

CITY OF NEWTON
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

NOVEMBER 18, 2010

Present: Jim Danila, Transportation Engineer; David Koses, Transportation Planner; Sgt. James Norcross, Newton Police Department, Jerome Grafe, Resident Member and Ald. Ciccone
Also present: Ald. Albright, Linsky and Merrill

TC6-10 ALD. DANBERG on behalf of Schuyler Larrabee, 10 Laurel Street, Newton Centre requesting a seasonal parking restriction be imposed on all of Laurel Street, on both sides from May 1st to October 1st. (Ward 6) [03/23/10 @ 4:04 PM]

HELD (5-0) on 06/24/10 for 60-Day Trial, No Parking east side, entire length.

ACTION: APPROVED AS AMENDED (5-0), No Parking, east side of Laurel Street, as approved in the trial established on 6/24/10.

NOTE: Mr. Danila provided Council members with an overview of this item. He said prior to the June 24 trial, parking observations on Laurel Street proved at five site visits there were approximately eleven vehicles parked. Laurel Street is between 21-23 feet wide, there are no curb on the east side and a sidewalk on the west side.

Mr. Danila opened the discussion for public comment. Schuyler Larrabee, 10 Laurel Street, said he is very pleased with the trial. Litter and inappropriate behavior are no longer a concern or issue of his. He asked that the trial become permanent. Tobie Reed, 10 Laurel Street, said people are no longer blocking driveways and agreed the trial should become permanent. Robert Reed, 15 Laurel Street, said the street is easier to enter, exit and travel on. He also agreed the trial should become permanent.

Sgt. Norcross said he has not received any complaints and feels the trial has proven to be successful and made the motion to approve this item as amended, no parking, east side of Laurel Street as approved in the trial established on June 24. Council members agreed 5-0.

TC18-10 TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, on behalf of School Department, requesting live parking zones be created on Hull Street adjacent to sidewalk/stairs leading to NNHS entrance. (Ward 2) [05/12/10 @ 4:30 PM]

HELD (5-0) on 09/30/10 for new 60-Day Trial, No Standing, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., School Days, north side of Hull Street; from Dexter Road to a point 200 feet east of Dexter Road.

ACTION: APPROVED (5-0), Live Parking, north side of Hull Street, from Dexter Road to a point 200 feet east of Dexter Road.

NOTE: Mr. Danila provided Council members with an overview of this item from trials approved on May 27 and September 30.

Mr. Danila opened the discussion for public comment.

Beverly Spencer, 44 Hull Street, feels this trial is working. Since the curb has been painted blue indicating a drop off/pickup location, she does not see vehicles queuing up. She feels the signage of "No Standing" needs clarification. She asked if the signs could be replaced with signs indicating the area is a drop off zone with times. Ald. Albright asked if the sign could be clarified. Mr. Danila said if the sign were to change, the trial would also have to change or be amended. He suggested a "Live Parking Zone" be implemented to avoid confusion. Mr. Koses feels there is a bigger issue with vehicles on Tiger Drive queuing up. He suggested the removal of the Tiger Permit Parking on Hull Street extending the pickup/drop off location. He feels more vehicles should have to use Hull Street. John Joyce, 503 Walnut Street, said he has difficulty exiting his driveway in the morning. He would object to painting additional blue zones in front of private homes.

Mr. Koses said the Planning Department is anticipating a site visit on November 23 to observe people's behavior in the school area. He also agrees signage is confusing and prefers the installation of signs indicating drop off/ pickup locations. Mr. Danila said there is no definition in the Traffic Parking Regulations for drop off/pickup locations signs. The Law Department has advised in the past that "Live Parking" is acceptable. Mr. Danila clarified the difference between "Live Parking" and "No Standing". Mr. Grafe said it is anticipated parking issues will change once the old school is removed.

Sgt. Norcross said he was not aware of any issues with the trial therefore, making the motion to approve *Live Parking*, north side of Hull Street, from Dexter Road to a point 200 feet east of Dexter Road. Council members agreed 5-0.

TC36-10 ALD ALBRIGHT, LINSKY AND JOHNSON, requesting a "No Entrance Sign" from the hours of 7:00-8:30 am and 2:00-3:30 pm where people now turn left from Hull Street to Dexter Road. (Ward 2) [10/07/10 @ 8:23 am]

ACTION: **HELD (5-0) for additional data collection. This item will be discussed at the December 2010 Traffic Council hearing.**

NOTE: Mr. Danila provided Council members with the proposed restriction. He said traffic data for left turns from Hull Street to Dexter Road proved the following in the morning hours: 7:00am to 7:30am 4 vehicles, 7:30am to 7:45am 43 vehicles and 7:45am to 9:00am 14 vehicles perhaps creating safety issues. He supports the installation of a "No Left Turn" at the intersection of Hull Street and Dexter Road, rather than a "No Entrance Sign".

Mr. Danila opened the discussion for public comment.

