



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS CLERK OF COMMITTEES

TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE Committee Meeting

Wednesday - October 20, 2021, 6:00 PM
Virtual

AGENDA

(Posted online: 10/14/21 at 7:30 AM)

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of a City Council Committee will be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audio-video 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.

Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser to view this meeting live:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1569272891543072270>

1. **Approval of the September 20, 2021 Minutes**

Traffic Signals, Crosswalks and Pedestrian Safety

2. **212254: Discuss** (Scott) – That the Director of Mobility replace the HAWK signal at Buckingham and Beacon Streets with a standard RYG stoplight signal.
3. **209148: Discuss** (Scott, Rossetti, Hirsch, Mbah) – That the Commissioner of Public Works immediately replace the HAWK signals on Beacon Street with more suitable and effective RYG pedestrian-activated signals.
4. **207903: Discuss** (Scott) – That the Director of SPCD discuss with this Council the use of "concurrent with leading interval" pedestrian crossing timing at major intersections that see high usage by school and pre-school children, particularly at the intersection of Beacon and Washington Streets, and consider reversion to pedestrian-exclusive crossing timing at several relevant intersections.

5. **209616: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Scott) – That the Director of Engineering install a crosswalk on Somerville Avenue at Kent Street and Spring Street.
6. **205831: Discuss** (Hirsch, White Jr., Scott, Ewen-Campen, Mbah) – That the Director of Engineering share with this Board the feasibility of creating a pedestrian crossing on Somerville Avenue, between Belmont and Spring Streets.
7. **209482: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen, Scott) – That the Director of Engineering construct a pedestrian crosswalk across Washington Street in front of the Public Safety Building. (2nd request)

City Employees Driver Safety Training

8. **210975: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Niedergang) – That the Administration and the Commissioner of Public Works discuss the vehicle training process for all DPW employees and contractors whose job requires them to drive city vehicles.
9. **212251: Discuss** (Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Mobility report to this Council whether the video "Safer Trucking in Changing Cities" is being used to train City truck drivers in safe driving techniques.
10. **211128: Discuss** (Strezo) – That the Commissioner of Public Works discuss installing speed limiters on the city's vehicles to monitor speed and ensure that employees are observing speed limits.

Traffic Calming Around GLX Stations and CPX Crossings

11. **211814: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen, Niedergang, Scott, Ballantyne, Clingan) – That the Director of Engineering install raised crosswalks rather than standard crosswalks for each at-grade crossing of the Community Path Extension, including Central, Sycamore, and Walnut Streets.
12. **211135: Discuss** (Niedergang, Mbah) – That the Director of SPCD report to this Council on traffic management and calming plans for the streets and neighborhoods around the five Green Line Extension stations expected to open before the end of this year.
13. **210968: Discuss** (Niedergang, Scott) – That the Director of SPCD brief the Traffic and Parking Committee on the work that will be done on our streets and Community Path pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement with the MBTA and MaDOT, which will provide the city with a \$1,400,000 payment.

Speed Bumps and Flex Posts

14. **210966: Discuss** (Niedergang, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, Davis,

Rossetti, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr.) – That the Director of SPCD report to this Council why there are still so few speed bumps in the city, especially since the ones deployed on Powder House Boulevard seem to be making a dangerous area safer for pedestrians.

15. **210965: Discuss** (Niedergang, Mbah, Strezo, Davis) – That the Director of SPCD report to this Council in writing by December 4, and discuss with the Traffic and Parking Committee at its next meeting on December 7, what the plan is for replacing flex posts when they are knocked over or displaced.

