



City Update

June 2024 PTAC Meeting

ELM STREET
PARKING
REGULATION
PILOT PROPOSAL



PURPOSE OF REGULATION CHANGE REQUESTS





- Encourage safe and legal parking on Elm Street between Day Street and Grove Street.
- Meet the high demand of quick pickup and drop off (especially, for food take out)
- Increase the number of accessible spaces
- Provide adequate space for large truck loading and unloading
- Increase safety for all users, especially people using the crosswalks






CURRENT PARKING REGULATIONS

Elm Street from Day Street to Grove Street



-  Metered parking
-  Loading Zone
-  Loading Zone (7am - 5pm) Taxi Stand 5pm - 2am
-  Rideshare pick-up and drop off

-  Bus Stop
-  Accessible Parking
-  30-minute parking

CHALLENGES WITH CURRENT PARKING REGULATIONS

- There is not a loading zone that is long enough to accommodate large trucks.
- The 30-minute spots do not encourage frequent turn-over and are hard to enforce.
- The dedicated rideshare pick-up and drop-off spot is no longer in use by rideshare apps.
- There is only 1 accessible space, and it is not near a curb-cut.
- The time-limited loading zone does not account for loading needs after 5 p.m. where there is still high demand.
- The taxi stand is no longer in operation.

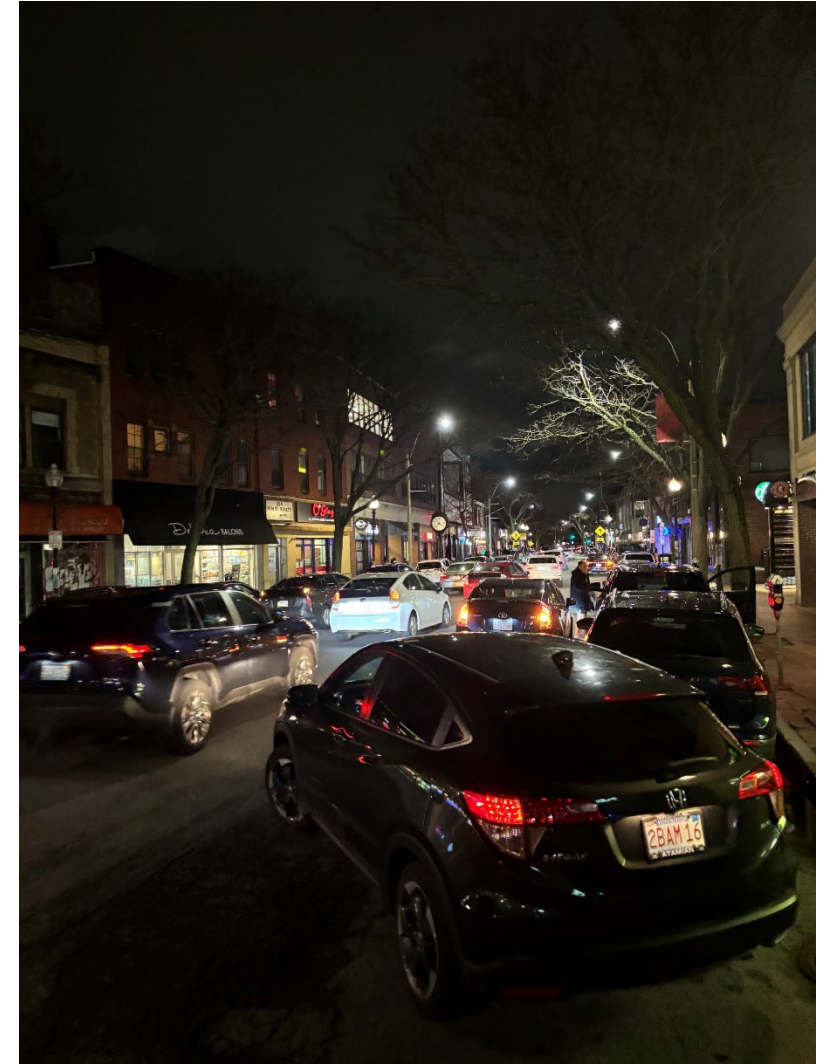


Food delivery semi truck blocking crosswalk.
Passenger van double parked in front of parklet.



ILLEGAL PARKING ISSUES

- The demand for food pick up and delivery has greatly increased since the start of the COVID 19 pandemic.
- Double parking, parking on crosswalks, parking in the bus stop, and illegal parking in the accessible spot continues to be an issue throughout the day and not just at peak times.
- The illegal parking on crosswalks blocks crossings for people walking and wheeling, creating accessibility issues for people using mobility devices or strollers.
- The double parking can block service for the 6 bus routes that travel the street (87, 88, 89, 90, 94, 96).
- Illegal parking can also impact emergency services' travel times.
 - This is particularly more challenging with passenger food delivery vehicles because drivers leave the vehicle unlike in rideshare where they may be able to quickly move the vehicle.



Double parked cars on both sides of Elm Street between Day Street and Chester Street resulting in five cars across the width of Elm Street.



EXAMPLES OF ILLEGAL PARKING



Truck double parking blocking travel lane. This photo was taken from a bus where the bus couldn't easily travel by the truck, causing route delay.



