

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

TRAFFIC COUNCIL AGENDA

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

7:00 PM

Traffic Council will hold this meeting as a virtual meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: <https://newtonma-gov.zoom.us/j/81591995329> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 815 9199 5329

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

AP1-24 JINI FAIRLEY, ADA COORDINATOR AND DAVID KOSES, TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR, on behalf of Roger Molloy, requesting an accessible parking space at or near 5 Murphy Court. (Ward 1) [01/03/24 @ 11:02 AM]

The Newton Commission on Disability voted to APPROVE 8-0 on 01/08/24. HELD 5-0 on 01/18/24. Held for a trial of the following: (1) Relocate the “no parking here to corner” sign on the north side of Murphy Court 10 feet easterly, to be positioned 50 feet west of Adams Street, to be consistent with the existing location as included in the Traffic and Parking Regulations. (2) Install one new accessible parking space, to be located on the north side of Murphy Court, beginning 70 feet to the west of Adams Street. (One unrestricted parking space will be located between 50 and 70 feet west of Adams Street, on the north side of Murphy Court.)

TC7-24 COUNCILORS DOWNS, GETZ, HUMPHREY, LOBOVITS, DANBERG AND BIXBY, requesting that Traffic Council vote to ask MassDOT to rescind the 35 MPH section of the Special Speed Regulation on Woodward Street, in both directions. If approved by Traffic Council, the City Clerk’s office would notify MassDOT of the official action taken, and MassDOT would subsequently issue a modified Special Speed Regulation to reflect these changes. If the existing 35 mph Special Speed Regulations are rescinded in this area, the statutory speed limit of 25 mph would be in effect. (Wards 5 & 6) [02/21/24 @ 1:32 PM]

TC8-24 ISAAC PRIZANT, TRAFFIC ENGINEER, requesting to add the Lowell/Austin RRFB into the TPR. (Ward 2) [02/21/24 @ 1:32 PM]

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 or (617) 796-1253. The city’s TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.

Administrative changes made to the TPR since the last Traffic Council Meeting			
Ward	Street or Location	Administrative Change Made and Included on the Electronic Version of the February 15, 2024 Traffic Council Meeting Agenda	Date
4	Phillips Road	Corrected TPR to reflect that Phillips Road is not a one-way street, but entry onto Phillips Road from Commonwealth Avenue is prohibited.	2/26/2024
1	Tremont Street	Updated the TPR for the section of Tremont Street in Newton Corner to reflect Traffic Council and MassDOT's approval to remove the 35 mph regulatory speed limit in this area.	3/1/2024
1	Washington Street	Updated the TPR for the section of Washington Street in Newton Corner to reflect Traffic Council and MassDOT's approval to remove the 35 mph regulatory speed limit in this area.	3/1/2024

ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

AP3-22 DAVID KOSES, TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR, requesting to increase by one space the number of accessible parking spaces located in the Cypress Street Parking Lot in Newton Centre. (Ward 6) [02/14/22 @ 2:40 PM]

TC63-23 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, requesting to continue the Traffic Council trial which allows vehicles displaying TIGER permits to park in the Austin Street Lot without requiring payment on school days. Traffic Council originally approved this trial in 2020 as part of TC115-20, which included various traffic and parking changes near school buildings to respond to safety concerns and changing conditions brought on by the Covid-19 Pandemic. On June 22, 2022 the Public Safety and Transportation and Finance Committees supported a continuation of the free parking for TIGER permit holders on school days until City Council determines whether to make this trial permanent. (Wards 2 & 3) [11/27/23 @ 2:00 PM]
HELD 5-0 on 12/14/23. Held for a long-term trial.

TC62-23 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, requesting to continue the Traffic Council trial which restricts access to Elm Road (from Lowell Avenue) to Elm Road residents, Newton North High School staff, school buses and bicyclists. Traffic Council originally approved this trial in 2020 as part of TC115-20, which included various traffic and parking changes near school buildings to respond to safety concerns and changing conditions brought on by the Covid-19 Pandemic. (Ward 2) [11/27/23 @ 2:00 PM]
HELD 5-0 on 12/14/23. Held for a long-term trial.