Beverly Spencer, 44 Hull Street, agreed with traffic data counts during the morning. She is concerned with students' safety issue, crossing the street with traffic entering and exiting from Dexter Road to Hull Street. Winter months are also difficult because the snow piled at the corners makes traveling difficult in both directions, exiting driveways and people also use Dexter Road as a turn-around site. She supports the "No Left Turn" onto Dexter Road. Mr. Danila asked Ms. Spencer if afternoon hours' were also difficult. Ms. Spencer could not provide input but heard people use Hull Street as a "Live Parking" zone. Ald. Linsky asked Mr. Danila if traffic data was available prior to moving the parking zone on Hull Street. Mr. Danila answered traffic data was taken since the parking zone was moved. Ald. Linsky then asked if traffic counts were performed at Dexter Road and Hull Street. Mr. Danila said he was unsure and would ask the consultants. Mr. Grafe asked if crosswalks were located at Dexter Road and Hull

Street. Ms. Spencer answered no. Mr. Grafe presumed the 43 vehicles would have to continue down Hull Street turning left onto Lowell Avenue. Ald. Albright asked if a count was performed on the number of vehicles that continue straight on Hull Street to Lowell Avenue. Mr. Danila answered no. Ald. Albright then said vehicles could also turn left on Beaumont Avenue. John Joyce, 503 Walnut Street, said he objects to the proposal of a “No Left Turn” on Dexter Road because he feels it is an unfair burden to residents. He would be impacted during the school year when driving his children to school because he would be re-routed to Beaumont Avenue. He agrees student safety and a crosswalk are necessary. He feels there is an issue during the winter months at the corner of Dexter Road and Hull Street with the piling of snow and feels people will continue to park at the corner. Mr. Koses agreed the burden should be shared. Ald. Ciccone feels vehicles should continue on Hull Street to Lowell Avenue sharing the burden and stated crosswalks are necessary. Ald. Linsky asked if the “No Left Turn” sign could be installed as a trial.

Sgt. Norcross said hours proposed would be difficult to enforce because it is at the same time when the department change shifts. Mr. Koses said the Planning Department anticipates a site visit on November 23 to observe people behavior and to collect qualitative data in the school area. Council members suggested conducting a site visit after the holiday on November 30 for the December 16 Traffic Council meeting. Mr. Grafe asked to include pedestrian counts. Mr. Danila said approximately 60% of pedestrians use the traffic signal to cross Walnut Street and should be encouraged to use the traffic signal more often.

Sgt. Norcross made the motion to hold this item pending additional data collection, discussing this item again at the December Council meeting. Council members agreed 5-0.

TC31-10 KENNETH PORTER, 146 Randlett Park, West Newton requesting to increase the time on parking meters from one hour to two hours on Newtonville Avenue and Bowers Street. (Ward 2) [09/11/10 @ 12:53 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED (5-0).**

NOTE: The petitioner was not present this evening for discussion. Mr. Danila said parking meters for business’ on Newtonville Avenue is problematic due to short meter time. The local parking restrictions and field notes proved that Newtonville Avenue and Bowers Street have 19 one-hour meters with an average occupancy of 53% during mid-day hours. He suggested increasing the time from one hour to two-hour meters on Bowers Street, keeping Newtonville Avenue one hour allowing business turnover.

Mr. Danila opened the discussion for public comment.

Ald. Linsky agreed with Mr. Danila on Bowers Street. Newtonville Avenue perhaps could be problematic because of business turnover. Mr. Koses agreed making Bowers Street two-hour meters. Mr. Danila suggested the Ward 2 Aldermen docket an item making meters consistent in this area.

Ald. Ciccone made the motion to increase parking meter time from one hour to two- hours on both Bowers Street and Newtonville Avenue. Council members agreed 5-0.

TC20-10 ALD. LINKSY requesting an evaluation of potential modification to the handicapped space on Madison Avenue created by HP2-09 on 12/17/09. (Ward 2) [05/28/10 @ 10:17 AM]
Approved by Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities on 11/08/10. The Committee voted to 7-0-0 to re-issue their original recommendation that two handicap parking spaces be located on either side of Walnut Street north of the crosswalk nearby Madison Avenue.

ACTION: APPROVED AS AMENDED (5-0), existing handicapped parking space on Madison Avenue to be moved to the east side of Walnut Street, immediately north of the crosswalk, to an existing metered space. The existing metered space on Walnut Street will be moved to Madison Avenue.

NOTE: Mr. Danila provided Council members with the local parking restrictions on Highland Avenue, Walnut Street and Madison Avenue. He said there are 36 one-hour meters with an average occupancy of 70% on Walnut Street. The original request was for two handicapped parking spaces on Walnut Street in front of CVS Pharmacy and in front of Bank of America. Council members decided not to honor this request because of the handicap spaces available in the Austin Street lot and the State allows a person with a handicap placard the ability to park in any metered space.

