

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022

Present: David Koses, Traffic Council Chair; Sergeant Michael Wade, Newton Police Department; Jason Sobel, Director of Transportation Operations; Councilor Oliver and Mitchell Fischman, Resident Member

Mr. Koses provided Council members with a PowerPoint presentation, attached.

TC8-22 COUNCILORS GREENBERG, LEARY AND OLIVER, requesting discussion and potential approval of a street sweeping trial on the following streets in Nonantum: Allison Street, Beech Street, Cook Street, Dalby Street, Faxon Street, Green Street (Cook St to Pearl St), Jasset Street, Kennedy Circle, Los Angeles Street, and Middle Street. The goal of the trial is to sweep streets once per month, on both sides, to provide for cleaner streets. In order to accomplish this goal, a significant number of poles and signs would need to be installed, on all streets within the trial area, to inform the public that parking would be restricted on both sides of all these streets for approximately four hours per month. Due to operational requirements, all parking on all these streets would need to be restricted during the same four hours each month, and all vehicles must be removed during these four hours, to allow for effective street sweeping. (Ward 1) [02/01/22 @ 2:12 PM] [REVISED 03/02/22 @ 8:25 AM]

ACTION: **HELD 5-0. Hold for a trial of the following: Add parking regulations, one day per month, on a day of the week and during a window of time to be determined by the Commissioner of Public Works, to accommodate a street sweeping trial on the following streets in Nonantum: Allison Street, Beech Street, Cook Street, Dalby Street, Faxon Street, Green Street (Cook St to Pearl St), Jasset Street, Kennedy Circle, Los Angeles Street, and Middle Street.**

NOTE: Council members were provided with background information, operations summary, advantages and disadvantages and the next steps.

Mr. Koses stated that this street sweeping trial began with a request from residents and Councilors proposing certain streets in Nonantum. A public meeting was held on January 27, at that meeting a decision was made to continue with a trial. Streets under consideration for the trial are on the north and south sides of Watertown Street. Mr. Sobel added that Morgan Place was on the trial list but has been removed because it is a private road.

In addition to regular street sweeping, the idea is to have an extra street sweeping one day per month, within a four hour window on these streets. To accomplish this, it would be necessary to notify everybody who parks on these streets that they would need to move their car during that

time. If the trial is approved, residents would be notified through sandwich boards. The City would purchase sandwich boards and place them out onto the streets just before the street sweeping is to take place and then after street sweeping occurs that day, all the sandwich boards would be removed until the next month, when they would be put out again. An approximate time is between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., one day a month. Initially warnings would be issued for any vehicle that's still parked on the street during the restricted time. Moving forward, perhaps citations would be issued. The advantage of this trial is to have cleaner streets. Disadvantages include parking difficulties for residents, visitors and employees, as well as additional permanent signage.

If approved, the trial would begin as a Traffic Council trial for six months, and then be reevaluated. The trial could be discontinued at any time. If the trial proves to be successful, and is made permanent, the City will install new signs and new poles on the opposite side of the street where parking restriction signs are currently located.

Public comment, questions and answers:

- It is unfortunate, one side of the street is not swept due to cars parking up the streets. The streets and storm drains are dirty.
- There should be no opposition because it's only one day a month, only four hours.
- Will warnings work or should the City start issuing citations immediately?
- Perhaps if meters were made available and no citations written at the Watertown Street meters it would benefit employees and businesses. Mr. Koses stated as part of this trial, there is no plan to allow unpaid parking at the one hour meters on Watertown Street. It is necessary to have meters for turnover. Residents should not use the one-hour meters to park their car for a four-hour time period. Residents would have to move their vehicle into a driveway or to an area that is not restricted.
- Could people park behind Moldova Restaurant or at Forte Park? Mr. Koses answered that the municipal lots are three-hour limits. There is no plan to change the meters or the regulations. Forte Park is a good opportunity but has not been discussed with the Parks and Recreation Department.
- What does it mean, the trial could stop? Mr. Koses answered that we really don't know what's going to happen. We are hopeful the trial will be a success and people will move their cars once the sandwich boards are put out. Some people may not move their cars, thereby defeating the purpose of the trial. We can't promise that the trial is going to be a success and we're hoping to keep the trial in place for six months. If there is significant opposition and angry neighbors, we might need to revisit the trial.
- One business has outgrown the parking lot and choose to park on neighboring streets.
- Residents present stated that they support this trial program being implemented.

