

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

Present: David Koses (Planning) Clint Schuckel (Traffic Engineer) Sgt. Jim Norcross (Police)
Candace Havens, Ald. Samuelson

Also: Ald. Burg, Ald. Linsky, Ald. Baker, Ald. Harney, Ald. Sangiolo

#12-07(2) ALD. JOHNSON, BURG AND LINSKY requesting rescission of Ordinance Y-6, approved on 3/19/07, (which established No Turn on Red; *Crafts Street at North Street*, northbound, school days, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) in order to restore the original No Turn on Red at this location at all times (Ward 2). [05-18-07 @ 10:03 AM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0-1 (Norcross abstaining)**

NOTE: Traffic Engineer, Clint Schuckel, explained that this item went through the Public Safety/Transportation Committee and had not been before in Traffic Council. The item was originally filed by Ald. Burg who was questioning the need for Right Turn on Red on certain hours and it was the vote of the Board of Aldermen to change that restriction to No Right on Red, school days 7 am to 4 pm. The signs were changed as a result of the board order. There was some concern within the community and school officials that that change was unsafe. The Police Chief was requested to change that back to its original No Right on Red, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Mr. Schuckel disagrees with that change and believes that what was voted on by the committee was an effective change. He also noted that the No Right on Red is in the city ordinances just for westbound Craft Street onto northbound North Street. Mr. Schuckel recommended that the No Right on Red be returned to 24 hrs. a day, 7 days a week with the stipulation that would occur in combination with the addition of a right turn green arrow that could be installed on the existing signal such that it would allow cars to flow in a right turn movement on a red other than when someone has pushed the button and then that green arrow would not be illuminated.

The motion was to reinstitute No Right on Red all days, all hours for westbound Craft Street to northbound North Street with a report to indicate Council's recommendations for the signal improvement (the right turn green arrow).

The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Norcross abstaining).

#89-07 ALD. LINSKY, JOHNSON, ALBRIGHT, LENNON, MERRILL AND WEISBUCH, requesting development of parking, pedestrian and vehicular traffic management strategy for the Cabot School and surrounding neighborhood (Parkview Ave., Eastside Pkwy., Cabot St., Bridges Ave., Norwood Ave., Clarendon St.), taking into account existing concerns as well as those relating. **HELD FOR 60-DAY TRIAL ON 6/28/07; BRIDGES AVENUE ONE-WAY TRAFFIC, NORTHBOUND; PARKVIEW AVENUE, ONE-WAY TRAFFIC, SOUTHBOUND FROM THE CABOT SCHOOL PROPERTY TO CABOT STREET**

ACTION **APPROVED 5-0**

NOTE: Clint Schuckel reported that six aldermen as well as PTO and school officials supported this item. The trial consisted of converting Bridges Avenue which was a two way street into a one way street in the northbound direction. The other change was that at Cabot and Parkview (time of day) Do Not Enter was changed to a permanent one way in the southbound direction from the boundary of the school property to Cabot Street. The residents primarily affected are on Bridges Avenue. The notification for this item included all on Bridges Avenue, Norwood and Parkview (60 to 70 homes were notified). Observations still show congestion during drop off and pick up times. Blue zone violations were noted. **Overall, there was consensus that the trial worked.**

Ald. Linsky said from his observations, this has been a big success. He also read from letters that he had received in support of making the trial permanent.

Julia Glazer of 114 Norwood Avenue said it is impossible to leave her driveway during morning hours. She also noted that school personnel routinely place cones in the center of Parkview Avenue, to create a crosswalk between the school and the playground. However, this is illegal as Parkview Avenue is a public street. This forces her to move the cones, drive over the cones, or exit her house via Norwood and Clarendon.

Mr. Schuckel noted that the no parking restrictions are not being followed.

Candace Havens feels that the one way should go all the way. David Koses agreed with Ms. Havens. Ald. Samuelson said there is no simple solution and feels the residents are unfairly impacted. Members of Traffic Council concurred that traffic calming – including a raised crosswalk (rather than cones being placed by school personnel) may be appropriate on Parkview Avenue

Ald. Samuelson moved approval of the trial and an addition of #89-07(2) (Request a design of traffic calming on Parkview Avenue)

The Committee voted 5-0 to make the trial permanent.

