CITY OF NEWTON

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2012

Present: David Koses, Transportation Planner; Patrick Baxter, Transportation Engineer; Ald.

Harney and Jerome Grafe, Citizen Representative Absent: Sgt. Jay Babcock, Newton Police Department

Also Present: Ald. Hess-Mahan, Rice and Yates

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

TC21-12 ALD. HESS-MAHAN, on behalf of Myrtle Baptist Church, 21 Curve Street,

requesting a) one handicap parking space in front of 21 Curve Street and b) no parking within twenty-four feet of the driveway of 21 Curve Street in front of 25

Curve Street. (Ward 3) [05/31/12 @ 4:23 PM]

The Newton Commission on Disability voted on 10/15//12, to recommend to the Traffic Council to make a HP space in front a legal parking space and add an additional HP space in front. NCOD also recommends 2 additional

HP spaces in the back parking lot.

ACTION: APPROVE (3-0, Grafe not voting).

(A) Two handicap parking spaces in front of 21 Curve Street.

(B) No parking from the driveway of 21 Curve Street, 25 feet southerly.

(B) May be appealed through the close of business December 5, 2012.

Mr. Baxter provided Council members with background information and parking restrictions on Curve Street. The church provides 49 off-street parking spaces in the parking lot, including two handicap parking spaces. Curve Street is approximately 20' wide with two travel lanes. He said that it appears the demand for handicap parking is as great as twelve spaces. The handicap ramp is located adjacent to the existing spaces in the parking lot. The location of the ramp is more convenient for those parking in the lot rather than on the street. He agrees that additional handicap spaces are necessary in the parking lot. He suggests eliminating parking near the driveway due to sight difficulties when entering and exiting the driveway.

Ald. Hess-Mahan said that additional handicap parking spaces are necessary; the parking lot only has two designated spaces. He then said that the Newton Commission on Disability (NCOD) recommends an additional four spaces. The two handicap spaces on Curve Street are a short walk to the front stairway easily avoiding the driveway to access the handicap ramp. People park on both sides of the driveway making the situation worse. He then said that the church requests 24' feet of parking be removed near the driveway on Curve Street to allow better sight distance when entering and exiting the driveway.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Angela Pitter-Wright said that more handicap parking spaces are necessary to accommodate the twelve

members of the congregation with handicap placards. Winter months exasperate the problems when entering and exiting the driveway. The driveway is narrow and is difficult to access.

Council members agreed that the parking lot and driveway are small and narrow. They are concerned with safety issues especially people requiring an aid. They asked Ald. Hess-Mahan if he discussed this item with the Myrtle Baptist Church and asked if the best solution is NCOD's recommendation. Ald. Hess-Mahan answered that he has spoken with the church and they support this docket item and NCOD's recommendations. Mr. Baxter suggested an additional four parking spaces be added to the parking lot leaving the street parking for people without disabilities.

Council members support NCOD's recommendations. Without further discussion, Ald. Harney made the motion to approve as amended a) two-handicap parking spaces in front of 21 Curve Street and b) no parking from the driveway of 21 Curve Street, 25 feet southerly. Council members agreed 3-0, Grafe not voting. Mr. Koses said that item (b) may be appealed.

TC28-11 JAMES & KARIN RIZZA, 19 Cornell Street, requesting that during soccer and

baseball seasons parking be allowed only on one side of Cornell Street. (Ward 4)

[05/13/11 @ 8:57 AM]

HELD for trial 4-0-1 (Grafe abstaining) on 11/17/11. No parking, Saturdays,

April 15-November 30, residential side of Cornell Street between Grove

Street and Pine Grove Avenue.

ACTION: APPROVE (3-0, Grafe not voting).

This item may be appealed through the close of business December 5, 2012.

NOTE: Items TC28-11 and TC70-11 were discussed together. See TC70-11 summary below.

