



# Public Safety & Transportation Committee Agenda

## City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

7:00 p.m.

The Public Safety & Transportation Committee will hold this meeting as a virtual meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 7:00 pm. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87202039442> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: **872 0203 9442**

### Items Scheduled for Discussion:

**#467-22** **Appeal of Traffic Council Decision TC46-22 Exeter Street at Berkeley Street**  
THOMAS RILEY, 66 Berkeley Street, West Newton AND COUNCILOR KELLEY appealing the approval of Traffic Council petition TC46-22 on September 15, 2022, requesting to add a stop sign at the end of Exeter Street at Berkeley Street. (Ward 3)

**Chair's Note:** *The Public Facilities Committee will join the Public Safety & Transportation Committee to discuss the following one (1) item.*

### Referred to Public Facilities and Public Safety & Transportation Committees

**#78-22** **Discussion on transportation priorities and public works**  
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE, PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, AND COUNCILORS LEARY AND BOWMAN requesting a discussion with the administration and school officials on transportation priorities and public works/streets/sidewalks etc.

### Referred to Public Facilities and Public Safety & Transportation Committees

**#70-22** **Requesting a discussion regarding Traffic calming progress, plans, and adequacy of resources**  
COUNCILORS MALAKIE, NORTON, BOWMAN, DOWNS, GROSSMAN, AND WRIGHT requesting a discussion with the Department of Public Works and the Planning Department regarding Traffic Calming prioritization, selection of methods, effectiveness of completed projects, pending requests, adequacy of current funding and

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The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: [jfairley@newtonma.gov](mailto:jfairley@newtonma.gov) or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.

personnel, and timetable for addressing pending and new requests at current resource levels.

**Public Facilities No Action Necessary 7-0 on 06/08/22**

**Public Safety & Transportation Held 7-0 on 06/08/22**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Andreae Downs, Chair**

**APPEAL OF TRAFFIC COUNCIL DECISION**  
**CITY OF NEWTON TRAFFIC COUNCIL, ROOM 105**  
**1000 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE**  
**NEWTON CENTRE, MA 02459**

RECEIVED

2022 SEP 21 PM 2:15

This form shall be completed by residents or a City Councilor who wish to appeal a Traffic Council decision. This form must be completed and filed with the City Clerk within twenty (20) calendar days of the Traffic Council vote. Requirements for signatures in the matter of appeals are described in Sec.19-33 and 19-34 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Newton, 2007, as amended by Ordinance Z-12. The Appellant and other parties who may in the Council's judgment be substantially affected by such petition will be notified with the first date the petition will be discussed by the City Council. Note: There are additional appeal requirements for Resident Only Permit Areas; see Sec. 19-201 of the City of Newton Ordinances. If you have further questions, please call the Clerk of the City Council's Office at (617)796-1210.

Complete both sides and submit to the Clerk of the City Council's Office (PLEASE PRINT):

APPELLANT'S NAME: And Councilor Kelley Thomas Riley SIGNATURE: [Signature]  
ADDRESS: 66 Berkeley St. W. Newton Unit # 1  
TELEPHONE (DAY): 617 584 4501 (EVENING): 617 584 4501

PETITION #: TC-46-22

**REASON FOR APPEAL:**

stop sign is not needed  
Adds to sign clutter in a residential neighborhood  
there has never been an accident or other  
traffic incident at this intersection  
Pedestrian access is clearly and safely marked

11/16/09  
Revised: 01/01/16

REQUIRED SIGNATURES (Please Print)

♦ Appeals for intersectional controls/regulations (traffic signals, stop signs, no turn on red, etc.) require a total of six (6) signatures (including appellant's) from owners or tenants whose building or lot of land is located within five-hundred (500) feet of the affected intersection (one signature per household or business).

♦ Appeals for parking restrictions, truck exclusions, speed limits, and all other traffic regulations must be signed by one (1) owner or tenant of at least half of the residential, commercial and/or non-profit units which abut the affected street or way, provided that in no event shall more than ten (10) signatures (including appellant's) be required (one signature per household or business).

