

Traffic Commission Minutes  
March 9, 2023

**When:** Thursday March 9, 2023 at 5:30pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84685636435> (Please click this link to attend the virtual meeting.)

Webinar ID: 846 8563 6435

One tap mobile: US: +16469313860,,84685636435# or +13017158592,,84685636435#

Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 931 3860 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 305 224 1968 or +1 309 205 3325 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 669 444 9171 or +1 689 278 1000 or +1 719 359 4580 or +1 720 707 2699 or +1 253 205 0468 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 360 209 5623 or +1 386 347 5053 or +1 507 473 4847 or +1 564 217 2000

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

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X\\_bHuSgHYTM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_bHuSgHYTM)

**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, Rebecca Wright, Anna Rebelo, Laura Accaputo, Jessica Bellow

Public: Kimberly Becerril, Michael Silveira

**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 5:32pm.**

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

Chair Lathan – present  
Councilor Gómez Mouakad – present  
Lena Webb – present  
Lt. William Rymill – present  
Deputy Chief Sean Tierney – present

**Item #1** – Acceptance of Minutes from the February 9, 2023 Traffic Commission meeting.

**Motion to approve made by Deputy Chief Tierney, seconded by Lena Webb. 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 #2** – Regarding the curb on the west side of Bowdoin St from approximately 20 ft south of Washington St to 40 ft south of Washington St, request to convert 20 ft of residential permit parking to accessible parking (alternate spot for 318 Washington).

**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 #3** – Regarding the curb on the east side of Leland from approximately 20 ft north of Washington St to 40 ft north of Washington St, request to convert 20 ft of residential permit parking to accessible parking (alternate spot for 349 Washington).

**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).**

**Item #4** – Request for a Fire Lane on Chester Ave, running from the corner at McGrath Highway down the residential side of the street in an easterly direction for 175 feet.

**Item #5** – Request for two Fire Lanes on Hardan Road, starting from the corner at Ware St. and covering the narrow portion of the street, for a distance of 83 feet on the even side and a distance of 101 feet on the odd side.

The Chair requested that items # 4 and 5 be voted on together.

Deputy Chief Tierney explained these items come at the request of Chief Breen to ensure that the fire apparatus have enough space to travel down these streets.

**Motion to approve made by Lt. Rymill, seconded by Lena Webb. 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 #6** – Notification of temporary parking restrictions for the duration of the School St./Community Path Detour.

- a) Approximately 60 feet of 2 hour except by permit parking at 355-357 Medford St. will become No Parking Any Time for the duration of the detour.
- b) Approximately 210 feet of resident permit parking on the east side of School St. between Medford St. and the School St. bridge will become No Parking Any Time for the duration of the detour.

- c) Approximately 275 feet of 2 hour except by permit parking on the east side of Medford St. from Pearl St. to the Medford St. bridge will become No Parking Any Time for the duration of the detour.

Rebecca Wright, Senior Project Manager of Streetscapes–Engineering Division, explained that due to work going on behind the high school in the proximity of the community path, a detour is necessary between School St. and Medford St. when the community path fully opens sometime this spring. There will be a two-way bike path on the east side of School St. and the south side of Medford St. The requested temporary parking restrictions are necessary to implement the bike path.

Chair Lathan asked about the timeline for this detour. Rebecca stated the latest projection for the community path opening shared by GLX-C is April/springtime. This detour could be in place until August or October, depending on when the construction work behind the high school is able to wrap up. The Chair requested that Rebecca come back before the Commission to request an extension if the detour goes beyond October. Rebecca confirmed that she will return in October to provide an update.

Lt. Rymill asked if vehicular traffic on Medford St. will be affected at all by this detour. Rebecca explained Medford St. will be converted into a one-way from Pearl St. Councilor Gómez Mouakad requested that area businesses be notified about the temporary parking restrictions. Rebecca confirmed that she will work with Communications to notify businesses. There will also be a CTY call. Deputy Chief Tierney asked about the one-way restriction on Medford St. between Pearl and Walnut. Rebecca confirmed that the southbound direction will be open, northbound traffic will be diverted, and there is enough room to allow two way travel between School and Pearl.