Housekeeping - Items to be completed if no objections

16. **202108: Discuss** (Davis) – That the Administration work with the City of Cambridge to improve pedestrian safety at the intersections of Elm Street with Beech Street and Willow Avenue, including consideration of a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon.
17. **203446: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Traffic and Parking install additional pedestrian safety measures at the intersection of Holland Street and Cameron Avenue.
18. **203479: Discuss** (Davis) – That the Administration update the Ward 6 Alderman on plans to improve way-finding for the Community Path through Davis Square.
19. **204247: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Traffic and Parking and the Chief of Police petition the City of Cambridge to change Clarendon Avenue to a one way street, so it continues in the same direction from Somerville to Massachusetts Avenue.
20. **206189: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen, Hirsch) – That the Director of SPCD provide recommendations to improve pedestrian safety at the dangerous intersection of Walnut Street, Summit Avenue and Boston Street.
21. **206407: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen) – That the Director of SPCD, the City Engineer, and the Commissioner of Public Works establish a written policy for deploying temporary safety and visibility materials for the period between street re-paving and re-painting.
22. **207326: Discuss** (Davis) – That the Administration advise the Ward 6 Alderman of the notifications provided to city and private contractors about anti-idling regulations, and revise such policies to better ensure compliance.
23. **207486: Discuss** (Davis) – That the Director of Engineering and the Director of Traffic and Parking update the Ward 6 Councilor on requests for crosswalks at locations specified within.
24. **207487: Discuss** (Davis) – That the Director of Traffic and Parking update the Ward 6

Councilor on requests for crosswalk safety improvements at the locations specified within.

25. **208008: Discuss** (Davis, Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD implement traffic calming and pedestrian and cyclist safety measures on Broadway from Powder House Circle to Teele Square.
26. **208575: Discuss** (Scott, Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD and the Director of Parking provide a quarterly update regarding implementation of deed-based parking permit restrictions.
27. **208685: Discuss** (Hirsch, Mbah) – That the Director of SPCD explain how decisions are made about Blue Bike rack placement, including how the public gets informed.
28. **208781: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Hirsch) – That the Director of SPCD and the Director of Parking develop a city-wide traffic signaling policy that includes guidelines for temporary signaling during construction.
29. **208782: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Davis, Mbah) – That the Director of SPCD develop a city-wide signage policy to equitably inform pedestrians, cyclists and vehicle operators during construction, closing of sidewalks, etc.
30. **208901: Discuss** (Mbah) – That the Director of SPCD and the Chief of Police update this Council on what is being done in the wake of the two deaths in two different hit and run incidents on Mystic Avenue.
31. **209142: Discuss** (Davis) – That the Director of SPCD report to the Ward 6 Councilor on plans to improve cyclist wayfinding through Davis Square.
32. **209383: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen) – That the Director of SPCD update this Council on usage data for the Blue Bike expansion stations of 2019, and plans for expanding the system in future years.
33. **209477: Discuss** (Hirsch, Niedergang) – That the Director of SPCD consider strategies to reduce the volume and impact of package delivery vehicles, such as encouraging smaller or electric vehicles and cargo bike parking, as has been tried in Manhattan and Seattle.
34. **209758: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen, Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD update this Council on creating a Bicycle Master Plan, and requiring that future road work adhere to this plan.
35. **209808: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Clingan) – That the Director of SPCD develop a

plan to create parking-separated bike lanes on East Broadway.