Mr. Danila opened the discussion for public comment.
Rob Caruso, Co-Chair of Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities Committee (MCPDC) said the Committee recommended two spaces on Walnut Street near the crosswalk because traffic actually slows down in this area and there are curb cuts. Parking in a handicap space on Madison Avenue is difficult. He said the MCPDC was not pleased with a handicap parking space being installed on Madison Avenue because the space could not be noticed from Walnut Street. Ald. Linsky said he docketed this item for Traffic Council to review their previous decision from December 2009 because local business owners and residents were not made aware of the approved handicap parking space. He agreed accessibility is difficult from Madison Avenue and it is preferable to install a handicap parking space on Walnut Street. Ald. Merrill said he uses the handicap parking space and recommends leaving the handicap parking space on Madison Avenue because it allows turnover on Walnut Street. He then suggested the installation of a sign on Walnut Street indicating there is a handicap parking space available on Madison Avenue. Steve Miller, 108 Madison Avenue, business owner, said he was not aware of the previous decision. He said businesses in the area were not notified of the original request last year in order to provide input. Prior to the parking space on Madison Avenue being converted there was a one hour meter allowing business turnover, approximately fifty to seventy-five times per day. Since a handicap space has been installed, it is used approximately two times per day. He said City vehicles including meter patrol officers illegally use this handicap space. He is also concerned because Madison Avenue is not properly graded for a wheel chair. Personally, he feels this handicap space affects his business. Mr. Caruso said it is also difficult to use a wheel chair on Austin Street because of the pitch. Jill Geiger, 72 Madison Avenue, agreed Walnut Street is a more appropriate location for a handicap parking space.

Mr. Danila suggested moving the existing handicapped parking space on Madison Avenue to the east side of Walnut Street, immediately north of the crosswalk, to an existing metered space. The existing metered space on Walnut Street will be moved to Madison Avenue. Mr. Grafe

agreed but feels Madison Avenue would be a safer location. Sgt. Norcross asked if there were other handicap locations in busy areas making people feel unsafe. Mr. Caruso answered yes. Ald. Linsky asked if Madison Avenue could be returned to two metered parking spaces. Mr. Danila said legally it is only one parking space. Mr. Koses said handicap parking spaces could not be appealed and a new item would have to be docketed to request a change. He then said proper businesses were notified for the December 2009 meeting for the original request but during the discussion, it was proposed to act on the installation of a handicap parking space on Madison Avenue.

Ald. Ciccone made the motion to approve as amended, existing handicapped parking space on Madison Avenue to be moved to the east side of Walnut Street, immediately north of the crosswalk to an existing metered space. The existing metered space on Walnut Street will be moved to Madison Avenue. Council members agreed 5-0.

HP4-10 LOIS MAISEL, 434 Lowell Avenue, Newton requesting one handicapped parking space at 434 Lowell Avenue, Newton. (Ward 2) [10/28/10 @ 12:09 PM] Approved by Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities on 11/08/10. The Committee voted 7-0-0 to recommend a handicap parking space in front of 434 Lowell Avenue. If this location is not possible due to parking restrictions then they recommend that the handicap space be located directly across the street from 434 Lowell Avenue.

ACTION: **DENIED (5-0). Traffic Council Chair will write a letter to the petitioner, advising her of other options.**

NOTE: The petitioner was not present this evening for discussion. Mr. Danila reviewed with Council members the layout of the home, parking and local parking restrictions. The east side has a No Parking-Tow Zone section from 7am to 4pm, School Days. The west side is Resident Only parking from 7am to 4pm. North of Craigie Terrace has a one-hour restriction from 8am to 3pm. South of Craigie Terrace has a one-hour limit from 7am to 2pm on School Days. Mr. Danila said he does not recommend a handicap space on the east side of Lowell Avenue because it is in a Tow Zone. He suggested Ms. Maisel parking on Craigie Terrace. Mr. Danila asked Sgt. Norcross if a handicap parking space is *not* marked in a Resident Only parking area could the vehicle be ticketed. Sgt. Norcross answered yes; the vehicle could be ticketed because handicap placards allow you to park in a time restriction area or at a meter. It does not allow you to park in a Tow Zone, Fire Hydrant, etc. He said he would not favor a handicap parking space in an area if a person would have to cross Lowell Avenue. He will not support a handicap space in a Tow Zone area.

Mr. Danila opened the discussion for public comment.

Rob Caruso, Co-Chair of Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities Committee (MCPDC) corrected the MCPDC vote, saying it should read 7-1, Mr. Caruso abstaining. He agreed with Sgt. Norcross that it is not favorable for a handicap person crossing Lowell Avenue. Mr. Grafe also agreed. Mr. Koses said Ms. Maisel's options are limited. He feels a space should be granted across the street from her home, as she requested. Mr. Danila said she requested a handicap space *in front* of her home.

Ald. Ciccone made the motion for denial because location requested is in a Tow Zone. Mr. Koses feels this item should be held for clarification from Ms. Maisel. Mr. Danila recommends the vote of no action necessary allowing her the opportunity to re-petition a handicap parking

space request across the street from her home and she would not have to wait the one year to begin the process. Ald. Ciccone again made the motion for denial. Council members agreed 5-0. Mr. Danila stated he would write Ms. Maisel advising her of other options.

