

Traffic Commission Meeting
April 19, 2012

Meeting was held at the Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St, 2nd floor

Meeting was called to order @ 6pm by Stan Koty

Attendance: Stan Koty, William Roche, George Manzelli, Thomas Graney, James Polito

Staff: Laura Accaputo, Matthew Dias, Suzanne Rinfret, Terence Smith

Officials: Sean O'Donovan

Residents: Pat Dougan, Frank Bucca, Arnold Melo, John Mahoney, Tom Burdulis, Margaret Lovell, Todd Lovell, Elliot Kerner, Louise Leland, Frank Leland, David O'Brien, Alison Stahl, Elizabeth Caffrey, Courtney O'keefe, Marie Cheng, William Cheng

Item #1 – Minutes from March 15, 2012 Traffic Commission Meeting accepted unanimously

Item #2 – Review Traffic Pattern Change on Alpine St (changed from two way travel to one way travel, west to east traveling from Cedar St to Princeton St)

- The Chair recognized Alderman O'Donovan who stated he would like the Commission to hear from all sides and then make a decision by majority rule.
- Alderman Roche suggested an initial show of hands; 6 in favor and 4 opposed.
- Mr. Bucca asked if only one vote per household would be counted; Chair explained one vote per unit.
- The Chair recognized Mr. Bucca who stated he strongly supported Alpine remaining one way citing factors such as narrowness, two sided parking, only, one lane of travel, and winter weather conditions that compound two way travel. Further, winter storms exacerbate head to head confrontations, at times forcing vehicles to reverse down Alpine. He also questioned placing everything on only those present, as many residents were unable to attend (phoned-in or emailed).
- Another residents (43 Alpine) stated his/her opposition to one way traffic pattern and found extra driving inconvenient and a waste of gas, time, and money.
- Other resident's inquired about MaxPac; whether SPD observed any changes. Other residents stated they felt safer with one way travel; it is easier to exit driveways with better sight lines.
- Roche asked whether T&P had a preference; Traffic Engineer stated Alpine was not a problem location prior, nor is it now.
- Lt. Polito stated SPD recorded no significant changes either.
- Thomas Graney stated the Fire Department also observed no significant change; however, generally speaking, it is easier for fire apparatus on a one way.
- Roche stated it is the Chair's prerogative to ask for a show of hands and recommended allowing the votes of everyone present to count as opposed to one per unit. He noted a familiarity with the neighborhood, concerns about MaxPac and how additional traffic may harm Princeton St and Alpine St as potential cut-through to Cedar St in the future.
- Bucca asked the Chair to recall that 73% of the street signed the petition in favor and asked for results of the phone/email vote. The Chair answered those results are available and were included in their agenda packet.

- A resident asked about MaxPac and tractor trailer deliveries on the Lowell Street.
- O'Donovan expressed concerns regarding MaxPac, stating the contractor was given carte blanche by city officials who should be ashamed of themselves for letting things run amuck. He stated that vehicles were allowed to park anywhere; deliveries on Warwick St before 7am, and not using the bike path like agreed upon. He further stated work happening all night without notifying the city, proper police details not in place, and concern the Police Union has let the contractor get away with this. He stated deliveries are allowed on Lowell St per the covenant. And then stated the enforcement we have in this city is a disgrace.
- A resident asked about accidents and traffic information from MaxPac .
- The Chair stated the Lowell St. bridge is MassDOT property and the curb cut was authorized by District 4 of the Mass Highway Association.
- The chair asked if anyone else wanted to speak before a show of hands.
- A resident asked about the traffic signal at Lowell St.
- The Chair replied it was constructed after a neighborhood petition and DPW has received numerous complaints about it. He stated that DPW will turn the light on when the project is complete this spring.
- A resident asked why the No Left Turn sign was not put back up.
- The Chair responded that the light was supposed to take care of that prohibition.
- The Chair asked for a show of hands; resulting in 7-7.
- Roche stated he thinks Alpine is best suited for a one-way and hoped residents understand that Max Pac will create unforeseen challenges that a one-way will help mitigate. He stated the neighborhood can always petition to come back if things do not work out.
- The Chair stated he wasn't going to vote in favor unless the Commission would allow neighbors and city officials to come back in 6 months if need be, once MaxPac is completed and occupied.
- Roche stated he would prefer giving it a year rather than 6 mos.
- A resident questioned if this meant another trial period.
- The Chair stated it was not; due to MaxPac it would be best to approve with the condition that if a major problem is recognized by the Traffic Engineer or Police Department, the Commission can revisit the issue.
- The resident asked the Traffic Engineer about a traffic study about the impact of the 199 units on Lowell, Cedar, and surrounding streets.
- The Chair replied the study was conducted by the Developer and not the city and to take it for what its worth.
- The Chair made a motion to **Approve** the one way with the concept that it can be revisited after 6 months if requested by the Traffic Engineer or Police Department, 2nd by Manzelli, unanimous