TC70-11 ALD. HARNEY & SANGIOLO, on behalf of the residents of Pine Grove Avenue

and Cornell Street, requesting that during soccer and baseball seasons, parking be allowed only on one side of Pine Grove Avenue between Grove and Cornell

Streets. (Ward 4) [12/13/11 @ 7:43 PM]

HELD for trial 4-0-1 (Grafe abstaining) on 01/19/12. No parking 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Saturdays, April 15 - November 30, residential side of Pine Grove

Avenue between Cornell Street and Grove Street.

ACTION: APPROVE (3-0, Grafe not voting).

This item may be appealed through the close of business December 5, 2012.

NOTE: Items TC28-11 and TC70-11 were discussed together.

Mr. Baxter said that the trials appear to be successful; however, observations have not been conducted during Saturday sporting events. He provided Council members with parking restrictions implemented during the trial.

Ald. Harney said that Cornell Street and Pine Grove Avenue were difficult to navigate especially during soccer and baseball seasons. He said that both trials have worked out very well. He and residents agree, support and request making these trials permanent.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Bill Renke said that he supports making the trials permanent. He conducted a survey to approximately 350 residents; he has received two responses expressing satisfaction and support making these trials permanent.

Without further discussion, Ald. Harney moved approval of making both trials permanent. Council members agreed 3-0, Grafe not voting.

TC18-12 ALD. HARNEY & SANGIOLO, on behalf of local businesses requesting a) review of the parking restrictions on Auburn Street, south side, from Woodland Road to Melrose Street and b) the possibility of adding No Parking 7am-9am, Monday - Friday the entire length from Woodland Road to Melrose Street. (Ward

4) [05/29/12 @ 8:01 PM]

ACTION: HELD (3-0, Grafe not voting) for 60-day trial to add the following parking restriction: No Parking, 7AM to 9AM, Monday to Friday, Auburn Street, South Side, between Woodbine Street and Melrose Street within the formerly unrestricted area.

NOTE: Ald. Harney said that he docketed this item because of the negative impact commuters are causing by parking on these residential streets. Commuters are parking every day, the entire length since the MBTA commuter lot implemented a daily \$4.00 fee. Prior to the MBTA charging a fee, the lot was full with some commuters parking on the streets. He then said that a business owner supports no parking 7am to 9am to deter commuters because employees and patrons are displaced. Residents and other business owners are concerned with suggested times. He suggested forming a task force with business owners and residents to discuss and determine the appropriate needs. Business owners state they have to arrive by 7am to park. Commuters want free parking. Recently, Ald. Harney has observed 12 cars using the parking lot. Commuters are now occupying the area on Auburn Street where there are no parking restrictions.

Mr. Baxter provided Council members with background information and various parking restrictions. He said that today, he observed 18 cars using the parking lot which is 50% of the parking lot capacity of 36 parking spaces. He observed zero cars parking on street adjacent to the parking lot and 100% on street parking east of the parking lot. He then said that Auburn Street is 32' wide, double yellow off centerline that accommodates parking. Parked cars provide traffic calming measures. Mr. Baxter then said that the City could install 12-hour meters on Auburn Street, except in front of homes to deter all day parking. Ald. Harney asked that meters not be considered at this time.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Approximately six residents spoke expressing their concerns, questions and suggestions.

Concerns

Residents stated they are concerned with Mr. Baxter's observations they feel the lot is only 25% utilized. They stated that they are concerned with the narrow streets being parked up, emergency vehicle access difficulties, difficulty accessing the library, people have the tendency to speed over the hill and winter exasperates the many issues. It is not fair to the residents. Questions

Residents asked if they could contact the MBTA requesting they reduce or eliminate the parking fee and if the MBTA would allow public comment. Residents were encouraged to write letters. Ald. Harney suggested that he docket a discussion item inviting the MBTA officials to attend a meeting to allow residents the opportunity to provide public comment. Suggestions

Residents suggested additional police enforcement on Auburn Street. They suggested that parking be prohibited during winter months on Central Street. They agreed to support some sort of a 2-3 hour parking restriction to deter commuters, especially during the winter months. They agreed if the MBTA charged a lower parking fee, the lot would be full and the MBTA would still benefit. Some residents suggested installing meters on Auburn Street, preventing all day parking.

