

Traffic Commission Minutes
February 9, 2023

When: Thursday February 9, 2023 at 5:30pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89736784085?pwd=ZWFQTTc1ZTBjTitsY1loSXVkbzZIQT09>

(Please click this link to attend the virtual meeting.)

Meeting ID: 897 3678 4085

Passcode: 428538

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfQuK9Gjjow>

Attendance:

Traffic Commission members: Jill Lathan, Councilor Gómez Mouakad, Lena Webb, Lt. William Rymill, Deputy Chief Sean Tierney

Staff: Jackie Stagnari, Suzanne Rinfret, Brad Rawson, Adam Polinski, Anna Rebelo, Laura Accaputo

Public: Jim Vetter, Stephen Mackey

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.

The Chair asked the secretary to conduct a roll call vote for attendance.

Chair Lathan – present

Councilor Gómez Mouakad – present (arrived 5:33pm)

Lt. William Rymill – present

Deputy Chief Sean Tierney – present
Lena Webb – present

Item #1 – Acceptance of Minutes from the January 12, 2023 Traffic Commission meeting.

Motion to approve made by Lena Webb, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken, Lena Webb-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 3-1-1 (1 absent, Chair abstained).

Item #2 – Regarding the metered parking spaces on Holland St, Curtis St, Newbury St, Claremon St, Simpson Ave, Irving St, Thorndike St, and Wallace St, request that the residential permit parking only regulation begin at midnight instead of 8pm. The residential permit parking only regulation would still end at 8am, and metered parking would still be in effect from 8am to 8pm.

Brad Rawson, Director of Mobility, shared that this item, as well as items 3-5, are part of the ongoing dialogue with area stakeholders in response to the Holland St. project. Adam Polinski, Senior Planner-Mobility, explained item #2 is part of the overall feedback his team has been hearing from the business community. Many businesses operate past 8:00pm and customers without a resident permit must move their cars by 8:00pm. This item proposes that there is a four-hour period where these spaces are unregulated. The meters will be in effect until 8:00pm, but anyone parked there without a resident permit could stay until 12:00am. Likewise, a resident could park there at 6:00pm, pay the meter for two hours, and remain in that spot until 8:00am. Lena Webb commented that this is a skillful solution and supports this item.

Motion to approve made by Lena Webb, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken, Lena Webb-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes; Councilor Gómez Mouakad-abstain (unable to hear discussion due to Zoom issues). The motion carries 3-0-2 (Chair and Councilor abstained).

Item #3 – Regarding the curb on the west side of Moore St from approximately 30 ft south of Holland St to 90 ft south of Holland St, request to convert the existing 60 ft loading zone to residential permit parking only.

Adam Polinski, Senior Planner-Mobility, shared that there were two loading zones installed on Moore St. as part of the Holland St. project, one on the east side and one on the west side. The team has heard from residents and the adjacent business, Angelina's, that the loading zone on the west side is not necessary and they wish to return it to the previous regulation of resident permit parking.

Deputy Chief Tierney commented that while that section of Holland St. has not been striped yet, there is loading activity occurring daily on Holland St. His concern is that taking the second loading zone away does not fit with the expectation that loading activities will not occur on Holland St. Adam shared that Angelina's has been using the loading zone on the east side of the street for larger delivery vehicles and the loading zone on the west side for smaller delivery vehicles. These smaller delivery vehicles are typically staying longer than the 5 minutes allowed

for passenger plates. These vehicles have business permits, which would be able to stay in a resident permit parking area longer. Based on what they've seen to date, the Mobility team does not feel that this will cause loading issues on Holland St. but are willing to revisit the issue if that becomes the case. Deputy Chief Tierney stated he has been observing the area as he works at the Teele Square fire station and has not noticed loading activity taking place on Moore St., only Holland St. He asked if that area is being enforced yet since the striping is not complete.

Lena Webb inquired about other area businesses and whether they have benefitted from the loading zones on Moore St. Adam stated to the best of his knowledge the other businesses in the area have not been focused on the Moore St. loading zones, only Angelina's. Lena stated it is easier for delivery vehicles to pull up on Holland St. rather than navigate smaller side streets, and favors enforcement of illegal loading on Holland St. before considering removal of the existing loading zone on Moore St.

Jim Vetter, a resident at 3 Moore St., shared that he has observed trucks regularly using the loading zone on the east side of the street rather than the west. His property does not have a driveway. Councilor Gómez Mouakad asked if Mobility has been working with Parking to monitor the area and better understand the usage of this space. Adam stated that Mobility has been working with Parking and that enforcement only began recently because the project is still in an incomplete state. Lena asked about making the loading zones time limited. Lt. Rymill shared that his division has been observing this area as well and noted that larger trucks have a hard time making the turn onto Moore St. and fitting in those loading spaces. Councilor Gómez Mouakad asked if Mobility would consider expanding loading zones on Holland so trucks could fit. Adam said yes, this is an ongoing process.

Motion to deny made by Deputy Chief Tierney, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken, Councilor Gómez Mouakad-yes; Lena Webb-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 4-0-1 (Chair abstained).

Item #4 – Regarding the curb on the east side of Claremon St to approximately 20 ft south of Holland St to 95 ft south of Holland St, request to convert 75 ft of 30 minute parking to residential permit parking only.

Adam Polinski, Senior Planner-Mobility, shared that these 30 minute signs were not relocated to Claremon from Holland St. after the city learned that the adjacent business was closing. There has not been any feedback requesting the 30-minute spaces be installed on Claremon and residents are currently utilizing these spaces. Mobility would like to remove this regulation and leave the resident permit parking in place.

Motion to approve made by Councilor Gómez Mouakad, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken, Councilor Gómez Mouakad-yes; Lena Webb-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 4-0-1 (Chair abstained).

Item #5 – Regarding the curb on the west side of Newbury St from approximately 130 ft south of Holland St to 150 ft south of Holland St, request to convert one metered parking space to residential permit parking only.

Adam Polinski, Senior Planner-Mobility, shared that the team has not observed high utilization of this metered space and received requests from residents to convert back to resident permit parking. The other two meters in this area will stay, and this one space will be converted back to resident permit parking. Councilor Gómez Mouakad asked if the metered spaces on side streets that are installed after projects on larger adjacent roads are being utilized. Brad Rawson responded that they do their best to collect data but do not have a standard answer at this time.

Motion to approve made by Councilor Gómez Mouakad, seconded by Deputy Chief Tierney. A roll call vote was taken, Councilor Gómez Mouakad-yes; Lena Webb-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 4-0-1 (Chair abstained).

Motion to adjourn made at 6:10pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Lena Webb, seconded by Councilor Gómez Mouakad. A roll call vote was taken, Chair Lathan-yes; Councilor Gómez Mouakad-yes, Lena Webb-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 5-0-0.