HP5-10 DIANE COTTING, 38 Waban Street, Newton requesting one handicapped parking space in front of 4 Hovey Street, Newton. (Ward 1) [10/29/10 @ 9:41 AM]
Approved by Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities on 11/08/10. The Committee voted 7-0-0 to recommend a handicap parking space in front of 4 Hovey Street with the exact location to be decided by the Traffic Council.

ACTION: **APPROVED (5-0).**

NOTE: The petitioner was not present this evening for discussion. Mr. Danila reviewed with Council members the local parking restrictions. He said there is a one-hour limit on the east side and parking is not allowed on the west side. He proposed a favorable location in front of 4 Hovey Street, near the stop sign with the installation of a sign, "No parking here to corner".

Mr. Danila opened the discussion for public comment.

Rob Caruso, Co-Chair of Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities Committee (MCPDC) said MCPDC did not have an issue at this location. Mr. Koses said it is necessary for a handicap parking space but is concerned with Clay Chevrolet using Hovey Street as a parking lot. Sgt. Norcross suggested calling the Police Department requesting they ticket their illegally parked vehicles.

Mr. Danila made the motion to approve this handicap parking space. Council members agreed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Danila, Traffic Council Chair

Traffic Council

City Hall

Room 222

Thursday, November 18, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Agenda

1. TC6-10: requesting seasonal parking restrictions be imposed on all of Laurel Street, on both sides from May 1st to October 1st.
(Held for Trial on 6/24/10)
2. TC18-10: requesting live parking zones be created on Hull Street adjacent to sidewalk/stairs leading to NNHS entrance.
(Held for Trial on 5/27/10 & 9/30/10)
3. TC36-10: requesting a No Entrance Sign from the hours of 7-8:30 a.m. and 2-3:30 p.m. from Hull St. to Dexter Rd.
4. TC31-10: requesting to increase the time on parking meters from one hour to two hours on Newtonville Ave. & Bowers St.
5. TC20-10: requesting an evaluation of potential modification to the handicap space on Madison Ave. created by HP2-09 on 12/17/09.
6. HP4-10: requesting one handicapped parking space at 434 Lowell Ave.
7. HP5-10: requesting one handicapped parking space in front of 4 Hovey St.

TC6-10

Requesting a seasonal parking restriction be imposed on all of Laurel Street, both sides, from May 1st to October 1st. (Ward 6)

