the municipal lot or neighboring streets. Residents should not be penalized when other parking options are available.

Mr. Koses said that there are approximately fifteen City streets with resident permit parking. The resident pays a \$25.00 permit fee, issued a sticker and two visitor passes allowing them the opportunity to park in front of their homes 24 hours per day. He feels that public streets should be available to everybody, and that Traffic Council members try to be consistent and are hesitant to approve resident permit parking.

Ald. Ciccone said that he understands the need for consistency but feels a parking plan will not work within the City. He supports the request for resident permit parking because in the past Traffic Council has tried the least restrictive restriction in this neighborhood and it did not work.

Without further discussion, Sgt. Babcock made the motion to approve resident permit parking, Monday-Friday. Council members agreed 3-2, Grafe and Koses opposed. Mr. Koses said that this item may be appealed through the close of business November 14, 2012.

TC36-12 DAVID KOSES, requesting that the parking spaces on Richardson Street, which are currently reserved for Parks and Recreation Employees on weekdays, be changed back to metered parking spaces. (Ward 1) [09/11/12 @ 10:16 AM]
 ACTION: APPROVE AS AMENDED (5-0). One hour limit, Monday – Friday, 7:00
 AM to 7:00 PM, except Parks and Recreation Vehicles.
 This item may be appealed through the close of business November 14, 2012.

**NOTE:** Mr. Koses said that he docketed this item and spoke with Commissioner DeRubeis, who informed him that the Parks & Recreation employees are not utilizing the Richardson Street parking spaces that were approved by Traffic Council on September 22, 2011. Traffic Council approved the original request of removing seven parking meters to accommodate Parks and Recreation Department employee parking Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5pm on

Richardson Street. Mr. Koses then said that the removal of parking to accommodate the Parks & Recreation employees has made it difficult for the public to park, especially when voting.

Sgt. Babcock questioned why the Parks & Recreation vehicles are using the Richardson Street parking lot rather than the street. The parking lot allows business patrons and commuters the opportunity to park. He will request through Commissioner DeRubeis that Parks & Recreation vehicles be parked on Richardson Street. He then requested this item be held until Commissioner DeRubeis can attend a meeting. Ald. Ciccone agreed.

Mr. Koses said that the original intent of this item was to allow employees the opportunity to park their personal cars on Richardson Street (a residential street). Traffic Council also provided an opportunity for Parks and Rec employees to park their personal vehicles in the Richardson Street lot without paying the meters. Mr. Grafe suggested removing the signs until meters are placed back because it is wasted space.

Mr. Baxter provided Council members with existing area parking restrictions and observations. He agreed that Parks & Recreation are not utilizing the on-street parking. He suggested 'swapping' signs to reflect a one-hour limit, Monday through Friday, 7 am to 7 pm, except for Parks & Recreation vehicles to allow flexibility, rather than return the removed meters. Council members all respected Mr. Baxter's suggestion. Without further discussion, Mr. Baxter made his suggestion into a motion to approve as amended a one-hour limit, Monday through Friday, 7 am to 7 pm, except Parks & Recreation vehicles. Council members agreed 5-0. Mr. Koses said that this item may be appealed through the close of business November 14, 2012. Any parking concerns in the Richardson Street lot itself may be handled under a different docket item, if need be.

Sgt. Babcock said that in order to accommodate residents parking needs when voting on November 6, 2012, the Police Department would allow parking on Richardson Street.

TC4-12 <u>ALD. LINSKY, ALBRIGHT & JOHNSON</u>, requesting an establishment of a school zone on Walnut Street between Watertown Street and Crafts Street to govern traffic flow around the Education Center (100 Walnut Street) inclusive of a blue zone to facilitate pick-up and drop-off of students. Several populations of Newton Public School students attend classes on the premises, including the Newton Early Childhood Program, the Middle School Stabilization Program (MSP) and the Newton Central High School. Existing traffic signals (crosswalk and pedestrian sign) are frequently ignored by motorist posing a significant safety concern. The Newton Police Department has conducted numerous directed patrols, most recently yielding an average of 3.5 violations per half hour. (Ward 2) [01/25/12 @ 9:01 AM]
 (A) APPROVE (5-0) on 07/26/12, creation of new School Zone on Walnut

Street in front of the Education Center property. This item may be appealed through the close of business August 15, 2012 (B) HELD FOR TRIAL (5-0) on 07/26/12, 15 minute parking zone, Walnut Street, east side (Education Center side), between the Education Center Building driveway entrance and Watertown Street, 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

**<u>ACTION:</u>** APPROVE (5-0). 15 minute parking zone, Walnut Street, east side (Education Center side), between the Education Center Building driveway entrance and Watertown Street, 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. This item may be appealed through the close of business November 14, 2012.