Mr. Koses provided Council members with Traffic Council Policy 1: On-Street Parking Guidance that Traffic Council members use as a reference. Council members discussed the **Public Transportation** section which states "Traffic Council shall attempt to protect streets from overuse by commuters in search of free-all day parking..."

Mr. Koses said that when the MBTA implemented a parking fee, the City was opposed because of problems it would raise. A discussion continues requesting they remove their fee. He then said that a comprehensive parking plan is necessary because of the various parking restrictions. Perhaps in the future, commuters could be issued permits in a managed way. Ald. Harney agreed that a comprehensive plan is necessary. He then suggested implementing a two-hour parking restriction trial until a plan comes to fruition.

Committee member discussed and suggested different locations and times to implement a parking restriction trial to deter commuter parking. Ald. Harney made the motion to hold and implement a 60-day trial to add the following parking restriction: No Parking, 7AM to 9AM, Monday to Friday, Auburn Street, South Side, between Woodbine Street and Melrose Street within the formerly unrestricted area. Council members agreed 3-0, Grafe not voting.

TC23-12 <u>WARD 4 ALDERMEN</u>, on behalf of Richard J. Kelly, Jr. 13 Crescent Street, requesting consideration of parking restrictions on Crescent Street, between Webster and Rowe Streets, to discourage all day commuter parking. (Ward 4) [06/08/12 @ 9:26 AM]

ACTION: DENIED (2-1, Ald. Harney opposed, Grafe not voting).
This item may be appealed through the close of business December 5, 2012.

NOTE: Mr. Baxter provided Council members with background information and various parking restrictions. He said that he observed 3-5 vehicles parking on Crescent Street, a 24' wide street. The walking path to West Newton commuter rail station is approximately 1/3 mile.

The MBTA parking lot charges a \$4.00 per day fee. The lot has 162 parking spaces; approximately less than 15% is utilized. Mr. Baxter then said that if a parking restriction were implemented on Crescent Street, it would just push people onto other streets in the neighborhood.

Richard Kelly said that he docketed this item because of the negative impact commuters are causing by parking on Crescent Street. It appears commuters are parking every day, the entire length since the MBTA began implementing a daily fee. Local business employees and landscape companies are parking on Crescent Street to avoid the fee. He feels Mr. Baxter's parking observations were low and were not observed on a typical day. Mr. Kelly then said that a parking restriction and police enforcement are necessary especially during the winter parking ban. Not all neighbors agree to a parking restriction. Mr. Kelly then said that school buses are parking all day in the area adjacent to the walking path making travel difficult on Rowe Street.

Mr. Baxter said that he has not witnessed all scenarios. He does not feel Crescent Street is a unique situation. Mr. Koses agreed. He then said that it appears the school bus parking issues has been resolved because they are being garaged in Waltham. Metco buses remain in West Newton, but Metco drivers park on-site. Mr. Kelly disagreed.

Mr. Koses provided Council members with Traffic Council Policy 1: On-Street Parking Guidance that Traffic Council members use as a reference. Council members discussed the **Demand for On-Street Parking** section which states "Traffic Council shall regulate the number of vehicles permitted to park on nearby residential streets...the need for some employee and visitor parking, as long as residents and their contractors and visitors have reasonable opportunity for on street parking near their homes". They then discussed the **Public Transportation** section which states "Traffic Council shall attempt to protect streets from overuse by commuters in search of free-all day parking..." Council members agreed balance is necessary and residents should be allowed the opportunity to park near their homes. Ald. Harney said that the Ward 4 Aldermen have been receiving phone calls from constituents complaining about the MBTA parking fee. He then said that a two-hour parking restriction is necessary on Crescent Street to alleviate issues in this neighborhood. He also feels Mr. Baxter's parking observations were low.

Mr. Koses said that a comprehensive parking plan is necessary because of the various parking restrictions. Perhaps in the future, commuters could be issued permits in a managed way. He then said that he and Mr. Baxter made approximately six recent site visits and they did not observe many cars parking on Crescent Street.