Held for 60-Day Trial on 6/24/10

Laurel Street looking south

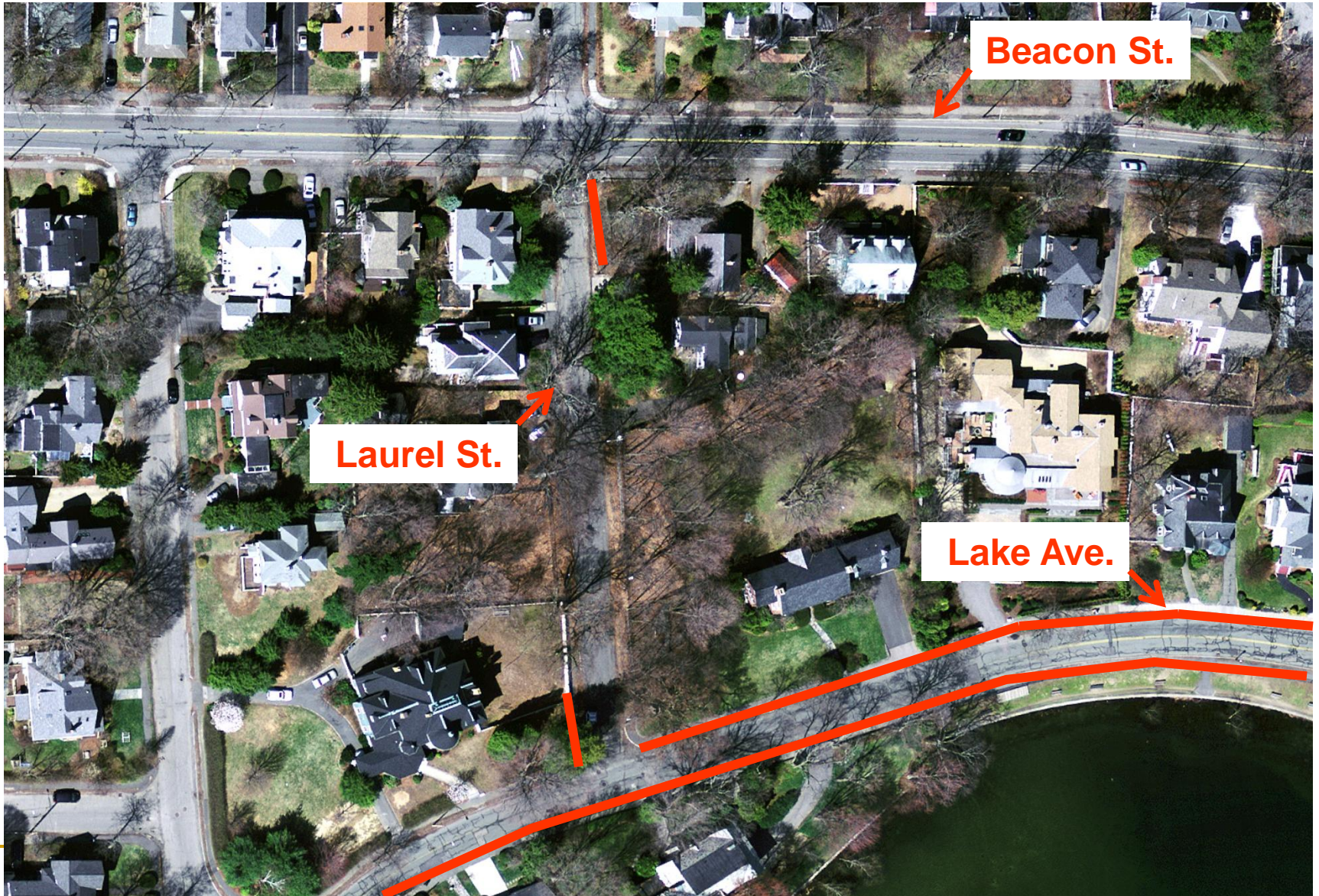


21-23' wide (varies)

Parking Observations Prior to 6/24/10

- 5 visits:
 - East side: 7 cars average
 - West side: 4 cars average
 - 21-23' wide.
 - No curb on east side.
 - Sidewalk on the west side.
-

Parking Restrictions Prior to 6/24/10



No Parking

Current Parking Restrictions



Beacon St.

Laurel St.

Lake Ave.