NAME: Regina Strom SIGNATURE: [Signature]  
ADDRESS: 85 Berkeley St. West Newton UNIT# \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE (DAY): 617-9165-2925 (EVENING): Same

NAME: Kathleen O'Connor SIGNATURE: [Signature]  
ADDRESS: 141 Berkeley St. W. Newton, MA UNIT# \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE (DAY): (617) 780-9808 (EVENING): \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: Kathryn Windsor SIGNATURE: [Signature]  
ADDRESS: 34 Ender St West Newton MA UNIT# \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE (DAY): 617-527-7266 (EVENING): 617-527-7266

NAME: Laure Crasn SIGNATURE: [Signature]  
ADDRESS: 103 Prince St UNIT# \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE (DAY): 617 965-0751 (EVENING): \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: Joanne Silberg SIGNATURE: [Signature]  
ADDRESS: 97 Berkeley St UNIT# \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE (DAY): 301-461-6430 (EVENING): \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: SADIE STROUSE SIGNATURE: [Signature]  
ADDRESS: 67 BERKELEY ST UNIT# \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE (DAY): 511-442-2189 (EVENING): \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT# \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE (DAY): \_\_\_\_\_ (EVENING): \_\_\_\_\_

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11/16/09  
Revised: 01/01/16

REQUIRED SIGNATURES (Please Print)

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♦ Appeals for parking restrictions, truck exclusions, speed limits, and all other traffic regulations must be signed by one (1) owner or tenant of at least half of the residential, commercial and/or non-profit units which abut the affected street or way, provided that in no event shall more than ten (10) signatures (including appellant's) be required (one signature per household or business).

NAME: CHRISTOPHER CONTI SIGNATURE:   
ADDRESS: 14 EXETER ST. WEST NEWTON, MA 02465 UNIT# \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE (DAY): 617-467-7006 (EVENING): \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT# \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE (DAY): \_\_\_\_\_ (EVENING): \_\_\_\_\_

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TELEPHONE (DAY): \_\_\_\_\_ (EVENING): \_\_\_\_\_

#467-22

Mailed to 5 residents on 09/30/22

**City Council**

2022-2023

City of Newton



**PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE**

Dear Resident:

The Public Safety & Transportation Committee will hold this meeting as a virtual meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 7:00 pm. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87202039442> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 872 0203 9442

**#468-22**      **Appeal of Traffic Council Decision TC46-22 Exeter Street at Berkeley Street**  
THOMAS RILEY, 66 Berkeley Street, West Newton AND COUNCILOR KELLEY  
appealing the approval of Traffic Council petition TC46-22 on September 15, 2022, requesting to add a stop sign at the end of Exeter Street at Berkeley Street.  
(Ward 3)

If you are unable to attend this meeting but would like to offer comments in writing for consideration, please forward your comments to the Office of the City Council, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton Centre, 02459 or e-mail to Danielle Delaney at [ddelaney@newtonma.gov](mailto:ddelaney@newtonma.gov) by Wednesday, October 12, 2022 reflecting docket item #468-22.

Sincerely,

Danielle Delaney  
Committee Clerk  
Public Safety & Transportation Committee

1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459  
617-796-1210 [www.newtonma.gov](http://www.newtonma.gov)

\CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

Voting Members Present: Captain Boudreau, Councilor Downs, Mitchell Fischman, Resident Traffic Council Member, David Koses (DPW), and Isaac Prizant (DPW)

Also Present: Councilors Greenberg, Leary and Oliver, Jeremy Freudberg, Alternate Resident Traffic Council Member

City Staff: Adrian Ayala, Transportation Engineer, Danielle Delaney, Committee Clerk

Mr. Koses and Mr. Ayala provided a PowerPoint presentation, attached.

TC46-22      DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, requesting to add a stop sign at the end of Exeter Street at Berkeley Street. (Ward 3) [08/23/22 @ 11:12 AM]

**ACTION:      APPROVED 4-0-1 (Downs abstained). Approved the language of TPR 839. This item may be appealed through the close of business October 5, 2022.**

**NOTE:**      Council members were provided with a map, site photos, considerations and a recommendation.

Mr. Koses stated that this item was docketed after receiving a 311 request from nearby residents.