36. **210544: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Chief of Police, the Director of Parking and the Director of SPCD discuss enforcement to eliminate delivery and other vehicles from parking on protected bike lanes throughout the city.
37. **210624: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Ewen-Campen) – That the Director of Finance, the Director of Parking and the Director of SPCD discuss scaling parking permit fees with automobile size and efficiency.
38. **210627: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD update this Council on the Missatuck/Mystic River bike and pedestrian bridge project.
39. **210893: Discuss** (Niedergang, Davis, Ewen-Campen, Ballantyne, Clingan, Strezo, Mbah, Scott, Rossetti, McLaughlin, White Jr.) – That the Mayor submit a supplemental budget request to immediately add staff and funding to the Mobility Division for traffic calming, and increase its staff and funding by at least 50% in FY22.
40. **210895: Discuss** (Davis, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr.) – That the Director of Capital Projects revise the College Avenue reconstruction plan to include additional safety measures for pedestrians at both perpendicular and parallel crossings.
41. **210896: Discuss** (Davis, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr.) – That the Director of SPCD update the Ward 6 Councilor on the overdue new equipment necessary to improve signal timing in Davis Square.
42. **210898: Discuss** (Davis, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr.) – That the Director of SPCD update the Ward 6 Councilor on any plans to further improve pedestrian safety at the intersection of Willow Avenue, Elm Street and Beech Street, possibly with a center island and bump outs.
43. **210932: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen, Scott, Mbah, Strezo, Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD replace the NO BICYCLES ON SIDEWALK decals in the city's business districts and work with the Pedestrian and Transit Advocacy Committee to reduce conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians on sidewalks.
44. **210985: Discuss** (Strezo) – That the Director of Parking discuss with the appropriate committee, implementing income-based parking ticket fines for residents, as well as "day-fine" scales to set ticket penalties according to an individual's daily income.

45. **210988: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Strezio) – That the Directors of Finance, Infrastructure and Asset Management, and SPCD provide a progress report for the Vision Zero Action Plan 2020 as outlined in the attached spreadsheet.
46. **210989: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD advise the Ward 7 Councilor when they will implement the Mobility Plan for West Broadway (from Route 16 to Holland Street), to create a dedicated bus lane.
47. **210992: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Mayor and the Chief of Police discuss with this Council why there is so little traffic enforcement conducted by the Police Department, why its Traffic Division has so few officers, and how it plans to address the public safety crisis made obvious with 4 pedestrians killed by motor vehicles in the past 2 years.
48. **211227: Discuss** (Clingan) – That the Commissioner of Public Works install a temporary speed bump on Sycamore Street between the main entrance and the schoolyard entrance of the Winter Hill School.
49. **211243: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Mobility and the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management collaborate to write responses to the questions contained within regarding the Spring Hill separation project.
50. **211256: Discuss** (Niedergang, Mbah, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Davis, Ballantyne, Clingan, White Jr., Strezio) – That the Mayor direct department heads to prioritize the rapid construction of physical infrastructure to slow traffic, protect our most vulnerable residents, and bring our streets into compliance with the ADA, to address the killing of four pedestrians by motor vehicles in the last two years and prevent further traffic fatalities.
51. **211307: Discuss** 221 citizens from the Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets submitting a Declaration and Call to Action re: safe streets.
52. **211327: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Traffic Commission examine using the "psych trick" pedestrian safety method, deployed in St. Paul, MN, to encourage drivers to stop for pedestrians crossing the street.
53. **211339: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That Director of Mobility and the Chief Fire Engineer discuss the potential impacts to the Teele Square Firehouse from the proposed Holland Street/Teele Square infrastructure and repaving work.
54. **211710: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Directors of SPCD and Communications work with the Police, the Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Pedestrian Transit Advisory Committee to implement a “Stop on the Line Every Time” traffic safety public education and enforcement campaign.

55. **211711: Discuss** (Niedergang, Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD work with the Police Department, especially the Traffic Division, to train all Officers on Vision Zero.
56. **211712: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Chief of Police report to this Council on steps taken to train and incentivize Detail Officers to enforce traffic laws when they observe motorists driving unsafely.
57. **211713: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen) – That the Administration advise this Council on a plan to improve the consistency of staffing attendance for especially dangerous Traffic Management Plans, including the current Belmont Street traffic detour.
58. **211815: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Rossetti, Davis, Ballantyne, Mbah) – That the Director of SPCD re-convene the High School Parking Working Group and provide an update on what is being done to understand and address parking issues for teachers, staff, and residents.
59. **211823: Discuss** (Niedergang, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, Davis, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr.) – Sharing with the Council, the Administration and the public a 6-page blogpost from State Representative Mike Connolly.