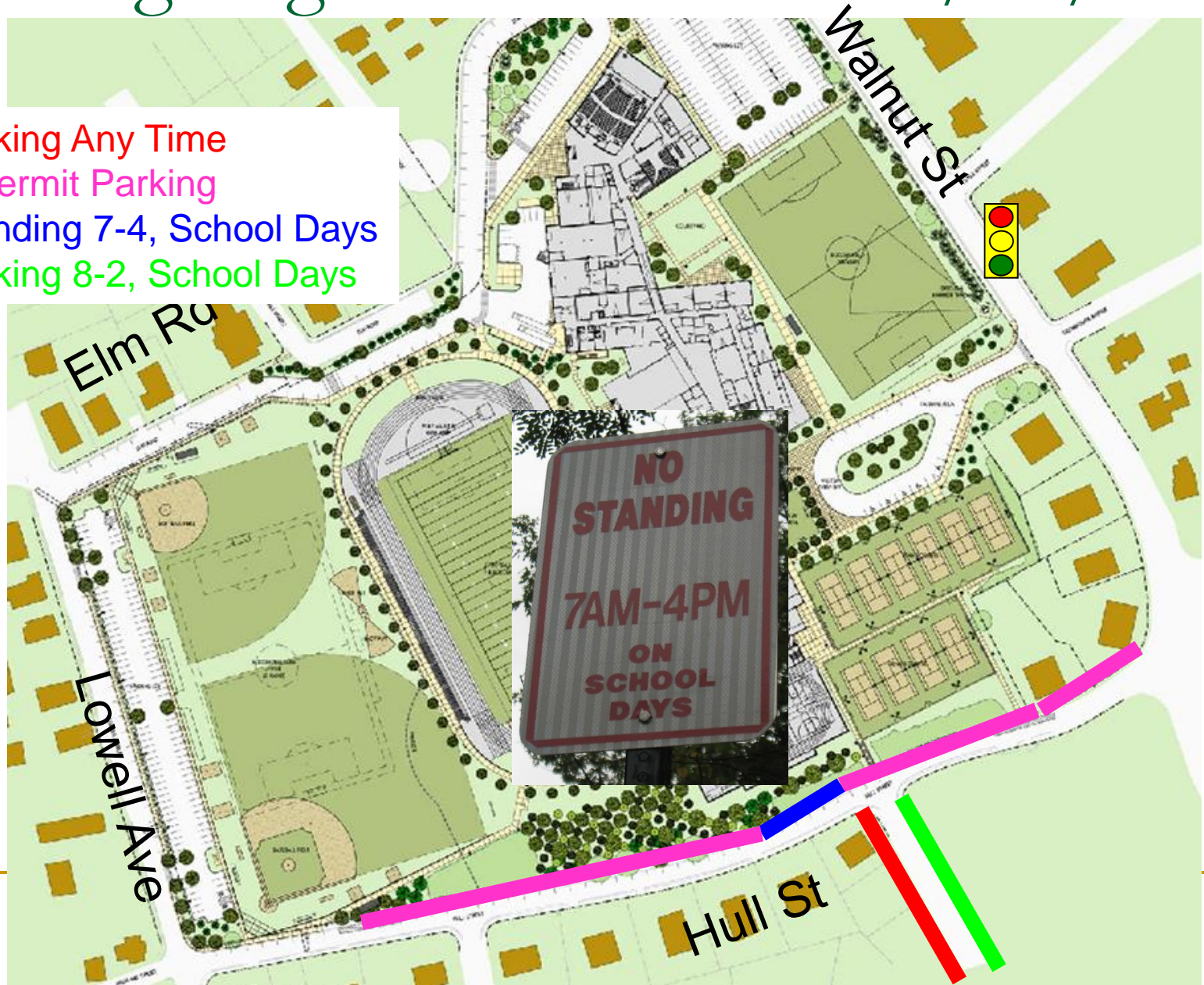
No Parking

TC18-10

Requesting Live Parking zones on Hull Street adjacent to sidewalk/stairs leading to NNHS entrance. (Ward 2)
(Held on for 60-day Trial on 5/27/10 & 9/24/10)

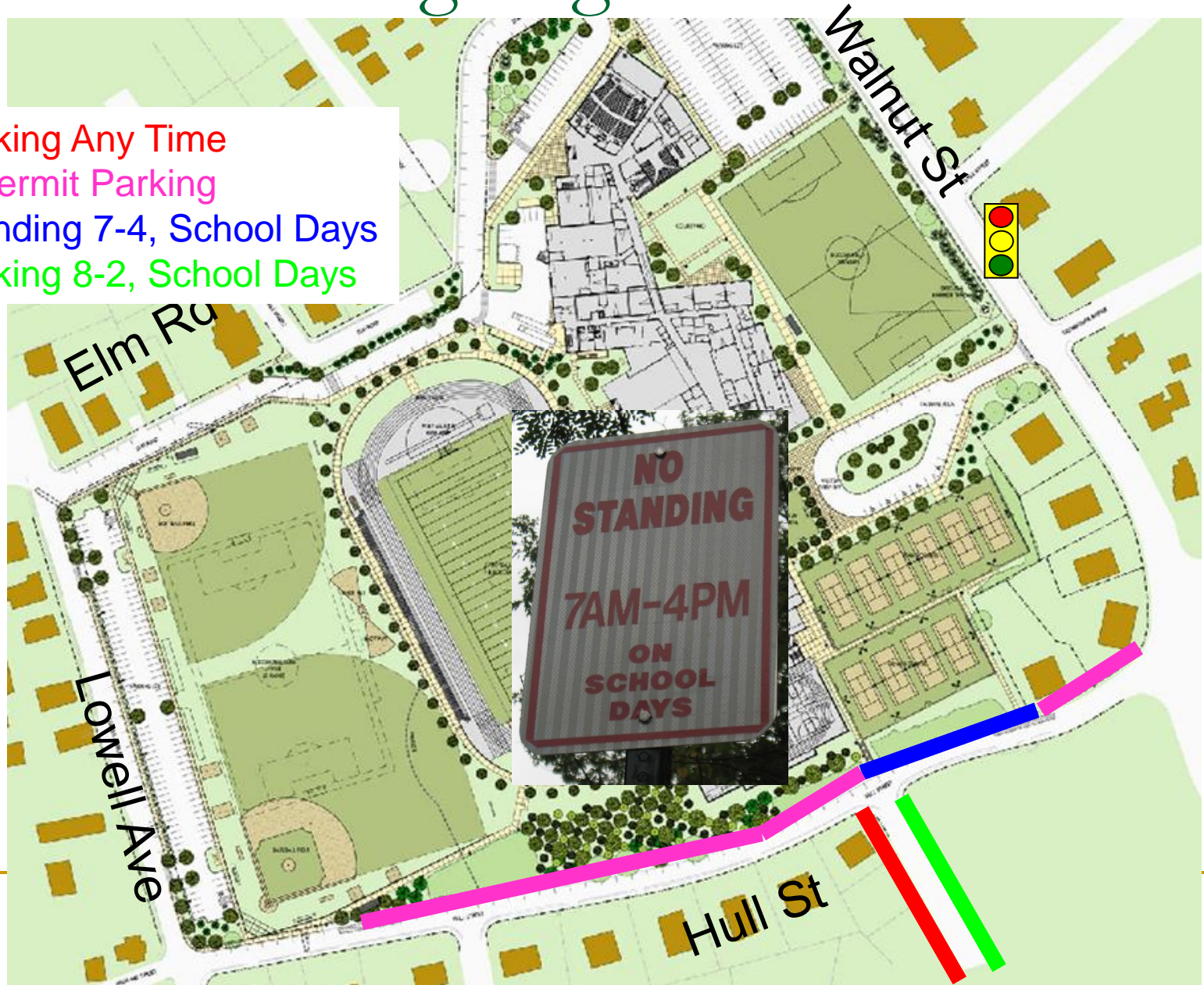
Parking Regulations Prior to 9/24/10

- No Parking Any Time
- Tiger Permit Parking
- No Standing 7-4, School Days
- No Parking 8-2, School Days