Item #3 – Request to relocate Bus Stop on Bow St @ Wesley Park to 3-5 Summer St
A motion was made to **Approve** by Manzelli, 2nd Polito, unanimous

Item #4 – Request to change Resident Permit Parking Only to 2 Hour Parking Except by Permit 8am-2:30am, Resident Permit Parking Only 2:30am-8am at the following locations:

40 Summer St
112 Albion St

A motion was made to **Approve** by Graney, 2nd Manzelli, unanimous

Item #5 – Request to change Resident Permit Parking Only to 2 Hour Parking Except by Permit 8:30am-6:00pm, Resident Permit Parking Only 6:00pm-7:00am:

83 Albion St

A motion was made to amend the hours of Resident Permit Parking Only to 6pm-8:30am and to **Approve** as amended by Manzelli, 2nd Polito, unanimous

Item #6 – Request for Handicapped Parking:

89 Josephine Ave

9 Virginia St

Traffic Engineer stated both applicants are property owners with driveways and he does not support approval of either request; yet in the past, the Commission has approved similar requests for 90 day trial periods and each respective Ward Alderman supported approval of a trial period. Traffic Engineer requested the Commission go into executive session. A motion was made to

Table the request from 89 Josephine Av and **Approve** a 90 day trial period for the request from 9 Virginia St by Graney, 2nd Koty, unanimous

Item #7 – Request to change existing No Parking Anytime restriction to Loading Zone (Mon-Sat, 7am-5pm) adjacent to CVS building in Magoun Sq. at exit onto Medford St

- A request was made to amend the hours to 7am-7pm to which Chair stated he did not think the space should be unavailable until 7pm; he would rather see hours of 7am to 4pm. He noted CVS must be more responsive to city requests.
- Dias stated the request was to create more parking for visitors in Magoun Sq. and had no concerns amending hours. He stated support for amending LZ hours across the city to allow for additional visitor parking.
- Resident Courtney O’Keefe stated she wanted more cooperation from CVS and felt unsafe exiting the parking lot when trucks were parked near exit.
- The Chair made a motion to **Approve** pending further desired resolutions by CVS, 2nd Manzelli, unanimous

Item #8 – Request to extend existing Loading Zone on south side of Bow St at Walnut St to include two adjacent metered spaces from 8am to 11am; revert back to metered parking after 11am

- Traffic Engineer stated that this was part of the Head Out Parking Pilot Program.
- Elliott Kerner asked if the pilot would result in one driving lane on Bow St to which Traffic Engineer responded yes. Kerner believed this would cause traffic delays and suggested that trucks making small deliveries would likely pull over rather than seek the loading zone. He also stated emergency vehicles need to access to Bow St to get to Somerville Av and other points east of the Square.
- Dias requested approval for a 90 day trial period to test the new parking and traffic flow patterns. A motion to **Approve** for a 90 day trial period was made by Polito, 2nd Koty, unanimous

Item #9 – Prior Business:

- a) Review Handicapped Parking space at 104 Prospect St
- b) Review Handicapped Parking space at 29 Sunset Rd
- c) Review Loading Zone (Mon-Fri 8am-5pm) at 6 Kensington Ave
- d) Review No Parking 8:30am to 5:00pm restriction in front of and opposite 16 Glen St
- e) Review elimination of Parking Meter on Glen St (west side, 80ft south of Broadway)
- f) Review elimination of Loading Zone on Glen St (west side, 100ft south of Broadway)

Motion to **Approve** permanently (all) made by Polito, 2nd Koty, unanimous

Item #10 – Informational Item

Head Out Parking PILOT Program on Bow St

Meeting adjourned @ 7:30pm