TC7-23 TRAFFIC BUREAU CAPTAIN DAMIEN DOUCETTE, DPW COMMISSIONER JAMES MCGONAGLE AND PLANNING DIRECTOR BARNEY HEATH, requesting temporary and permanent changes in terms of the location and duration of public parking spaces, location of traffic signals, and changes to traffic circulation within and proximate to Commonwealth Avenue in

Auburndale, to include abutting blocks of intersecting streets, in order to facilitate the reconstruction of Commonwealth Avenue and the Commonwealth Avenue carriageway between Higgins Street and the Weston Line. (Ward 4) [02/27/23 @ 3:24 PM]

HELD 5-0 on 03/23/23. Held for a long-term trial during roadway reconstruction to allow for changes to the signals, stop signs, parking regulations and other items included in the Traffic and Parking Regulations along Commonwealth Avenue between Higgins Street and the Weston Line.

TC62-22 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, requesting a long-term trial to address the additional parking demand along Lincoln Street and abutting streets in Newton Highlands, resulting from the temporary Senior Center relocation.

HELD 5-0 on 12/15/22. Held for a long-term trial. Traffic Bureau will distribute parking permits to Senior Center staff and volunteers, which will not decrease the number of parking permits available to other employees as part of the existing Newton Highlands Parking District.

TC50-22 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, on behalf of Jayne Colino, Director of Senior Services, requesting a temporary pick-up / drop-off zone in front of the Brigham House on Hartford Street and in front of the Hyde Community Center on Lincoln Street, to help accommodate the temporary relocation of services during the reconstruction of the Senior Center in Newtonville. (Ward 6) [09/23/22

HELD 5-0 on 10/27/22. Held for trial, which may continue until the Senior Center is relocated back to its renovated building in Newtonville.

TC25-22 JASON SOBEL, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS AND NICOLE BANKS, COMMISSIONER OF PARKS AND RECREATION, requesting the following to respond to changing conditions brought on by various municipal redevelopments and parking demands along Albemarle Road: Traffic Council shall be allowed to vote to allow a long-term trial on the northbound section of Albemarle Road between Watertown Street and Crafts Street, which may include changes to the location and regulations of the parking spaces along this stretch. Changes made during the trial period are to be approved by the Commissioner of Public Works in consultation with the Director of the Planning Department and the Chief of the Newton Police Department. These changes are temporary in nature and would revert to original conditions unless Traffic Council subsequently makes permanent changes by voting to change the Traffic and Parking Regulations. At any time, the Police Department may end any Traffic Council trial. (Wards 2 & 3) [05/06/22 @ 1:20 PM]

HELD 5-0 on 05/19/22. Held for a long-term trial of the above docketed item.

TC57-21 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, requesting to continue an ongoing trial of the closure of Philip Bram Way at the intersection of Austin Street. Note that this item makes no change in the field and allows for a continuation of a trial first approved as part of TC50-18. (Ward 2) [08/09/21 @ 2:49 PM]

HELD 5-0 on 10/21/21. Held for a Trial.

- TC48-21 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, requesting to modify Sec. TPR-194. Time limits in municipal off-street parking areas, and possibly to modify Sec. TPR-176. Parking regulations pertaining to particular streets, in order to move forward with a long-term trial of a parking permit plan for Newton Centre employees. (Ward 6) [06/25/21 @ 2:36 PM]
Held 5-0 on 07/22/21. Held for a trial to modify the regulations of selected parking meters in Newton Centre, in order to reserve certain parking meters for vehicles that display a Newton Centre Employee Parking Permit. The number and location of reserved parking meters will be approved by the Commissioner of Public Works in conjunction with the Traffic Bureau Chief and may be modified as part of this long-term trial.
- TC6-21 COUNCILORS BOWMAN, DANBERG AND NOEL, requesting to change the distribution of time limits in the Hartford Street Public Parking Lot in Newton Highlands to install reserved spaces for EV Charging Stations and/or EV Shared Vehicles. (Ward 6) [02/01/21 @ 11:21 AM]
Held 4-0 (Councilor Downs not voting) on 02/25/21. Held for a trial to allow for the installation of 2 EV parking spaces in the Hartford Street Public Parking Lot.
- TC149-20 DAVID KOSES, TRAFFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, requesting to update the Traffic and Parking Regulations to reflect all of the changes associated with the reconstruction of Needham Street. (Wards 5 & 8) [09/01/20 @ 2:01 PM]
Held 5-0 on 01/28/21. Held for a long-term trial.
- TC20-20 COUNCILORS KRINTZMAN, MARKIEWICZ AND GENTILE, requesting the establishment of a resident parking program and accompanying map for the village of Lower Falls. The resident parking program should seek to prevent commuters from using the streets of Lower Falls as parking for the Riverside MBTA station. (Ward 4) [03/24/20 @ 12:50 PM]

Respectfully submitted,

David Koses, Transportation Coordinator
Traffic Council Chair