

Traffic Commission Minutes  
April 13, 2023

**When:** Thursday April 13, 2023 at 5:30pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84642380153> (Please click this link to attend the virtual meeting)

Meeting ID: 846 4238 0153

One tap mobile +13052241968,,84642380153# US, +13092053325,,84642380153# US

Dial by your location +1 305 224 1968 US, +1 309 205 3325 US, +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 558 8656 US (New York), +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC), +1 720 707 2699 US (Denver), +1 253 205 0468 US, +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 360 209 5623 US, +1 386 347 5053 US, +1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US, +1 669 444 9171 US, +1 689 278 1000 US, +1 719 359 4580 US

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84642380153>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QENd0l-ieMo>

**Attendance:**

Traffic Commission members: Jill Lathan, Lt. William Rymill, Deputy Chief Sean Tierney

Staff: Jackie Stagnari, Suzanne Rinfret, Brad Rawson, Kate White, Justin Schreiber, Greg Hanafin, Anna Rebelo, Laura Accaputo, Jessica Bellow

**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 Jill Lathan – present

Lt. William Rymill – present

Deputy Chief Sean Tierney – present

Councilor Beatriz Gómez Mouakad – absent

Lena Webb – absent

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

**Motion to approve made by Deputy Chief Tierney, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken, Chair Lathan-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 3-0-0.**

**Item #2** – Request for Accessible Parking space at 1 Franklin St.

The Chair asked if there were any fire lane issues at this location. Deputy Chief Tierney replied that he did not see any fire lane issues here. Adrienne Pomeroy, ADA Coordinator, recommended this space be approved.

**Motion to approve made by Deputy Chief Tierney; seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken, Chair Lathan-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 3-0-0.**

**Item #3** – Request to make permanent the following accessible parking spaces on School St. and Highland Ave, which were relocated during the construction of the new high school.

- a) One accessible parking space on School St. north of Highland Ave, adjacent to the three accessible parking spaces already in place. This space is currently listed on Schedule U “Temporary Emergency Construction Restrictions”.
- b) Three accessible parking spaces on the odd-side of Highland Ave at the high school concourse entrance – one space on the west side of the entrance and two spaces on the east side of the entrance.
- c) Two accessible parking spaces on the odd-side of Highland Ave just west of Walnut St. These spaces are currently listed on Scheduled U “Temporary Emergency Construction Restrictions”.

Adrienne Pomeroy, ADA Coordinator, explained these were put in place as temporary construction measures, and recommended that all spaces be made permanent to increase accessibility for people visiting the Central Library, City Hall, and area businesses.

**Motion to approve made by Lt. Rymill, seconded by Deputy Chief Tierney. A roll call vote was taken, Chair Lathan-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 3-0-0.**

**Item #4** – Request for the following changes to support business parking needs in Ball Square.

- a) Regarding the curb on the westside of Liberty Ave from approximately 30 feet south of Broadway to approximately 435 ft south of Broadway, request to convert 405 ft of residential permit parking to 2 hour except by permit parking.
- b) Regarding the curb on the northside of Broadway from approximately 20 feet west of Pearson Road to approximately 130 ft west of Pearson Road, request to convert 85 ft of 2 hour except by permit parking to metered parking.
- c) Regarding the curb on the westside of Bay State Ave from approximately 10 feet south of Broadway to approximately 30 ft south of Broadway, request to convert 20 ft of residential permit parking to metered parking.

- d) Regarding the curb on the eastside of Bay State Ave from approximately 10 feet south of Broadway to approximately 30 ft south of Broadway, request to convert 20 ft of residential permit parking to metered parking.

Kate White, Transportation & Outreach Planner-Mobility, shared a presentation explaining each of the agenda items. These items are intended to support Ball Square business parking needs in response to the daylighting/Clear Corners implementation which eliminated illegal spots that had previously existed in the Square.

**Motion to approve made by Lt. Rymill; seconded by Deputy Chief Tierney. A roll call vote was taken, Chair Lathan-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 3-0-0.**

**Item #5** – Regarding the curb on the west side of Lincoln Parkway from approximately 35 feet south of the Argenziano parking lot driveway to approximately 75 feet south, request to convert 40 ft of residential permit parking to active school arrival/dismissal only between 7am and 3pm, Monday through Friday, and residential permit parking at all other times.

Brad Rawson, Director-Mobility, shared this item is a coordinated effort between Somerville Public Schools, Parking, Mobility, and Somerville Police Department. Somerville Public Schools requested this item be placed on the table and revisited at a future meeting.

**Motion to table this item to a future meeting made by Lt. Rymill, seconded by Deputy Chief Tierney. A roll call vote was taken, Chair Lathan-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 3-0-0.**

**Item #6** – Request to have an introductory discussion regarding the East Broadway Bus and Crosswalk Improvements project.

Justin Schreiber, Senior Transportation Planner-Mobility, provided an overview of this project, which extends the bus lane from its current end at McGrath to just past Cross St. in East Somerville. The bus lane would use the existing second travel lane. There are relatively minor impacts to curbside regulations. There will be updates to bus stop lengths and spacing to bring them into accordance with MBTA standards. Daylighting/Clear Corners will also be implemented as part of this project, as well as increasing the number of accessible parking spaces. Information is available on the project website <https://www.somervillema.gov/content/east-broadway-bus-service-and-crosswalk-improvements>. Mobility hopes to return in May with proposed agenda items for Traffic Commission consideration.

Chair Lathan asked if the public restroom the city is planning to install by Cross St. has been considered with this project. Brad Rawson, Director-Mobility, shared this has been discussed with an interdepartmental group involved in planning both of these projects and there are no conflicts.

Deputy Chief Tierney asked if the bus stop on Broadway at Michigan Ave in front of the Santander Bank is slated to be moved. Justin Schreiber responded that this stop is planned to be relocated to approximately Illinois Ave. Deputy Chief Tierney noted that Broadway at Michigan is a big turnaround spot for fire trucks to respond to incidents on the other side of Broadway. Having the bus stop at that corner allows more space for the trucks to make that U-turn. Justin Schreiber responded that they would have 20 ft. from the corner as part of daylighting but can also explore extending that further so fire trucks can still make the turn.

**Motion to adjourn made at 6:08pm.**

**Motion to adjourn made by Deputy Chief Tierney, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken, Chair Lathan-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 3-0-0.**