**NOTE:** Items TC4-12 and TC44-12 were discussed together. Refer to TC44-12 summary below.

TC44-12 <u>DAVID KOSES</u>, requesting parking changes to add opportunities for Day Middle School staff to park within a five minute walk of the school on the following streets: Walnut Street, Crafts Street and Linwood Avenue. (Ward 2) [10/05/12 @ 1:34 PM]

# ACTION: DENIAL (4-1, Koses opposed).

This item may be appealed through the close of business November 14, 2012.

**<u>NOTE:</u>** Items TC4-12 and TC44-12 were discussed together. The three emails received on these items are on file.

Mr. Baxter provided Council members with various area parking restrictions, observations, alternatives and recommendations.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion for public comment. Approximately five residents were present for this discussion. Residents stressed their concerns and suggestions. Concerns

They said that they are concerned with the inadequate site distance, limited parking and speeding. They feel that if teachers are allowed to park on Linwood Avenue it will not allow space for contractors, putting residents in a bad situation. The area is very crowded due to the number of schools, Fire Department and City yards. Residents said that it is difficult to enter/exit their driveways. They are also concerned with cars parking on the corners making site distance difficult.

#### Suggestions

Suggestions were made to encourage additional parking on Crafts Street and Police enforcement.

Ald. Albright asked how many parking spaces are necessary. Ald. Linsky asked what the permanent needs are after construction (seven spaces are eliminated due to construction). He said that a short-term plan is necessary. Mr. Koses answered that this item was docketed as a request from Newton School Superintendent, Dr. Fleishman because an additional twenty-five parking spaces are necessary for school staff.

# TC4-12(B)

Ald. Linsky said that he encourages, supports and requests that this trial be approved.

Without further discussion, Ald. Ciccone made the motion to make the trial permanent by approving the 15-minute parking zone, Walnut Street, east side (Education Center side), between the Education Center Building driveway entrance and Watertown Street, 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Council members agreed 5-0. Mr. Koses said that this item may be appealed through the close of business November 14, 2012.

#### <u>TC44-12</u>

Michael Thurm, Director, Newton Early Childhood Program said that it appears seven spaces are lost on paper, realistically twelve parking spaces are lost due to construction. Approximately thirty teachers are parking at the Education Center. He said that he does not support parking on Linwood Avenue.

Mr. Baxter said that Crafts Street is not wide enough to allow parking on both sides. One-side parking could be approved if the centerline was moved. The northeast end of Walnut Street from the centerline to the curb is 19' with no driveways.

Sgt. Babcock said that Albemarle Road is the solution to this request for all staff parking needs. Albemarle Road is a safe route, no street crossing and less traffic. The presentation proves Albemarle Road has unutilized parking spaces. He will not support additional burden to the neighbors by implementing staff parking on Walnut Street, Crafts Street or Linwood Avenue. He then suggested Department Public Works pave the road and the area near the bridge to accommodate seven additional parking spaces. Ald. Ciccone agreed this is the best solution.

Mr. Koses said that Day Middle School staff have been asked to park on Albemarle Road, but are unwilling to walk because it is either inconvenient or too far. He suggested that staff be allowed to park on the section of Walnut Street abutting the green space. Linwood Avenue would then be turned into the pick-up/drop-off zones, such that school children would not need to cross Walnut Street. Ald. Ciccone disagreed because site distance is necessary to cross Walnut Street. He would not support re-instating parking on Walnut Street.

Ald. Albright asked if a shuttle was available. Ald. Linsky asked if the current front side area of the Education Center could accommodate parking. They both asked if the path is lighted, can additional lights be installed, is the path shoveled and paved. Mr. Thurm answered that a shuttle is not available. He will survey the area to determine if parking is an option on the front side of the Center. He then answered yes to the path questions. He said that the Day Middle School lot could accommodate 42 vehicles out of the approximate staff of 120. Due to construction, the lot is limited now to 35 spaces. It is anticipated that construction will end in June 2013.

