

Traffic Commission Minutes  
January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**When:** Thursday January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:30pm

Agenda published January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7:00pm

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.

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Meeting Ground Rules:

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

Attendance: Councilor Naima Sait (acting as Chair), Lena Webb, Assistant Chief Sean Tierney, Lt. Michael Holland

Staff: Jackie Stagnari, Suzanne Rinfret, Brad Rawson, Justin Schreiber, Anna Rebelo, Jacob Murray

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

The Chair requested roll call to confirm a quorum.

Lena Webb – present  
Asst. Chief Tierney – present  
Lt. Holland – present  
Councilor Sait – present

**Item #1** – Acceptance of the Minutes from the December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Traffic Commission meeting.

Councilor Sait requested a roll call vote on this item.

**Lena Webb-yes, Asst. Chief Tierney-yes, Lt. Holland-yes, Councilor Sait-yes. The item was approved 4-0-0.**

**Item #2** – Request to rescind the fire lane on the north side of New Washington St, 141 ft west of Innerbelt Rd extending 83 ft, and regulate the space as Pick Up and Drop Off Only.

Jackie Stagnari, Staff Liaison, shared [this letter](#) submitted by Chief Breen.

Councilor Sait requested a roll call vote on this item.

**Lena Webb-yes, Asst. Chief Tierney-yes, Lt. Holland-yes, Councilor Sait-yes. The item was approved 4-0-0.**

**Item #3** – Informational item regarding the Western Pearl Street Reconstruction Project

- Updated Design:
  - [Illustrative Design Rendering](#)
  - [Informational Posters](#)
  - [Informational Brochure](#)
- Community Engagement Reports:
  - [Pre-Concept Design Phase](#)
  - [Concept Design Options Phase](#)
  - [Updated Design Phase](#)

Brad Rawson, Director of OSPCD-Mobility Division, introduced this item and explained that for projects of this scale, his team brings it to the Commission first as an informational item and then back for a regulatory vote/approval a month later. Therefore, no vote was requested at this meeting. Justin Schreiber, Senior Planner-Mobility, gave [this presentation](#).

Asst. Chief Tierney asked for clarification on the traffic signal plans for the Pearl St/Walnut St intersection. Justin confirmed the traffic signal equipment will remain in place for fire department preemption. The intersection will function as a four-way stop with flashing red lights, which allows the preemption equipment to offer a green light in whichever direction the emergency vehicle is coming from.

Councilor Sait noted a visibility issue posed by the current location of the traffic signal cabinet at Pearl St/Walnut St. Justin stated that since this will become a raised intersection, the crosswalk will move to the other side of the cabinet and visibility will be improved. Lena Webb advocated for clear wayfinding signage for the proposed Neighborway connections. Justin confirmed the intent is to have a comprehensive set of wayfinding signs.

Brad highlighted the links included in the agenda where more information about this project and its development process can be found. Lt. Holland inquired about the failed vote for the section of Medford St between Pearl St and School St, which Justin had noted was previously brought to the Commission for parking regulation changes but not approved. Justin clarified it was just that

segment of Medford St brought previously, rather than the whole project area. Jackie stated it was a 2-2 vote, so it failed on a tie. Councilor Sait stated she had to leave that Commission meeting early to make the City Council meeting.

**Councilor Sait requested a roll call vote to adjourn at 6:10pm.**

**Lena Webb-yes, Asst. Chief Tierney-yes, Lt. Holland-yes, Councilor Sait-yes. The item was approved 4-0-0.**