Ald. Harney made the motion to implement a 2-hour parking restriction, both sides, weekdays, between Webster and Rowe Streets. This motion failed 1-2, Koses and Baxter opposed, Grafe not voting.

Mr. Koses made the motion to deny this item. Council members agreed 2-1, Ald. Harney opposed, Grafe not voting. Mr. Koses said that this item may be appealed.

TC22-12 GERALD COHEN, 26 Larchmont Avenue, requesting a 2-hour parking

restriction 8am to 10 am weekdays on Larchmont Avenue to deter commuter

parking. (Ward 5) [06/01/12 @ 4:37 PM]

ACTION: HELD (3-0, Grafe not voting) for 60-day trial to add the following parking

restriction: No Parking, 9AM to 11AM, odd side (inside), Larchmont Avenue; No Parking, 2PM to 4PM, even side (outside), Larchmont Avenue. DPW to install a parking restriction up to 50 feet from intersections with

Chestnut Street.

NOTE: Mr. Baxter provided Council members with background information and the various parking restrictions. He said that the MBTA parking lot on Wyman Street charges a \$6.00 per day fee, 100% being utilized. He observed approximately 9-13 cars parked on the north end of Larchmont Avenue (other areas of Larchmont Avenue typically not occupied). Vehicles mostly parked on the eastern end of Larchmont Avenue, both sides. He said that a parking restriction is necessary up to 50' from the intersection with Chestnut Street to maintain a safe intersection.

Mr. Cohen said that he docketed this item because of the high number of commuters parking on Larchmont Avenue since the removal of parking on Wyman Street and the MBTA implementing a parking fee. The fee has driven commuters to the neighborhood. He said that he is concerned with safety issues, Angier School student safety, difficult trash pickups and commuters parking for many days at a time. He disagrees with Mr. Baxter's parking observations. He provided photos showing Larchmont Avenue being parked up, on file.

Mr. Koses provided Council members with Traffic Council Policy 1: On-Street Parking Guidance that Traffic Council members use as a reference. Council members discussed the **Institution** section, which states "Traffic Council to establish parking restrictions to allow for adequate use of the street by residents as well as their visitors and contractors. Traffic Council shall employ the least restrictive means available to limit spillover..." They then discussed the **Other Public Buildings and Parks** section which states "Traffic Council shall ensure that adequate parking is available to access public facilities..." Council members agree a balance is necessary.

Mr. Koses summarized the one-mail received, on file. Mr. Koses then opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Approximately eight residents spoke expressing their concerns, questions and suggestions.

Concerns

Residents stated that they are concerned with student safety; people have the tendency to speed and the lack of sidewalks. It is necessary to promote safety measures. They feel that it is wrong to allow parking where there is a lack of sidewalks.

Questions

Residents asked if the MBTA allows overnight parking. Mr. Koses answered that it Traffic Council to attempt to protect streets from overuse by commuters in search of free all-day parking. Residents asked the cost of a parking ticket. They asked if they are allowed to override a restriction.

Suggestions

Residents agree and support a parking restriction. It is necessary to relieve the burden of residents, contractors and visitors. A suggestion was made for consistency to extend the Wyman Street restriction onto Larchmont Avenue. Another suggestion was to perhaps implement the comprehensive parking plan in this neighborhood.

Ald. Rice said that he supports a two-hour parking restriction; both sides of Larchmont Avenue because neighboring streets have a restriction. A parking restriction will support the residents and deter commuter parking.

Mr. Koses agrees both a comprehensive parking plan and parking restriction are necessary. He suggested a parking restriction in the am on one side and a parking restriction in the pm on the opposite side. Council members said that residents must obey a restriction and that it is difficult for the Police Department to enforce a restriction unless restriction times are incorporated. Ald. Rice suggested implementing a trial of a two-hour parking restriction from 9am to 11am and 2pm to 4pm.

Without further discussion, Mr. Koses made the motion to hold this item for a 60-day trial of no parking, 9AM to 11AM, odd side (inside), Larchmont Avenue and no parking, 2PM to 4PM, even side (outside), Larchmont Avenue. DPW will install a parking restriction up to 50 feet from intersections with Chestnut Street to increase safety measures. Council members agreed 3-0, Grafe not voting.