Mr. Koses suggested the possibility of implementing a permit program on Walnut Street, Crafts Street and Linwood Avenue. Ald. Ciccone disagreed because the area of Newton North High School still has the Tiger Permit Program even though those residents were promised it would end when construction was complete.

Ald. Ciccone suggested relocating the bus stops further north on Walnut Street. Mr. Grafe agreed. Sgt. Babcock said that he would discuss this possibility with Regina Moody, Director of Transportation. Mr. Baxter said that approximately 15-20 spaces would be gained if the bus stops were relocated. Mr. Koses suggested docketing a new item focusing on Albemarle Road to include the relocation of bus stops and paving by Department Public Works.

Ald. Ciccone made the motion to deny this item with the understanding a new item would be docketed as suggested replacing this item. Council members agreed 4-1, Koses opposed. Mr. Koses said that this item may be appealed through the close of business November 14, 2012.

TC11-12 <u>ALD. LINSKY, ALBRIGHT & JOHNSON</u>, requesting a) revocation of loading zone located on the south side opposite 439 Newtonville Avenue and b) reinstatement of parking along with further consideration to accommodate delivery needs for Newtonville village center businesses. (Ward 2) [04/30/12 @ 8:51 AM]
 Traffic Council Approved 5-0, on 10/27/11 (TC18-11) A Loading Zone in front of 440 Newtonville Avenue, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday-Friday.
 <u>ACTION:</u> APPROVE (5-0). Current Loading Zone at 440 Newtonville Avenue to be replaced by a two-hour parking 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. zone; Current one-hour parking zone at 454 Newtonville Avenue to be replaced by a two-hour parking meter zone.

**<u>NOTE:</u>** Three correspondences, all in support of revocation of the loading zone, are on file. Mr. Koses said that the original petitioner received a notice of this meeting, but did not attend.

Mr. Koses said that in October 2011, Traffic Council approved a loading zone in front of 440 Newtonville Avenue. Since the loading zone has been installed, he has observed delivery trucks parking on the sidewalk and not using the designated loading zone.

Mr. Baxter provided Council members with various parking restrictions in the area. He said that there is a high demand for parking and supports the revocation of the loading zone.

Ald. Linsky said that he docketed this item because of complaints he received from merchants regarding the loading zone and asks why it was installed. The loading zone is not used and it is inconvenient for merchants to conduct business. He requests Traffic Council approve the removal of the loading zone and restore parking.

Ald. Ciccone asked if the loading zone could be relocated to Bowers Street. Mr. Baxter answered no, because Bowers Street only allows parking on one side. He estimates Bowers Street being approximately 30' wide, too narrow and difficult for delivery trucks to maneuver. Mr. Grafe encourages Traffic Council to approve this request and restore the meters to their original state. Sgt. Babcock said that he conducted four site visits also observing delivery trucks not using the loading zone. Mr. Koses made the motion to approve the revocation of the current Loading Zone at 440 Newtonville Avenue to be replaced by a two-hour parking 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. zone; Current one-hour parking zone at 454 Newtonville Avenue to be replaced by a two-hour parking meter zone. Council members agreed 5-0. Mr. Koses said that this tem may be appealed through the close of business November 14, 2012.

TC30-12 <u>DAVID KOSES</u>, on behalf of the Planning Department, requesting the installation of three handicap parking spaces on Hull Street between Walnut Street and Dexter Road, near the ramp leading to the tennis courts. (Ward 2) [06/26/12 @ 3:53 PM]

# <u>ACTION:</u> APPROVE (5-0). Three handicap parking spaces to be added on the north side of Hull Street, just to the west of the ramp. The current Live Loading Zone to be shortened.

**<u>NOTE:</u>** Mr. Koses said that he docketed this item because the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) informed the City that if three required handicap parking spaces are not installed on Hull Street, the City would be fined \$1,000 per day for the lack of this requirement.

Mr. Baxter provided Council members with various parking restrictions and background information including the location for the three proposed handicap parking spaces on Hull Street. He said that the handicap parking spaces are required to fulfill ADA requirements for Newton North High School. The handicap sidewalk ramp and access path between the tennis courts are already constructed. Current parking is restricted as a Live Loading Zone only during school hours. The City will be required to install these three required spaces or pay a \$1,000 per day fine if these spaces are not installed by November 14.