Current Parking Regulations

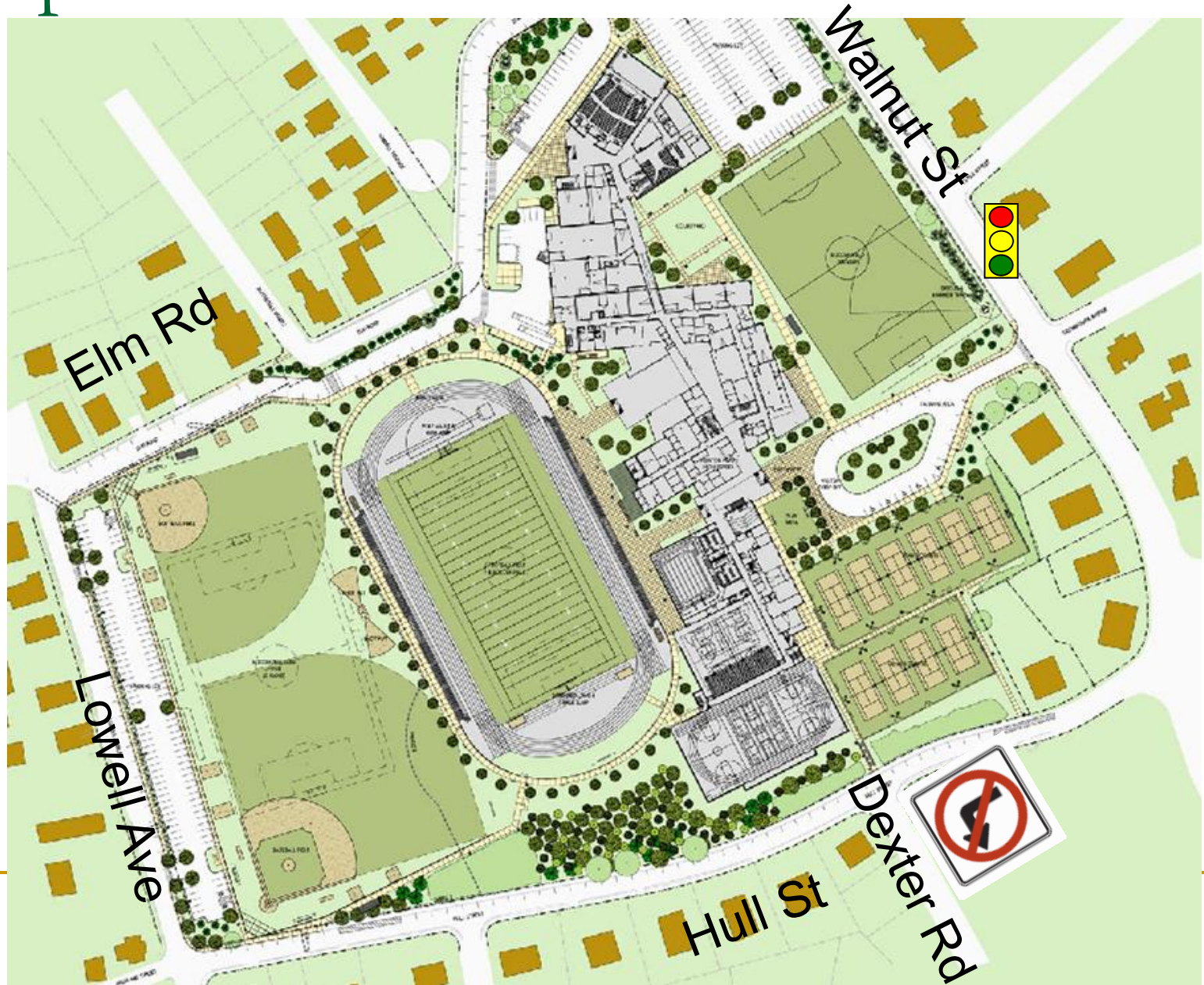
- No Parking Any Time
- Tiger Permit Parking
- No Standing 7-4, School Days
- No Parking 8-2, School Days



TC36-10

Requesting a No Entrance Sign from
the hours of 7-8:30 a.m. and 2-3:30
p.m. from Hull St. to Dexter Rd.
(Ward 2)

Proposed Restriction



Left Turns from Hull to Dexter

- 7:00 to 7:30: 4 vehicles
- 7:30 to 7:45: 43 vehicles
- 7:45 to 9:00: 14 vehicles



TC31-10

Requesting to increase the time on parking meters from one hour to two hours on Newtonville Ave. & Bowers St. (Ward 2)

Local Parking Restrictions



No Parking Any Time | 1-Hr Limit, 8-6 | 2-Hr Limit, 8-6 | 2-Hr Limit, 7-8 | 1-Hr Meters