Mr. Koses stated that there are no warrants that apply. A "T" intersection is an implied stop. It is not necessary to install a stop sign. A stop sign is allowed and there is no reason not to install a stop sign at a "T" intersection. Mr. Koses recommends adding a stop sign at this location.

**Public Comment:**

A resident stated that he is opposed to installing a stop sign at this intersection. It is not necessary. Some areas of the City have too many signs taking away a residential feeling. He stated that he has not witnessed any speeding cars, screeching brakes or traffic issues at this intersection. His children crossed the street to go to school without incident. A large house clearly defines where Exeter Street ends. The Peirce Elementary School has a few yearly walks through the neighborhood without incident. An additional sign would be an eye sore and is not necessary.

Mr. Koses stated that the City is always concerned about installing too many signs. Traffic Council usually approves this type of stop sign request. Mr. Koses stated that his decision is flexible on installing a stop sign. If there is strong community opposition, Traffic Council should take that into consideration.

Mr. Fischman stated that he supports this request. Traffic Council approves stop signs at locations like this often. He asked whether the 311 request was available.

Mr. Prizant said that Traffic Council is open to not approving a stop sign at this location if there is not a safety issue. There have been zero reported crashes in the past five years. There was one single vehicle crash. However, he supports approving a stop sign because it will add a safety factor.

Councilor Downs stated that she agrees that some areas has 'sign clutter'. She then said that her decision is flexible on installing a stop sign. She asked whether residents could request a stop sign in the future if it were to be denied. Mr. Koses explained that Traffic Council can approve the stop sign, wait the 20-days to see if the item is appealed. If appealed, City Council would make the final decision. If Traffic Council votes to deny the request, it may be appealed where City Council would make the final decision. On a vote of approval or denial there is a one-year wait before the item may be redocketed. If Traffic Council votes no action necessary on the request, the request could be redocketed at any time.

Mr. Freudberg suggested relocating the street sign post to the right side for posting the stop sign. He then asked Mr. Koses if he can recall the context of the 311 request. Mr. Prizant answered that the request was placed through 311 in August 2022. The request was made by a resident, who requested a stop sign at the corner of Exeter and Berkeley, on Exeter. She claimed that the area is well traversed to go to school.

Mr. Koses then stated that he recalls this ticket and DPW reviewed the area. Residents walk down Berkeley Street to and from the Peirce Elementary School and may be crossing Exeter Street at this location. Staff wanted to help ensure that cars stop before turning left or right onto Berkeley Street, which is why this request was docketed.

Captain Boudreau stated his decision is flexible on installing a stop sign. There has been one accident in the past five years. He suggested reaching out to hear from the resident who requested the stop sign.

Mr. Ayala stated that a stop sign is never placed on a street sign. A stop sign is required to be on its own post.

Mr. Freudberg stated the City installs stop signs on the same poles as the street signs. Mr. Ayala answered that this is not regulated by the MUTCD, but it is the best practice the City would like to see continue.

Mr. Koses described the appeals process.

Without further discussion, Mr. Fischman made a motion to approve this request. Council members agreed 4-0-1, Councilor Downs abstaining. Mr. Koses stated that this item may be appealed through the close of business on October 5, 2022.



# TC46-22

∞ 54 ∞

Request to add a stop sign at the end of Exeter Street at Berkeley Street

09.15.22

54

Traffic Council

## Location of Exeter Street at Berkeley Street

## TC46-22



09.15.22

55

Traffic Council

# View of Exeter Street at Berkeley Street

## TC46-22



09.15.22

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Traffic Council

## Considerations

## TC46-22

- There are no warrants that apply
- "T" intersection = implied stop
- Not necessary to install a stop sign
- A stop sign is allowed ~ No reason not to install a stop sign at a T intersection

