

Traffic Commission Minutes  
September 21, 2022

**When:** Wednesday September 21, 2022 at 5:30pm. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87301414724>  
(Please click this link to attend the virtual meeting) per Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022.

Click this link for access to the full recording of this meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gem0vwupJ0>

**Attendance:**

Traffic Commission Members: Jill Lathan, Councilor Beatriz Gomez-Mouakad, Lena Webb, Sean Tierney

Staff: Suzanne Rinfret, Brad Rawson, Kate White, Justin Schreiber, Jackie Stagnari, Adam Polinski, Anna Rebelo, Nick Alakel, Ashley Speliotis, Brian Postlewaite, Adrienne Pomeroy, Rachel Nadkarni, Tom Galligani, Ali Kleyman, Rebecca Wright, Lauren Craik, Jessica Bellow

Other: Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Councilor Willie Burnley Jr., Councilor Jesse Clingan, Councilor Jake Wilson, Representative Christine Barber, Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld

**Meeting Ground Rules:**

1. Listen to the other side
2. Focus on issues, not personalities
3. Avoid questioning motives
4. Be polite

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

**Item #1** – Acceptance of Minutes from the September 7, 2022 Traffic Commission Meeting

**Motion to table this item until the next meeting made by Lena Webb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Beatriz Gomez-Mouakad. A roll call vote was taken, Beatriz Gomez-Mouakad-yes; Lena Webb-yes; Sean Tierney-yes. Motion carries 3-0-1 (chair abstained).**

**Item #2** – Mayor’s request to address the Traffic Commission regarding public safety on Holland Street

Mayor Ballantyne addressed the Commission to explain why she asked for this special meeting of the Traffic Commission. She explained that Holland St. is a clear choice to implement safety changes as hundreds of people travel on it each day, and that protected bike lanes are the safest option for all users. It is an important street for pedestrians and bikers and a key destination with its unique businesses, senior center, schools, and access to public transportation. She addressed some key points regarding the impacts to small businesses. Outdoor dining in Teele Square will continue, there will be use of 80 parking spaces at the TAB building on Holland St., there is an LED sign at the underutilized Buena Vista lot showing the number of available parking spaces in

the lot, and meters will be added to side streets. This request is being made now because the contractor for Holland St. is already in place.

**Item #3** – Informational item – Mobility Division draft safety proposal for Holland Street (Link: <https://voice.somervillema.gov/4794/widgets/16025/documents/35127>)

Brad Rawson provided a short summary of the Holland Street Draft Safety Proposal. He explained that the new plan reduces on-street parking to make the street safer, and off-street parking options throughout the neighborhood are being increased. He showed the pre-construction regulations and then the proposed regulation changes on Curtis St. from Electric Ave to Broadway, and on Holland St. from Broadway to Davis Square. Overall, the pre-construction number of spaces is 97 and the new proposal has 45 spaces. The City is also working to propose additional metered, loading, and accessible spaces on several side streets between Teele Square and Davis Square.

**Item #4** – Public comment on draft safety proposal for Holland Street

Members of the public shared their comments regarding the draft safety proposal.

**Item #5** – Request to hold a special meeting of the Traffic Commission within the next 10 business days to consider the safety proposal for Holland Street and request to continue accepting written public comments up to 4pm on the day of the special meeting.

**The Chair asked Director Rinfret to reach out to commission members to get their availability for the next meeting.**

**Motion to adjourn made at 8:01pm.**

**Motion to adjourn made by Lena Webb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Beatriz Gomez-Mouakad. A roll call vote was taken, Beatriz Gomez-Mouakad-yes; Lena Webb-yes; Sean Tierney-yes. Motion carries 3-0-1 (chair abstained).**

**A complete transcript is available online.**