Mr. Koses stated that 325 meeting notices were mailed out, to all the affected residences, but he has not received any opposition or emails related to the proposed trial.

Mr. Fischman asked whether 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. is an appropriate time to implement the trial. Mr. Koses answered yes, but if we are going to move forward with a trial, maybe we should not be specifying the exact time or the exact day of the week at this point. We could discuss language to move forward with a trial adding parking restrictions, one day a month, at a time and a day to be determined by the Commissioner of Public Works.

Mr. Sobel agrees that flexibility from Traffic Council is necessary for this trial. Mr. Sobel has spoken with Commissioner McGonagle and the Director of Sustainable Materials Management, Ms. Trabert and anticipates that sweeping all the streets within the proposed trial zone will take approximately four hours. We want to ensure that DPW has flexibility. Regarding the days of the week, DPW staff indicated that it is likely to be Tuesday - perhaps the first Tuesday of the month. Streetsweeper staff will put out the sandwich boards on Mondays. Mondays would not work because staff would have to put out the sandwich boards on Sunday. Wednesdays would not work because of the early school release and parking cannot be enforced because many staff are crossing guards. It is necessary to sign and mark all these "no parking" areas approximately every 100 feet. In the beginning, sandwich boards will be used instead of permanent signage. If the trial is approved and made permanent, it will be necessary to install approximately 75 new signposts and signs.

Mr. Sobel then stated that he spoke with Ms. Trabert on whether we should try to sweep the same day as garbage collection because on these streets, it might be easier for the waste management trucks to reach the curb to pick up the trash with all the cars removed. However, Ms. Trabert was concerned that other nearby streets that are not participating in this trial would have even more vehicles parked on them, and it would be difficult for those trash trucks to get through those other streets. Watertown Street is the dividing line, some streets have their trash collection on Thursdays and some on Fridays.

Councilor Oliver stated that it is necessary to do conduct this as a trial to measure the degrees of success. If the trial goes sideways, it might make sense to either significantly change or end the trial but if the trial is going well, we can improve the cleanliness of our streets.

Mr. Koses stated that every time Traffic Council approves a trial, we always say that we could end the trial at any time if it's not working well, we many need to end the trial and try something different.

Mr. Sobel emphasized that it is necessary to undertake the trial to see how it goes. We are all hopeful that this will work and will result in cleaner streets. Unfortunately, despite the outreach both at the public meeting and at the Traffic Council meeting tonight, we have the participation of only a very small number of members of the public.

A suggestion was made for the neighbors to spread the word about the street cleaning as a way of ensuring that this trial will be a success.

Without further discussion, Councilor Oliver made a motion to approve the trial as docketed. Council members agreed 5-0. Mr. Koses stated that the trial will move forward once sandwich boards are purchased perhaps in May or June. DPW will be on site for the first month, warnings will be issued and it will be determined if citations will be issued the following months.

Respectfully submitted,

David Koses, Transportation Coordinator
Traffic Council Chair

Traffic Council

City of Newton

March 24, 2022

Agenda

- ❖ TC8-22 COUNCILORS GREENBERG, LEARY AND OLIVER, requesting discussion and potential approval of a street sweeping trial on the following streets in Nonantum: Allison Street, Beech Street, Cook Street, Dalby Street, Faxon Street, Green Street (Cook St to Pearl St), Jasset Street, Kennedy Circle, Los Angeles Street, and Middle Street. The goal of the trial is to sweep streets once per month, on both sides, to provide for cleaner streets. In order to accomplish this goal, a significant number of poles and signs would need to be installed, on all streets within the trial area, to inform the public that parking would be restricted on both sides of all these streets for approximately four hours per month. Due to operational requirements, all parking on all these streets would need to be restricted during the same four hours each month, and all vehicles must be removed during these four hours, to allow for effective street sweeping. (Ward 1)