Mr. Koses said that he feels these spaces will not be utilized because they are not conveniently located. He suggested the spaces be monitored once installed and if necessary discuss the matter with the MAAB and the City's Law Department perhaps requesting a change to the requirement. Mr. Koses then said it appears that people without disabilities are using the handicap parking spaces in the Lowell Street and Walnut Street parking lots. Ald. Ciccone suggested monitoring the handicap parking spaces on Tiger Drive and if they are not being used appropriately, he recommends reviewing the requirements with the MAAB. Mr. Koses then said that the Commission on Disabilities Committee (COD) has not discussed this item. Perhaps if these spaces are monitored and not appropriately used they should be asked for their input.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion for public comment. One resident was present for this discussion and said that he is concerned with the location of the handicap parking spaces proposals. He feels that three spaces are excessive and has not witnessed a handicap student using this area as a drop-off/pick-up location because it is a long walk.

Mr. Koses made the motion to approve three handicap parking spaces as required to the north side of Hull Street, just to the west of the ramp. Council members agreed 5-0.

**<u>DISCUSSION ITEM</u>**: Discuss and vote on Traffic Council Policy #3: Prioritization of On-Street Parking and Bicycle lanes. <u>ACTION</u>: ADOPT (5-0).

**NOTE:** Mr. Koses distributed the policy to Council members. The Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) developed and approved this policy to assist Traffic Council member's decisions in the implementation of bike lanes and removal of parking. The policy intends to provide a baseline of supporting bicycle lanes in the City by providing safety, creating all users equally and the primary functions of a street in order to move vehicles. He then said that this policy has been revised as suggested by the Public Safety & Transportation Committee members.

Ald. Ciccone stated he opposes removing parking in front of homes to implement bike lanes because it causes unfairness and negative impacts to homeowners. Homeowners, contractors, and guests should be allowed to park in front of their residence.

Miles Smith, Newton Bicycle-Pedestrian Task Force member spoke in favor of the policy. It is a very important policy providing safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists and requests the policy be adopted. Mr. Grafe agreed.

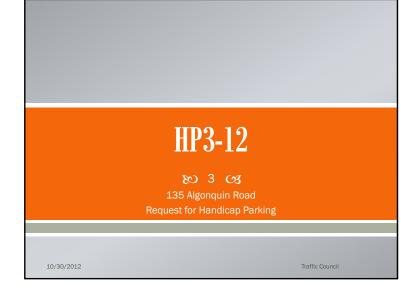
Council members did not have questions or concerns regarding the policy. Mr. Koses made the motion to adopt this policy. Council members agreed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