**Motion to approve made by Councilor Gómez Mouakad, seconded by Lena Webb. 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 #7** – Request for the following changes as part of the upcoming protected bike lane striping project on Grand Union Blvd.

- a) Regarding the curb on the east side of Grand Union Blvd from approximately 400 ft south of Foley St to approximately 280 ft south of Foley St, request to convert 120 ft of 2 hour parking to metered parking.
- b) Regarding the curb on the east side of Grand Union Blvd from approximately 280 ft south of Foley St to approximately 260 ft south of Foley St, request to convert 20 ft of 2 hour parking to no parking any time.
- c) Regarding the curb on the east side of Grand Union Blvd from approximately 120 ft south of Foley St to approximately 80 ft south of Foley St, request to convert 40 ft of 2 hour parking to no parking any time.
- d) Regarding the curb on the west side of Grand Union Blvd from approximately 55 ft south of Foley St to approximately 115 ft south of Foley St, request to convert 60 ft of metered parking to no parking any time.

- e) Regarding the curb on the west side of Grand Union Blvd from approximately 430 ft south of Foley St to approximately 505 ft south of Foley St, request to convert 75 ft of no parking any time to a loading zone.
- f) Regarding the curb on the west side of Grand Union Blvd from approximately 505 ft south of Foley St to approximately 525 ft south of Foley St, request to convert 20 ft of no parking any time to accessible parking.
- g) Regarding the curb on the west side of Grand Union Blvd from approximately 55 ft north of Foley St to approximately 95 ft north of Foley St, request to convert 40 ft of electric vehicle parking to metered parking.
- h) Regarding the curb on the east side of Grand Union Blvd from approximately 40 ft north of Canal St to approximately 60 ft north of Canal St, request to remove a 20 ft accessible parking space to extend the adjacent bus stop.
- i) Regarding the curb on the north side of Canal St from approximately 50 ft east of Grand Union Blvd to approximately 30 ft east of Grand Union Blvd, request to convert 25 ft of unregulated parking to accessible parking.
- j) Regarding the curb on the west side of Grand Union Blvd from approximately 30 ft north of Artisan Way to approximately 50 ft north of Artisan Way, request to convert 20 ft of metered parking to no parking any time.

Braw Rawson, Director of Mobility, shared that this is a safety plan for all road users. He reviewed the current parking regulations on Grand Union Blvd. as well as the proposed parking changes associated with this project.

Councilor Gómez Mouakad asked about the accessible space on Grand Union closest to Revolution and if that's the closest location to the entrance of the residential project. Brad confirmed it is and that the residential building has entrances on both Grand Union and Revolution. Chair Lathan asked how many spaces will be removed as part of this project, and later withdrew this question. Councilor Gómez Mouakad asked about the accessible space on Grand Union just past Canal St. as an ideal location since it's located right behind a bus stop. Brad shared that the plan is to relocate that space around the corner to Canal St. to reduce conflicts.

Chair Lathan asked about snow removal and if bollards are part of the project. Brad shared that flex posts are planned and will be in accordance with the clearance needed for snow removal. Lt. Rymill asked about the timeline of this project. Brad shared that they are planning to implement this project this spring or summer at the latest, as soon as they can get the striping crew scheduled. Councilor Gómez Mouakad asked about using concrete curbs as seen in other cities, to provide a stronger deterrent for cars traveling into the bike lane. She also inquired about the city pushing developers in this area to contribute to raised, separated bike lanes. Brad shared that this approach has been the city standard for approximately the last 5 years. On this stretch of Grand Union, we do not have any active permits, as these developments are 10+ years old when design standards were different. Councilor Gómez Mouakad asked who is keeping track of van-accessible spaces in the Assembly Square area. Brad shared that he will follow up with the Councilor once he has looked into this more.

**Motion to approve made by Lena Webb, seconded by Councilor Gómez Mouakad. 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 6:09pm.**

**Motion to adjourn made by Lt. Rymill, seconded by Deputy Chief Tierney. 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.**