- Requested by City Councilors and residents
- Goal is to improve curb to curb street sweeping
- Specific streets for trial proposed by City Councilors

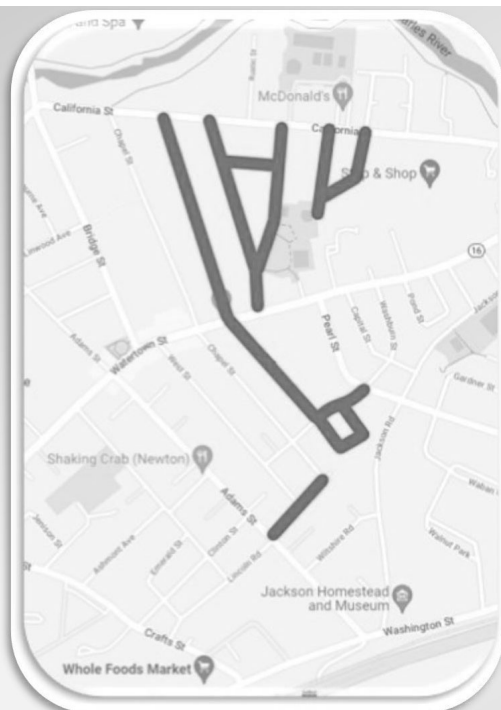
- Public meeting held 1/27/22 (virtual)
 - At that meeting: Decision made to continue discussion at Traffic Council

03.24.22

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Traffic Council

Streets Under Consideration for Inclusion in the Trial



- Dalby Street
- Los Angeles Street
- Cook Street
- Green Street (Cook St to Pearl St)
- Kennedy Circle
- Middle Street
- Faxon Street
- Jasset Street
- Beech Street
- Allison Street

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Traffic Council

Operations Summary

- Would need to restrict parking on both sides of these streets - on one day per month, for four (4) hours
 - New parking regulations would need to be clearly signed
 - Many new signs and poles would need to be installed on the sides of these streets where parking is currently permitted, especially if pilot were to be made permanent
 - Initially, DPW would use sandwich boards placed the day before to inform residents of the parking restriction

03.24.22

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Traffic Council

Operations Summary

- *For operational purposes, parking would need to be restricted on both sides of all streets within the trial area ON THE SAME DAY & DURING THE SAME TIME PERIOD*
 - Would likely impact parking availability throughout the neighborhood, even on streets not included in the trial
 - Compliance with new parking regulations critical to success
- Likely hours would be 9am-1pm
 - Note that Parking Control Officers (PCO's) generally work as school crossing guards.
 - Earlier time period of 8am-12pm would make enforcement difficult
- NPD would issue warnings initially, then citations (if approved)

03.24.22

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Traffic Council

Advantages and Disadvantages

Advantages:

- Cleaner Streets

Disadvantages:

- Parking difficulties for neighborhood residents, visitors, and businesses
- Additional signage needed for new parking regulations. Many new signposts are needed, resulting in sign clutter and cost

03.24.22

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Traffic Council

Next Steps

- Request for Public Comment (this meeting)
 - Gauge Level of Support and Level of Opposition to the trial
- If approved, pilot program would start as Traffic Council trial for six month then be reevaluated. The trial could be discontinued at any time.
- Traffic Council Options:
 - Hold for Trial (As Docketed, on all streets listed in the docket item)
 - Hold for Trial (Modified – for example, on a subset of streets listed)
 - Hold without a Trial (For additional information or data collection)
 - Deny request (Can be re-docketed after one year)
 - Take No Action (Can be re-docketed at any time)

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Traffic Council