Field Notes

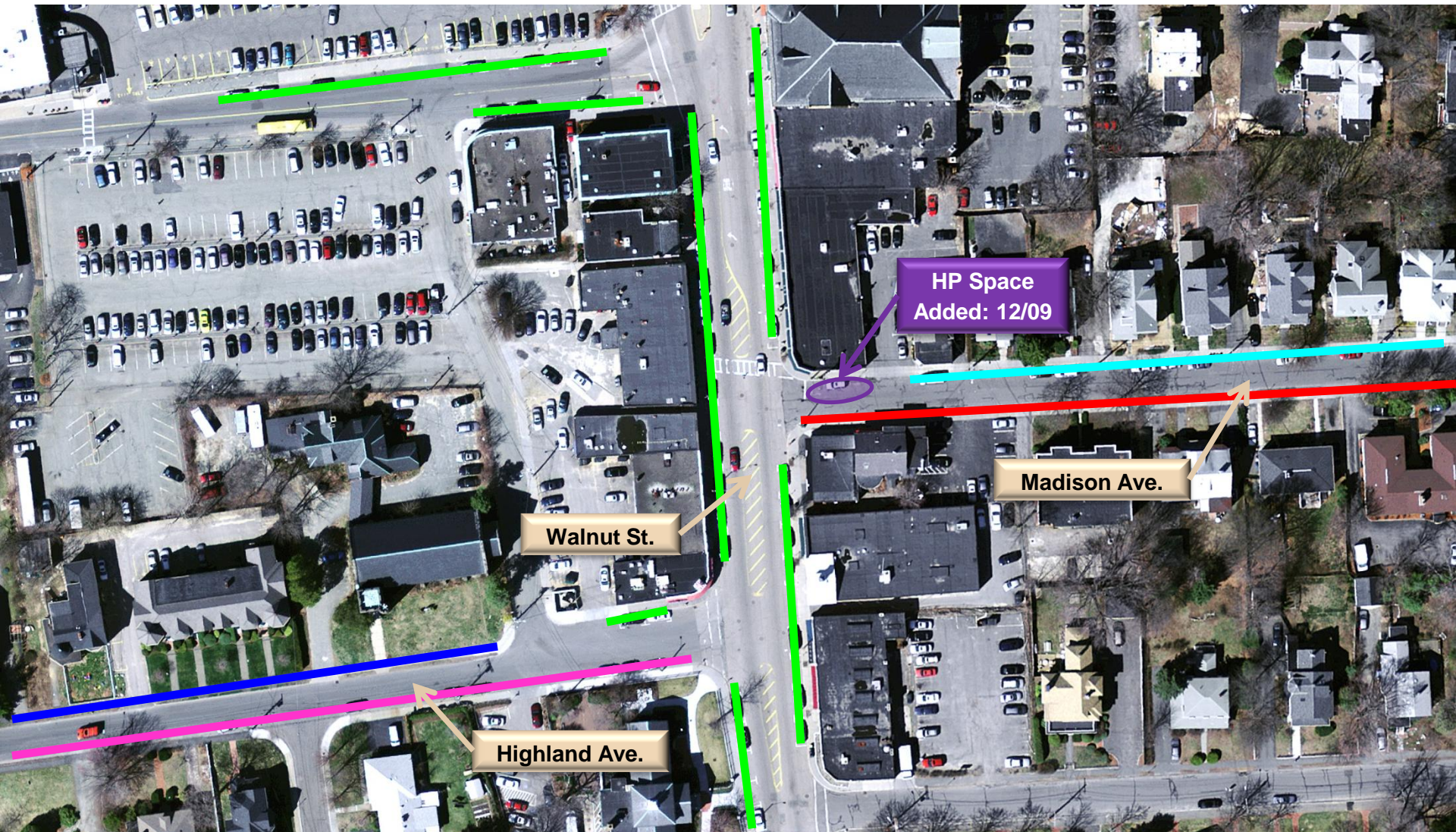
- **Newtonville Ave. & Bowers St.:**
 - 19 1-Hour Meters.
 - Average Occupancy: 53%.



TC20-10

Requesting an evaluation of potential modification to the handicap space on Madison Ave. created by HP2-09 on 12/17/09. (Ward 2)

Local Parking Restrictions



No Parking Any Time | 1-Hr Limit, 7-7 Mon-Sat | 1-Hr Limit, 7-4 Mon-Sat
No Parking, 7-10, Mon-Fri | 1-Hr Meters

Field Notes

- Walnut St.
 - 36 1-Hour Meters.
 - Average Occupancy: 70%.



HP4-10

Requesting one handicapped parking space at 434 Lowell Avenue. (Ward 2)

Local Parking Restrictions



No Parking Tow Zone, 7-4, School Days | 1-Hr Limit, 8-3, School Days

Resident-Only, 7-4 | 1-Hr Limit, 7-2, School Days

Possible Locations

East Side:



West Side:



HP5-10

Requesting one handicapped parking space in front of 4 Hovey Street.
(Ward 1)

Local Parking Restrictions



No Parking Any Time | 1-Hr Limit, 7-7, M-F | No Parking 7-7, All Days | 1-Hr Limit, 8-4 All Days

Proposed Location