#77-07 WADE ALLEN on behalf of Evangelical Baptist Church, 23 Chapel Street, Nonantum, requesting a change to existing restrictions on the west side of Chapel Street to allow parking during normal business hours near the church. (Ward 1) [2/22/07 @ 12:08 PM]

HELD FOR 60-DAY TRIAL ON 6/28/07

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0**

NOTE: Clint Schuckel said the road is 32 feet wide and can support parking on one side. Two sided parking at 32 ft. is right at the minimum. It was observed that 2 to 4 cars were parked in that area. Observations were made at approximately 10 visits. It is believed that most of the vehicles are associated with the church. Since this is a street without any off-street parking, approval was recommended by Mr. Schuckel.

Wade Allen was present and said in general this trial has worked out.

Ald. Samuelson moved approval and the Committee voted in favor 5-0 to make the trial permanent.

#123-07 SONYA KURZWEIL, 203 Lake Avenue requesting no parking on the odd side of Lakewood Road between Lake Avenue and Walnut Street. (Ward 6) [04-02-07 @11:51AM]

HELD FOR 60-DAY TRIAL ON 6/28/07

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0**

NOTE: Mr. Schuckel said the No Parking signs were put in the north side of Lakewood Road. The street is 24 ft. wide. It was observed that, in general, there was compliance and the restriction was effective. Public safety was ensured for emergency vehicles and the recommendation was to make this trial permanent.

A resident of 38 Lakewood Road was present and agreed this restriction seems to be working.

Ald. Samuelson moved approval and the vote was 5-0 in favor.

#157-07 ANTHONY P. RAUCCI, 19 Alderwood Road, Newton Centre, requesting parking restriction on ALDERWOOD ROAD for safe passage of emergency/service vehicles as well as for cars entering/exiting residential driveways (Ward 7). [04-24-07 @3:13 PM]

ACTION: TRIAL APPROVED 5-0 for No Parking on the North side of Alderwood Road from 7 am to 7 pm and 1 hour parking from 7 am to 7 pm on the south side.

NOTE: Mr. Raucci said this petition was filed for safety reasons. He noted that Boston College students park on the street causing many problems. Some cars park for 6 or 7 days. He

noted that even handicapped spots are blocked. Ald. Baker agreed that there were parking issues on this street.

Clint Schuckel said that Janet Road has recently received new parking restrictions and it is probable that some of the parkers from Janet Road that have gone over to Alderwood. Alderwood Road is 23 ft in width. There is no granite curb for most of the street. During site visits, approximately 6 to 12 cars were counted on Alderwood Road. Mr. Schuckel recommended that the council institute a no parking restriction on one side. There has to be a balance between the students and residents. This street would not be eligible for Resident Permit Parking because by city ordinance, you have to have **some other restriction in place for at least one year** that was deemed not effective. A time limit and time of day has to be considered.

David Koses said less restrictive measures are tried first. He felt that there should be a trial of No Parking on one side and some restriction on the other side.

Sgt. Norcross stated that the neighbors have severe parking issues on this street. He would suggest No Parking on one side and some restrictions on the other side.

There was a motion for a trial of No Parking on the north side of Alderwood from 7 am to 7 pm and one hour parking from 7 am to 7 pm on the south side.

The Committee voted 5-0 to approve a 60-day trial.

#158-07 ALD. GENTILE, HARNEY, SANGIOLO requesting on behalf of residents of Studio Road and Lasell College parking restrictions on STUDIO ROAD. (Ward 4) [5-2-07 @ 1:03 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 5-0**

#158-07(2) ALD. HARNEY, GENTILE AND SANGIOLO, on behalf of the residents of Forest Avenue and Lasell College, requesting parking restrictions on FOREST AVENUE in Auburndale (Ward 4). [05-29-07 @ 7:52 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0 No Parking both sides on Forest Avenue.**

#158-07(3) ALD. HARNEY, GENTILE AND SANGIOLO, on behalf of local residents and Lasell College, requesting parking restrictions on SEMINARY AVENUE in Auburndale (Ward 4). [05-30-07 @ 9:57 AM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0 – No Parking from Myrtle down to Woodland Road, on the right side of the road, no parking 50 ft. to the corner at Woodland. No parking on the west side from Woodland Road to Oakridge.**

NOTE: **#158-08, 158-07(2) AND 158-07(3) were taken up together. Ald. Harney introduced the item and explained there had been parking issues with students.**

Clint Schuckel said Lasell campus is scattered throughout this area. There is an important legal distinction that has to be made. Studio Road and Forest Avenue are private ways putting them in a completely different category in terms of traffic restrictions. Part of Seminary Avenue also becomes a private way in certain areas. Forest Avenue has enough width to justify no parking on both sides.