09.15.22

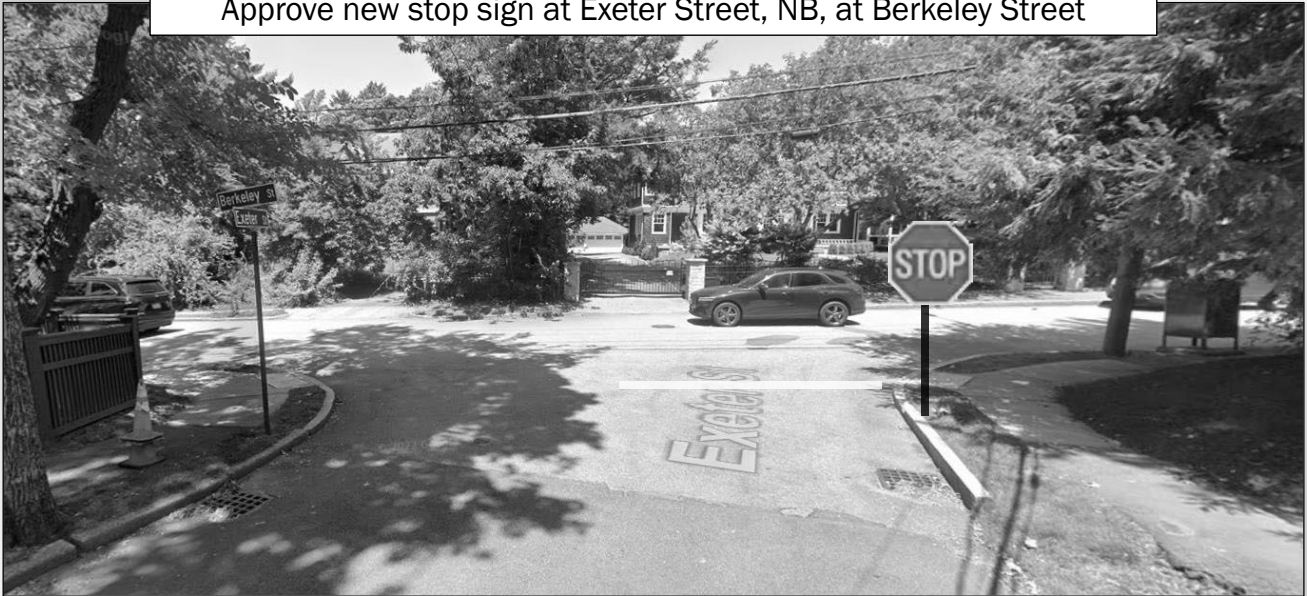
57

Traffic Council

# Recommendation

# TC46-22

Approve new stop sign at Exeter Street, NB, at Berkeley Street



09.15.22

58

Traffic Council

# Recommendation and Proposed TPR language

# TC46-22

By **INSERTING** into the provisions of **Sec. TPR-147**. Obedience to isolated stop signs., the following:

*Exeter Street at Berkeley Street, northbound.*

**CAN BE APPEALED**  
Appeal Deadline is October 5, 2022

09.15.22

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Traffic Council

TC46-22

CITY OF NEWTON

TRAFFIC & PARKING REGULATION

TPR NO. 839

September 15, 2022

In accordance with the vote of the Traffic Council on September 15, 2022:

The City of Newton Traffic & Parking Regulations, as established in Chapter 19, Section 27 of the City of Newton Revised Ordinances, 2017, as amended, be and are hereby further amended as follows:

By INSERTING into the provisions of **Sec. TPR-147. Obedience to isolated stop signs,** the following:

*Exeter Street at Berkeley Street, northbound.*

Approved as to legal form and character:

(SGD) ALISSA OCASIO GIULIANI  
City Solicitor

(SGD) CAROL MOORE  
City Clerk

**Danielle Delaney**

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**From:** Danielle Delaney  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2022 3:45 PM  
**To:** Danielle Delaney  
**Subject:** FW: Stop Sign at Berkeley/Exeter

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**From:** Meryl Kessler  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2022 9:51 PM  
**To:** Traffic Council <trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov>  
**Cc:** City Council <citycouncil@newtonma.gov>  
**Subject:** Stop Sign at Berkeley/Exeter

[DO NOT OPEN links/attachments unless you are sure the content is safe. ]

To the Newton Traffic Council:

I am writing in support of the Traffic Council's September 15 decision to place a stop sign at the intersection of Berkeley and Exeter Streets in West Newton.

