

Traffic Commission Minutes
June 12th, 2025

When: Thursday June 12th, 2025 at 5:30pm

Agenda published June 5th, 2025 at 6:30pm

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.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fYBP5x1Wg>

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, Councilor Naima Sait, Lena Webb, Lt. William Rymill, Asst. Chief Sean Tierney

Staff: Jackie Stagnari, Suzanne Rinfret, Adrienne Pomeroy, Greg Hanafin, Adam Polinski, Isabela Maia, Jacob Murray

Other: Mark Chase

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

The Chair requested a roll call to confirm a quorum.

Chair Lathan – present
Lena Webb – present
Lt. Rymill – present
Asst. Chief Tierney – present
Councilor Sait – present (arrived at 5:32pm)

Item #1 – Acceptance of the Minutes from the May 8, 2025 Traffic Commission meeting.

Motion to approve made by Asst. Chief Tierney, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-yes, Councilor Sait-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Asst. Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Item #2 – Request for accessible parking spaces at the following locations:

- a) 446 Medford St
- b) 51 Preston Rd

Adrienne Pomeroy, ADA Coordinator, stated she reviewed both applications and recommended them for approval.

Motion to approve made by Lena Webb, seconded by Councilor Sait. A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-yes, Councilor Sait-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Asst. Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Item #3 – Assembly Mobility Hub

- a) Regarding the curb on the west side of Grand Union Boulevard opposite 455 Grand Union Boulevard, from approximately 60 feet north of Foley St to approximately 100 feet north of Foley St, request to convert the Metered Parking regulation to No Parking Any Time.
- b) Request to waive the advertisement period for this regulation change.

Mark Chase of Neighborways presented [these slides](#) and explained the request was to use the two parking spaces to build a bus stop extension as part of a new Mobility Hub in Assembly.

The Chair inquired about the request to waive the advertisement period. The Secretary clarified that Mark shared an expected implementation date the week of June 23rd, which would be before the legal advertisement period had concluded. Mark shared they did not have approval to fund the project until a few weeks prior. The funding was part of a MassDOT grant that was contingent on the project being built before the end of the fiscal year on June 30th. Councilor Sait inquired if they had a contractor ready to install, which Mark confirmed they did.

Motion to approve made by Lena Webb, seconded by Councilor Sait. A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-yes, Councilor Sait-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Asst. Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Item #4 – Medford St Clear Corners Implementation

- a) Regarding the curb on the east side of Tennyson St, from approximately 20 ft. south of Medford St to approximately 40 ft. south of Medford St, request to convert 20 ft. of resident permit parking to accessible parking.
- b) Regarding the curb on the west side of Sycamore St, from approximately 22 ft. north of Medford St to approximately 42 ft. north of Medford St, request to convert 20 ft. of resident permit parking to metered parking.

Isabela Maia, Traffic Engineer, shared [these slides](#). Lena Webb inquired if the accessible space on Tennyson St would be behind the existing posts and trees, which Isabela confirmed it would.

Motion to approve made by Lena Webb, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-yes, Councilor Sait-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Asst. Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Item #5 – Central Hill Curbside Management Pilot Extension Request

- a) Request to extend the Central Hill curbside management pilot, originally approved at the November 18, 2021 Traffic Commission meeting, until June 30, 2026.

Greg Hanafin, Transportation Planner-Mobility, shared [these slides](#). The Chair shared concerns about the continued extension of the pilot, which started in 2022. Greg stated the team felt that

the pilot was working and barring any changes in the area, would request permanent approval, but they want to continue to study the area first. Councilor Sait inquired about future plans for Highland Ave and if school and city staff parking would be part of those plans. Greg stated there is no active project on Highland Ave at this time but that will be part of any future considerations.

Motion to approve made by Councilor Sait, seconded by Lena Webb. A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-no, Councilor Sait-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Asst. Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carried 4-1-0.

Item #6 – Bow St at Walnut St

- a) Regarding the curb on east side of Walnut St from 25 ft north of Bow St to 40 ft north of Bow St, at 17 Bow St, request to convert 15 ft of 2 hour parking except by permit to no parking any time.
- b) Regarding the curb on west side of Walnut St from 20 ft north of Bow St to 35 ft north of Bow St, at 4 Walnut St, request to convert 15 ft of 2 hour parking except by permit to no parking any time.
- c) Regarding the curb on the east side of Bow St from 5 ft north of Walnut St to 45 ft northwest of Walnut St, at 4 Walnut St, request to convert 45 ft of back-in angled metered parking to accessible parking.
- d) Regarding the curb on the west side of Bow St from 25 ft south of Walnut St to 45 ft south of Walnut St, at 22 Bow St, request to convert a 20 ft loading zone to no parking any time.
- e) Regarding the curb on the west side of Bow St from 30 ft north of Walnut St to 60 ft north of Walnut St, at 30 Bow St, request to convert two metered parking spaces to a 30 ft loading zone.

Adam Polinski, Senior Planner-Mobility, shared [these slides](#). Asst. Chief Tierney inquired about the reduction in the no parking area on the west side of Walnut St. Adam shared the consultant had determined, using Autoturn, that they could keep an additional parking space and still have room for fire trucks to make the turn. Asst. Chief Tierney stated concern that fire trucks would need the additional space for turning movements. Lena Webb shared support for the project.

Motion to approve made by Lena Webb, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-yes, Councilor Sait-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Asst. Chief Tierney-no. The motion carried 4-1-0.

Councilor Sait left the meeting at 6:20pm.

Item #7 – Washington St at Merriam St

- a) Regarding the curb on the north side of Washington St from 200 ft east of Washington Ter to 5 ft east of Washington Ter, at 197 Washington St, request to convert 95 ft of metered parking and 100 ft of 15-minute parking to 25 ft of accessible parking and a 110 ft loading zone from 8am to 2pm that becomes metered parking from 2pm to 8pm.
- b) Request to remove the westbound bus stop on Washington St at Washington Ter.
- c) Request to remove the eastbound bus stop on Washington St at Merriam St.
- d) Request to relocate the eastbound bus stop on Washington at McGrath Hwy to Washington St at Rossmore St.

Adam Polinski, Senior Planner-Mobility, shared [these slides](#). Lena Webb inquired if the accessible space adjacent to the bike lane would be painted blue, which Adam confirmed it would be.

Motion to approve made by Lena Webb. No second was made, and no action was taken on this motion.

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

Item #8 – Somerville Ave at Central St

- a) Regarding the curb on the north side of Somerville Ave from 100 ft to 195 ft west of Central St, between 551 and 559 Somerville Ave, request to convert 95 ft of 2 hour parking except by permit to no parking any time.

Adam Polinski, Senior Planner-Mobility, shared [these slides](#).

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, Asst. Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carried 4-0-0.

A discussion was held regarding the possibility of a summer recess for July and August.

Motion to adjourn made at 6:45pm.

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