Studio Road was signed as no parking on both sides per police order (that was done in August). There was a fair bit of parking in this area even with the No Parking signs. Studio Road is a private street and temporary parking restrictions were legally put in until a permanent decision is made. Mr. Schuckel believes we have the legal authority to implement a No Parking restriction on one side but does not feel we can implement it on both sides because, in Mr. Schuckel's opinion, there is not a public safety concern with parking on just one side. No Parking restrictions could be implemented if the abutters would all petition in writing. The school could enforce this as a tow zone. An option would be for Lasell College to decide that this is a private way and enforce it themselves.

Sgt. Norcross noted that he suggested that they petition because he felt it would be more effective if the City were to have the signs put up and the City enforce this.

The Traffic Engineer felt that the intent on Seminary Avenue was just the portion on the public way allowing the city to take an action on the section from Woodlawn down to Myrtle.

In Mr. Schuckel's opinion, a trial or a hold for Studio Road would be the appropriate action until there is more formal approval from the abutters.

Kevin Shea of 47 Studio Road said that the trial has worked well. He also said he would be willing and happy to petition the neighbors. He felt it was important to note how helpful the police have been when called. A resident who owns property at 248 Grove Street and 0 Seminary Avenue (private way) had concern that there were no posted signs and feels there is concern if the street is closed. Ald. Harney explained that the area in question is only from Myrtle to Woodland.

Eugene Galton is in agreement that both Studio and Forest have no parking on both sides.

Ald. Samuelson moved No Parking both sides on Forest Avenue. The Committee voted 5-0 to approve.

It was decided to hold Studio Road until there are signed petitions from all residents who would agree with approval to restrict parking on both sides. The Committee voted 5-0 to hold.

A motion was made for no parking on Seminary Avenue from Myrtle to Woodland Road, on the right side of the road, no parking 50 ft. to the corner at Woodland., and no parking on the west side from Woodland Road to Oakridge. (Approved 5-0)

#134-04(3) ALD. SANGIOLO requesting (1) the rescission of Ordinance Y-2, dated February 5, 2007, that provides for installation of parking meters along Washington Street, Lower Falls and (2) a parking study of Washington, Grove, and Moulton Streets and the surrounding area to determine if other parking restrictions are necessary to deal with other overflow parking from businesses along Washington Street.

ACTION: **APPROVED 60-day trial** of No Parking 9 to 11 am on Moulton Street between Grove Street and Gail Road, and on Grove Street from Moulton Street to a point that is an equal distance as the Moulton Street restriction, , both sides

NOTE: Ald. Sangiolo filed this petition after she was informed that meters were to be installed along Washington Street. In conversation with former Alderman John Stewart, it was noted that he had only intended to ask for 15 minute parking in front of the post office and to piggyback that with a parking study. (Parking study never done). Neighborhood parking has increased, particularly on Grove Street and Moulton Street. Ald. Sangiolo suggested that the City not go forward with the parking meters.

Clint Schuckel said this item started in a small area and ultimately parking meters were approved. The ordinances on Washington Street could be cleaned up. A left turn lane has been striped at Washington Street at Concord. There is now a green arrow for left turn movement. There is now just a single lane coming out of Wellesley up Washington Street. Clint Schuckel reported that this change has worked well. The Traffic Council had proposed a section of 15 minute meters in front of the post office, a two hour section, some four hour meters, and no parking further up approaching 95. A turnover study that showed 82 different cars and noted that 63 vehicles parked for less than two hours (sometimes 5 minutes); about 15% of the vehicles were there for longer than 4 hours. Signs are often ignored. Mr. Schuckel felt we should fix the ordinances to allow parking. The question of charging for parking is a policy decision. The Council can make recommendations. What is factored in is the desire for turnover and to facilitate enforcement. Mr. Schuckel's recommendation would be to first look at the appropriate time limits.

Residents noted that National Development has impacted Grove Street negatively and found that often they can't park in front of their homes. Some residents felt that meters would make things worse.

Alderman Samuelson said she feels there is a need for additional long term parking meters. David Koses feels restrictions as well as parking meters will be helpful. In Sgt. Norcross's opinion long term meters might help the problem. Candace Havens also agreed.

Alderman Samuelson made a motion for No Parking 9 to 11 am on Moulton Street between Grove Street and Gail Road, and on Grove Street from Moulton Street to a point that is an equal distance as the Moulton Street restriction, , both sides
The Committee voted 5-0 in favor of a trial.

Finally, as the new Chief Planner for the City of Newton, Candace Havens resigned as Chair of Traffic Council. Members of Traffic Council elected David Koses as the new chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Myers, Clerk