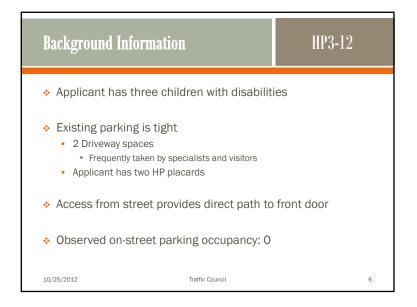
David Koses, Traffic Council Chair

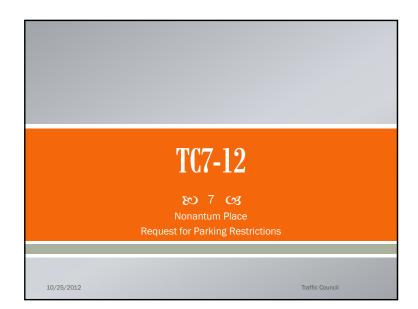




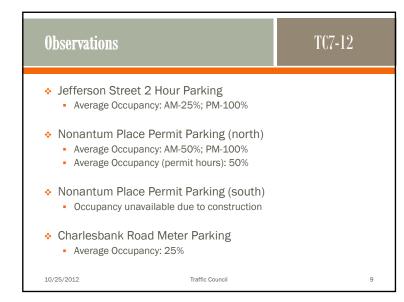




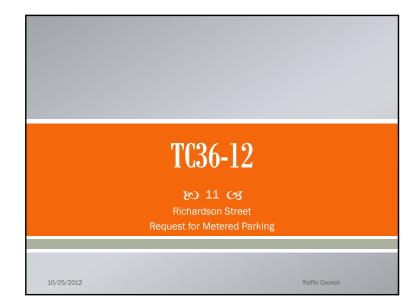










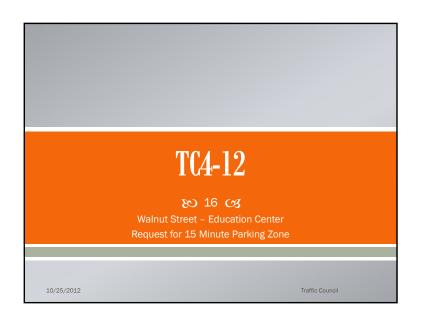






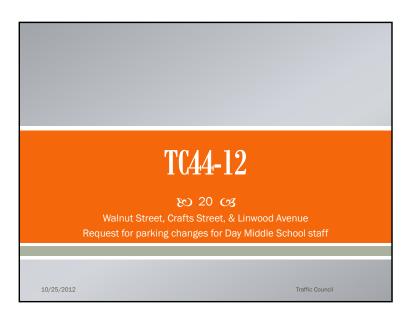


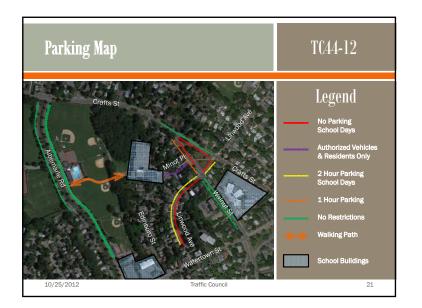




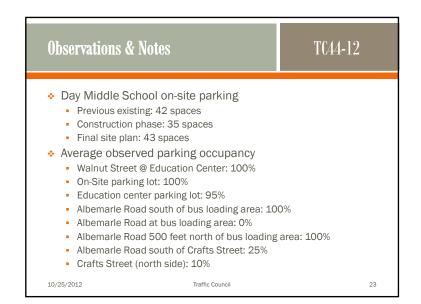




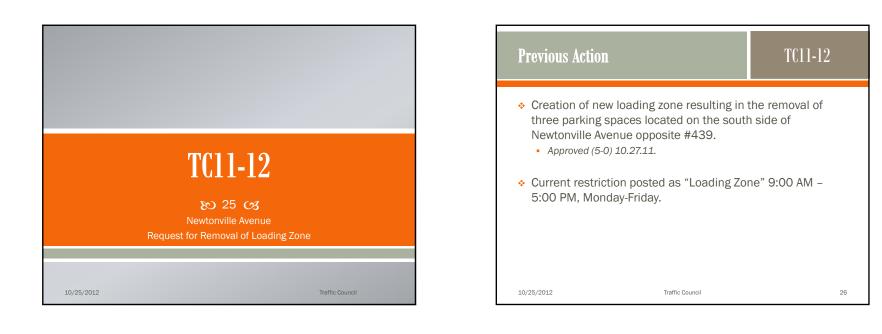


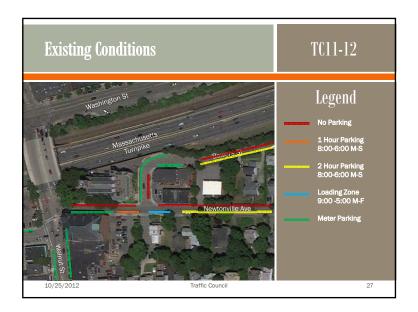




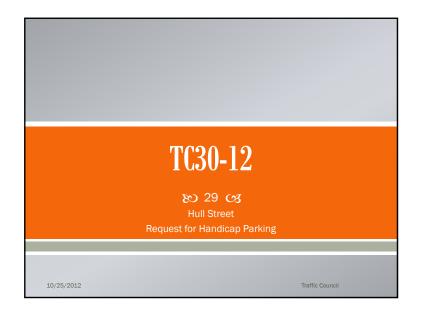


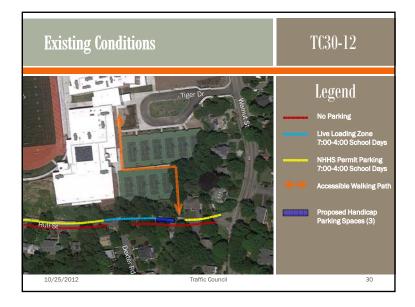












Background Info	ormation	TC30-12
<ul> <li>Three handicap parking spaces required to fulfill ADA parking requirements for Newton North High School</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Handicap sidewalk ramp and access path between tennis courts already constructed</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Current parking is restricted as Live Loading Zone only during school hours</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>ADA violation – AAB will levy \$1,000 fine per day if spaces not installed by November 14.</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Consider future review for utilization</li> </ul>		
10/25/2012	Traffic Council	31



