

Traffic Commission Minutes
March 12th, 2026

When: Thursday March 12th, 2026 at 5:00pm

Agenda published March 5th, 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.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTidAtZo3tU>

Meeting Ground Rules:

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

Attendance: Chair Eric Weisman, Councilor Naima Sait, Lena Webb, Assistant Chief Sean Tierney, Lt. Michael Holland

Staff: Jackie Stagnari, Suzanne Rinfret, Brad Rawson, Adam Polinski, Greg Hanafin, Kate White

Public: Marc Levy

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

The Chair requested roll call to confirm a quorum.

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

Item #1 – Approval of the Minutes from the February 12th, 2026 Traffic Commission Meeting.

The Chair requested a roll call vote on this item.

Councilor Sait-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Assistant Chief Tierney-yes, Lt. Holland-yes, Chair Weisman-yes. The item was approved 5-0.

Item #2 – Bow St Curb Use Changes

- a) Regarding the curb on north side of Bow St, from approximately 108 feet east of Bow St Pl to approximately 173 feet east of Bow St Pl, request to convert the existing MBTA bus stop to two-hour parking except by permit 8:00am-2:30am, permit parking only 2:30am-8:00am.
- b) Regarding the curb on south side of Bow St, from approximately 182 feet east of Bow St Pl to approximately 286 feet east of Bow St Pl, request to convert the existing two-hour parking except by permit 8:00am-2:30am, permit parking only 2:30am-8:00am, to three (3) metered spaces from 8:00am-8:00pm.
- c) Regarding the curb on the south side of Bow St, from approximately 0 feet east of Wesley Park to approximately 85 feet east of Wesley Park, request to convert the existing 25-foot 7am-5pm loading zone and three (3) metered parking spaces to an 85-foot, 24/7 loading zone.

Brad Rawson, Director-OSPCD Mobility, introduced the item and shared that as part of the MBTA's long-range plans, the route 85 bus stop on Bow St was no longer needed. Greg Hanafin, Transportation Planner-Mobility, shared the Bow St Curb Use Changes slides and explained the city was requesting to repurpose the former bus stop space to better meet the needs of customers and residents in the Union Square area.

Councilor Sait stated her support for the proposed loading zone in this area. Lena Webb also shared support for the loading zone at this location and commented on difficulties that larger vehicles such as buses had traveling down Bow St after the snowstorms. Brad stated the city was aware of this issue and the relevant departments were discussing how to improve this in the future.

The Chair requested a roll call vote on this item.

Councilor Sait-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Assistant Chief Tierney-yes, Lt. Holland-yes, Chair Weisman-yes. The item was approved 5-0.

Item #3 – Curb regulation requests for the Washington St at Merriam St Project

- a) Regarding the curb on the north side of Washington St from 200 feet east of Washington Ter to 5 feet east of Washington Ter, at 197 Washington St, request to convert 95 feet of metered parking and 100 feet of 15-minute parking to 25 feet of accessible parking and a 110 feet loading zone from 8:00am to 2:00pm that becomes metered parking from 2:00pm to 8:00pm.
- 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.

Brad Rawson, Director-OSPCD Mobility, stated this is known as a stressful, high-volume, high-demand stretch of Washington St and there has been requests for years to install safe, legal, accessible crossings in this area. Adam Polinski, Senior Transportation Planner-Mobility, shared the Washington St at Merriam St slides.

Chair Weisman inquired if the bollards shown on the curb extensions in the plans would be at grade, which Adam confirmed they would be. He also confirmed the bollards would be concrete filled with metal casing. Chair Weisman also asked about the ramp for the accessible parking

space, which Adam demonstrated on the drawing. Brad noted that small modifications can be made in the field by the project team if needed to ensure maintenance of the final design is doable by the relevant city departments. Lena Webb and Councilor Sait shared their support for this project.

The Chair requested a roll call vote on this item.

Councilor Sait-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Assistant Chief Tierney-yes, Lt. Holland-yes, Chair Weisman-yes. The item was approved 5-0.

Item #4 – Informational item regarding the Elm-Beacon Connector Project

- Concept Design:
 - [Plans](#)
 - [Posters](#)
 - [Brochure](#)
 - [Traffic Analysis](#)

- Community Engagement Reports:
 - [Pre-Concept Design Phase](#)
 - [Concept Design Phase](#)

Brad Rawson, Director-OSPCD Mobility, introduced this item and noted that it was informational only, and his team intended to bring it back for a vote at next month's meeting. Adam Polinski, Senior Transportation Planner-Mobility, presented the Elm Beacon Connector Project slides.

Councilor Sait requested the team prioritize doing work around the school during school vacation and to provide a slide that demonstrated parking changes around the school specifically. Lena Webb inquired about the process for requesting street lighting. Chair Weisman responded that a request can be made through 311 and DPW will evaluate. Lena and Chair Weisman shared safety concerns about the crosswalks on Elm St at Porter St, White St, and Hancock St. Adam stated they were more limited in the types of improvements they could make through a quick-build project but they would be shifting the bus stop at Hancock St to the far side.

Chair Weisman advocated for clear signage towards Davis Square and Porter Square at the Somerville Ave slip lane at Elm St. Chair Weisman asked if the area of Beech St intended to be closed off to vehicles and converted to pedestrian space would be at street-height. Adam confirmed that it would be, and that the current proposal is to add flex posts and markings, but everything south of the crosswalk is owned by the city of Cambridge. Lena asked about the design of the bike lane on Beech St. Adam stated the team considered a few options here but ultimately decided this design was the best approach.

No vote was requested for this item.

A roll call vote to adjourn was taken at 6:27pm. Councilor Sait left the meeting prior to the roll call vote to adjourn.

Lena Webb-yes, Assistant Chief Tierney-yes, Lt. Holland-yes, Chair Weisman-yes. The item was approved 5-0.

Referenced Documents:

- Bow St Curb Use Changes (with Item #2)
- Washington St at Merriam St (with Item #3)
- Elm Beacon Connector Project (with Item #4)