TC24-12 MINOO SOLOUKI, 23 Indiana Terrace #2, requesting "Resident Parking Only,

weekdays" on Indiana Terrace. (Ward 5) [06/08/12 @ 9:44 AM]

ACTION: APPROVE AS AMENDED (4-0). Remove all parking restrictions on Indiana Terrace.

This item may be appealed through the close of business December 5, 2012. DPW to install a parking restriction up to 50 feet from intersection with Oak

Street.

NOTE: Ms. Solouki said that she docketed this item because Indiana Terrace is a narrow street. Commercial vehicles park from 6am to 6pm. Residents cannot park in front of their homes and trash pickup is difficult. It is troublesome.

Mr. Baxter provided Council members with background information and area parking restrictions. The area with no parking is restricted closest to the Post Office end of Indiana Terrace. He stated that the neighborhood association has spoken with local businesses encouraging their employees to use free off-street parking rather than Indiana Terrace, which they have positively responded. Mr. Baxter said that he and Mr. Koses made several day site visits, observing only 5-6 cars parking on Indiana Terrace.

Mr. Koses summarized the three e-mails received opposing resident parking, on file. He then opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Approximately six residents spoke expressing their concerns and questions. Jo-Louise Allen stated that approximately half the neighborhood recently attended a meeting to discuss this request. They agree that residents of the street are parking on both sides, blocking driveways and parking cars for long periods of

time, even days. Some feel their neighbors are inconsiderate. Ms. Allen then stated the parking issues have changed since this item was filed because the local employees no longer park on Indiana Terrace.

Concerns

A resident provided a photo depicting how Indiana Terrace residents park, on file. They feel Mr. Baxter's parking observations are low. They said it is difficult for trash pickup, entering and exiting their driveways especially when cars are parked on both sides.

Questions

Residents asked if the no parking restriction on Indiana Terrace is legal. They did not receive notification that a no parking restriction was implemented on Indiana Terrace, near the Post Office. They feel the signs do not look official. Mr. Baxter and Koses agreed and said that the signs appear illegal and would be removed by the City.

Ald. Yates asked if signs could be installed 'no parking, 5' from driveway', once the illegal signs are removed and suggested Police enforcement. Mr. Koses said that it is a neighborhood issue; residents and businesses must keep communication open and work together. Additional signs are not necessary. The curve and parked cars provide traffic calming measures. Mr. Koses then said that the City Ordinance states that parking is prohibited 5' from a driveway. Ald. Rice offered to work with the neighborhood.

Mr. Koses said that if the no parking restriction were removed, it would provide an additional three parking spaces. Mr. Baxter suggested DPW installing a parking restriction up to 50' from Oak Street, providing a safe site distance and restoring the street to its previous state.

Mr. Baxter provided Council members with TPR176 - Parking Regulations on Indiana Terrace:

- (1) Prohibited north side from Oak Street westerly 125 feet.
- (2) Prohibited Saturdays included, south side from Oak Street westerly 175 feet.

Without further discussion, Mr. Grafe made the motion to approve as amended, to remove all parking restrictions on Indiana Terrace with the understanding DPW would remove the illegal signs and administratively install a parking restriction up to 50' from the intersection with Oak Street. Council members agreed 4-0. Mr. Koses said this item may be appealed.

Respectfully submitted,

David Koses, Traffic Council Chair

Traffic Council

City of Newton

November 2012

Agenda

- TC21-12: Requesting handicap parking in front of 21 Curve Street and no parking within 24 feet of the driveway for 21 Curve Street in front of 25 Curve Street.
- TC28-11: Held for Trial 11-17-11 –
 Requesting that during soccer and baseball seasons parking be allowed on only one side of Cornell Street.
- TC70-11: Held for Trial 11-17-11 Requesting that during soccer and baseball seasons parking be allowed on only one side of Pine Grove Avenue between Grove and Cornell Streets.
- TC18-12: Requesting a review of parking restrictions on Auburn Street, south side, from Woodland Road to Melrose Street and the possibility of adding No Parking 7 AM to 9 AM Monday through Friday.
- TC23-12: Requesting consideration of parking restrictions on Crescent Street between Webster and Rowe Streets to discourage all-day commuter parking.
- TC22-12: Requesting a 2-hour parking restriction 8 AM to 10 AM weekdays on Larchmont Avenue to deter commuter parking.
- TC24-12: Requesting "Resident Parking Only" on Indiana Terrace.

