

Traffic Commission Minutes
April 10th, 2025

When: Thursday April 10th, 2025 at 5:30pm

Agenda published 4/3/25

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Traffic Commission may be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audiovideo recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88492164810> (Please click this link to attend the virtual meeting).

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gsRaHYtFuc>

Meeting Ground Rules:

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

Attendance: Chair Jill Lathan, Lena Webb, Lt. William Rymill, Assistant Chief Sean Tierney

Staff: Jackie Stagnari, Suzanne Rinfret, Rebecca Wright, Greg Hanafin, Anna Rebelo, Jacob Murray

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

The Chair asked for an attendance roll call to confirm a quorum.

Chair Lathan – present
Lena Webb – present
Lt. Rymill – present

Assistant Chief Tierney – present
Councilor Sait – absent

Item #1 – Acceptance of the Minutes from the March 13, 2025 Traffic Commission meeting.

Motion to approve made by Assistant Chief Tierney, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Assistant Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Item #2 – Request for the removal of parking spaces at 19 Gorham Street and 34 Gorham Street for the installation of Tree Bumpouts, to obtain ADA compliant sidewalk width around the healthy trees.

Rebecca Wright, Senior Project Manager of Streetscapes-Engineering, shared [this presentation](#) and explained that under the City's streetscapes contract, they are redoing the sidewalks on Gorham St. During the walkthrough, these two locations were identified as too narrow to be ADA compliant. After determining that the trees were healthy, the request was to remove the parking spaces so the sidewalk can be built out around the tree to provide ADA compliant passage.

Lena Webb commented that this was a fantastic and thoughtful process and solution to really narrow sidewalks. Chair Lathan asked if this was the process any time there would be a bumpout installed (requesting Traffic Commission approval to remove parking), which Rebecca confirmed it would be. Lt. Rymill asked if Gorham St was a one way street, and if the bumpout wouldn't effect traffic flow because it's the same width as a parking space, which Rebecca confirmed was correct. Assistant Chief Tierney also asked if the width of Gorham St would be reduced from what it is now and potentially effect fire trucks using the street – Rebecca confirmed the width would not be reduced from what is currently is, and an ambulance or fire truck could still travel down the street. Rebecca also noted they checked this design with DPW and confirmed the street sweeper could work with this design.

Motion to approve made by Lena Webb, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Assistant Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Item #3 – West Broadway Reconstruction Project regulation updates

- a) Regarding the curb on the north side of Broadway, from approximately 80 feet west of North St to approximately 10 feet west of North St, request to change the approved regulation of item 3f of the January 9, 2025 Traffic Commission meeting, from two metered parking spaces to one accessible parking space.
- b) Regarding the curb on the north side of Broadway, from approximately 50 feet east of North St to approximately 70 feet east of North St, request to change the approved regulation of item 3g of the January 9, 2025 Traffic Commission meeting, from one accessible parking space to one metered parking space.
- c) Regarding the curb on the north side of Broadway, from approximately 45 feet west of Barton St to approximately 25 feet west of Barton St, request to convert loading zone 7am-6pm, Monday-Saturday to 24-hour loading zone, to be consistent with the approved regulation of item 3h of the January 9, 2025 Traffic Commission meeting.

Greg Hanafin, Planner-Mobility, explained these were requests for minor changes to the regulations that were previously approved at the January Traffic Commission meeting and gave [this presentation](#). He was requesting a relocation of the accessible parking space due to challenges with constructing an accessible ramp in the previously approved location, switching that original location to metered parking, and reconciling the loading zone hours because the original approval would have half the loading zone be 24/7 and half the loading zone be time-limited.

Chair Lathan inquired if the Monday through Saturday designation for the loading zone was consistent with other locations in the City, which Secretary Jackie Stagnari confirmed was correct. Chair Lathan asked if loading zones were used on Saturdays. Greg explained that the restaurants and convenience store located here would be utilizing the loading zones for deliveries and customers, including on Saturdays. Chair Lathan inquired about the need for a 24/7 loading zone. Greg explained that when vehicles are allowed to park overnight in loading zones, sometimes they do not move in the morning and even if they are ticketed, the area is not clear for delivery vehicles or other loading activities. Chair Lathan asked if this was an issue of Parking Dept staff capacity to be able to enforce the loading zones. Suzanne Rinfret, Director of Parking, agreed with Greg that often cars do not move in the morning and stated that there are plenty of other parking spaces for people to utilize. She also stated the need to keep regulations simple so as to not confuse people, so we aim for consistency across the city.

Lena Webb asked if the bike lane is going to be painted blue where the accessible parking space is, which Greg confirmed it would be.

The Chair requested that item 3a, b, and c be voted on separately.

Motion to approve item #3a made by Lena Webb, seconded by Assistant Chief Tierney. A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Assistant Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Motion to approve item #3b made by Lt. Rymill, seconded by Assistant Chief Tierney. A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Assistant Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Motion to approve item #3c made by Lena Webb, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-no, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Assistant Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carried 3-1-0.

Motion to adjourn made at 5:55pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Assistant Chief Tierney, seconded by Lena Webb. A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Assistant Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carried 4-0-0.