Truck parking both on top of a crosswalk and in a no standing anytime location. The curb is extended here to give priority and greater visibility for people crossing. Another box truck parked behind blocking other crosswalk.

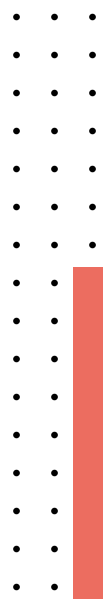


Double parked passenger vehicle.

ILLEGAL PARKING DATA SOURCE 1: TICKETED VIOLATIONS

Violations only include what
Parking Control Officers were
able to ticket for.

Year	Double Parked	Bus Stops	Meter violations	Total
2022	295	30	1,208	1,533
2023	397	27	2,237	2,661
2024 (to date)	47	6	538	591



ILLEGAL PARKING DATA SOURCE 2: PILOT AUTOMATED SYSTEM (SAFETY STICK)

- From July 1 to August 10, 2023, the Parking Department conducted a pilot using safety sticks. The safety sticks can capture with photos illegal parking incidents as a form of automated enforcement.
- Safety sticks were placed in front of the Burren at the crosswalks and in the bus stop at Chester Street.
- Most (329, 78%) illegal parking incidents (where a vehicle parked on the crosswalk or in the bus stop) were between 90 secs and 10 minutes.
- As of late May 2024, the safety sticks are operational and issuing tickets.

Time	Sessions	%
90 Sec	177	42%
3-10 min	152	36%
11-19 min	46	11%
>20 min	45	11%
Longest	1hr 08 mins	
Total	420	

ILLEGAL PARKING DATA SOURCE

3: VIDEO DATA ANALYSIS (2/29 - 3/2)

- Reviewed 28 hours of video footage for Grove Street to Chester Street, and Chester Street to the Day Street.
- Found over **500** instances of either double parking, parking on or blocking visibility of crosswalks, and parking in the bus stop. This does not include meter violations or illegally parking in the accessible space.
- This means that approximately every **3:30mins**, an instance of this type of illegal parking occurs or an average of **18 times an hour**.
- The average amount of time the vehicles were illegally parked were approximately **3:40 mins**.
- We conducted video analysis for the following dates and times:
 - 2/29 12pm -8pm (Chester to Grove) & 5pm-8pm (Day to Chester)
 - 3/1 12pm-8pm (Chester to Grove) & 5pm-8pm (Day to Chester)
 - 3/2 11am-2pm (Day to Chester) & 5pm-8pm (Chester to Grove)

Count	Column Labels						
	Row Labels	2/29/2024	3/1/2024	3/2/2024	Grand Total		
Chester to Grove		117	140	97	354		
	12 PM	11	23		34		
	1 PM	7	7		14		
	2 PM	12	5		17		
	3 PM	8	6		14		
	4 PM	7	11		18		
	5 PM	9	13	35	57	.	.
	6 PM	28	37	24	89	.	.
	7 PM	35	38	38	111	.	.
Day to Chester		37	78	35	150	.	.
	11 AM			5	5	.	.
	12 PM			17	17	.	.
	1 PM			13	13	.	.
	5 PM	12	10		22	.	.
	6 PM	7	30		37	.	.
	7 PM	18	38		56	.	.
Grand Total		154	218	132	504	.	.

EXAMPLES OF VIDEO CAPTURES



ILLEGAL PARKING DATA SOURCE 4: 311 SERVICE REQUESTS

The double parking on Elm Street between Davis Square and Grove Street is out of control and backing traffic up beyond the Davis square traffic signal. There were at least half a dozen maybe more cars double parked on both sides in this short stretch. It's dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.

I often see large tractor trailers attempting to park in Davis Square on Elm St near Chester St during the morning & evening rush hours. To put it bluntly, they don't fit. They block the street. They block the crosswalks. They create serious danger of injury or death for vulnerable road users.

People are double parking in front of Diesel Cafe and in front of the Foundry. At the same time cars are parked on the other side of the street. Gentleman reports that buses do not have enough room to go by (but try to) and someone is going to get hurt. Gentleman suggests that a sign saying "Please Do Not Double Park" should be placed at the restaurants outdoor dining fence. another accident happened today.



APPROXIMATE LOCATIONS OF LICENSED PARKLETS



- Outdoor dining is a new and important use for the business community
- Some of the outdoor dining locations directly conflict with currently loading zones
- Some businesses that have outdoor dining also have high demand for take out, which impacts curb demand.
- Not pictured here, there is a parklet in the back of Dragon Pizza that serves as a loading zone outside of parklet season.


PROPOSED PARKING REGULATIONS

Elm Street from Day Street to Grove Street



 Metered parking

 Loading Zone

 Bus Stop

 Accessible Parking

STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION & EVALUATION

- Connecting one-on-one with businesses along Elm Street.
- Meeting with newly formed Davis Square Merchants Group.
- Aiming to post educational materials about loading zones and nearby longer-term parking lots.
- Using safety sticks at bus stop and Chester Street crosswalks.
- Aiming to install flex posts to prevent people from parking on crosswalks.
- Planning to conduct additional data collection following implementation of any improvements and compare to data collected in Feb/March 2024. This could include parking utilization for the five Davis Square lots.
- Follow up with Traffic Commission after six months with initial evaluation.



Image: New City Loading Zone signs



DISCUSSION