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TC21-12

80 3 CB

21 Curve Street

Requesting Handicap Parking & Parking Restrictions at Driveway

Background Information

TC21-12

- Newton Commission on Disability voted on 10.15.12 to recommend that Traffic Council provide a handicap parking space at this location.
- The Myrtle Baptist Church provides 49 off-street parking spaces in the rear parking lot, including 2 designated handicap spaces.
- The church provides a handicap accessible entrance at the northwest corner of the building, with the ramp located adjacent to the existing spaces in the off-street lot.
 - Location of ramp is more convenient for parking lot access than street access.
- Demand for HP spaces during church services observed to be as great as 12.
- Curve Street is approximately 20' wide.
- Church staff note complaints about parking too close to driveway which causes issues with sight distance for exiting vehicles.

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Previous Action

TC28-11/TC70-11

- No Parking, Saturdays, April 15-November 30, residential side of Cornell Street between Grove Street and Pine Grove Avenue.
 - Held for trial (4-0-1) 11.17.11
- No parking 9:00 AM 5:00 PM, Saturdays, April 15-November 30, residential side of Pine Grove Avenue between Cornell Street and Grove Street.
 - Held for trial (4-0-1) 1.19.12
- Trial appears to be success, however observations not taken during Saturday sporting events.

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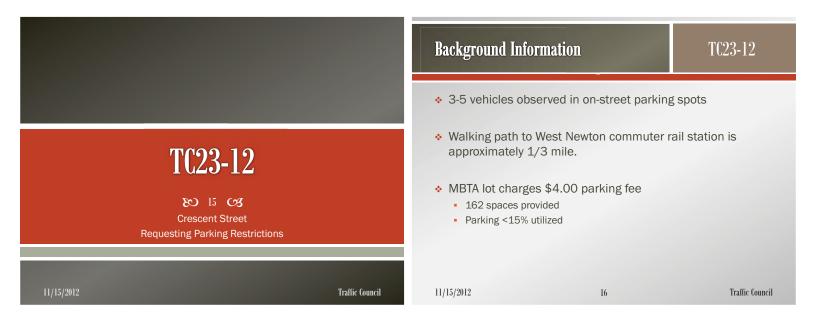
Background Information

TC18-12

- Commuters parking on street since MBTA began charging \$4.00 for parking at lot for Auburndale Commuter Rail.
- Long term meters located further east adjacent to business district
- Employees and customers displaced by commuter parking
- Parking utilization
 - 50% in MBTA lot (36 total spaces)
 - 0% on-street adjacent to lot
 - 100% on-street east of lot
 - 80% adjacent to Auburndale businesses
- Consideration should be given to allowing parking adjacent to lot if restrictions are placed on parking east of lot.

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Background Information

TC22-12

- Concern from residents regarding commuter parking for Waban Station
- MBTA parking lot on Wyman Street charges \$6.00, parking 100% utilized.
- Field observations documented between 9 and 13 cars parked on the north leg of Larchmont Street (other segments typically not occupied)
- Vehicles mostly parked on the eastern end of Larchmont Street along both sides
- Consider providing 2 hour parking along one side of roadway or restrict parking within 50' of Chestnut Street to maintain safe intersection operations.

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Background Information

TC24-12

- Neighborhood association has spoken with nearby businesses, employees now use free off-street parking rather than Indiana Terrace
- No Parking signs installed adjacent to Post Office resulted in the removal of five parking spaces without Traffic Council approval
- Indiana Terrace approximately 23-24' wide
- Several multi-family homes with 3-5 vehicles each require availability of on-street parking
- 5-6 vehicles observed parked during midday site visits.

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