I live just around the corner from the Berkeley/Exeter intersection and frequently walk through that intersection. The intersection lies just at the beginning of a school zone leading to the Peirce Elementary School. In my experience, cars exiting Commonwealth Avenue frequently speed up Exeter Street toward Berkeley and do not come to a full stop at the intersection before turning onto Berkeley Street. Given the volume of pedestrian traffic along Berkeley Street (especially school children and their families walking to and from Peirce), a stop sign at that intersection would be a reasonable and prudent traffic calming measure.

I am confused and frankly shocked that any of my neighbors would appeal the Traffic Council's decision to place a stop sign at the Berkeley/Exeter intersection. Concern about "sign clutter" seems completely unfounded. As the attached picture of the intersection from Google maps shows, the intersection currently has no other traffic signage. Therefore, the addition of a single stop sign cannot reasonably be considered to be visual clutter.

I urge the City Council not to rescind the Traffic Council's decision to place a stop sign at the Berkeley/Exeter intersection.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Meryl Kessler  
147 Prince Street



**Danielle Delaney**

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**From:** Danielle Delaney  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 11, 2022 9:54 AM  
**To:** Danielle Delaney  
**Subject:** FW: Comments for Docket Item #468-22

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**From:** tamara shepard  
**Sent:** Monday, October 10, 2022 5:55 PM  
**To:** Danielle Delaney <ddelaney@newtonma.gov>  
**Cc:** Tamara Shepard  
**Subject:** Comments for Docket Item #468-22

[DO NOT OPEN links/attachments unless you are sure the content is safe. ]

Hi Danielle. I'm not sure if I will be able to attend the October 19th hearing regarding the appeal of the Traffic Council's decision to place a stop sign at the intersection of Exeter and Berkeley Streets, so I'm sending you this e-mail just in case.

I'm not sure why we need another stop sign in the neighborhood. We've lived at 80 Berkeley Street (at the corner of Exeter) since 2014, and I'm not aware of there being any accidents or traffic problems at our corner. Did someone in the neighborhood request a stop sign there? Is there some particular reason it seems necessary?

If someone has asked to add a stop sign there for some good reason, then I guess I'm not strongly opposed to it. But I would like to understand the purpose for installing new signage. Are we installing stop signs at *every* corner in Newton? It seems like the City's resources could be better spent, and all else equal, I'd prefer not to have a big red sign on the corner.

Thank you!

Tamara Shepard  
80 Berkeley Street

**Danielle Delaney**

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**From:** Danielle Delaney  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 11, 2022 10:13 AM  
**To:** tamara.shepard@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** RE: Comments for Docket Item #468-22  
**Attachments:** 09-15-22 Report final.pdf

Hi Tamara,

This is at a T intersection, where Exeter motorists should be stopping anyway. We recognize that there were no accidents on record, and that vehicles should be making a full stop before turning onto Berkeley Street.

The item was docketed for Traffic Council discussion on September 15, 2022, which Traffic Council voted 4-0-1 to approve the stop sign because we felt that it provides a small safety benefit, especially for school children crossing Exeter to get to the Peirce School.

TC46-22 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, requesting to add a stop sign at the end of Exeter Street at Berkeley Street. (Ward 3) [08/23/22 @ 11:12 AM]

**ACTION: APPROVED 4-0-1 (Downs abstained). Approved the language of TPR 839. This item may be appealed through the close of business October 5, 2022.**

The report and PowerPoint presentation are attached beginning on page 8.

Danielle Delaney  
Senior Committee Clerk  
City Council  
[ddelaney@newtonma.gov](mailto:ddelaney@newtonma.gov)  
617-796-1211

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**From:** tamara.shepard@yahoo.com <tamara.shepard@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 10, 2022 5:55 PM  
**To:** Danielle Delaney <ddelaney@newtonma.gov>  
**Cc:** Tamara Shepard <tamara.shepard@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** Comments for Docket Item #468-22

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