



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

December 1, 2010

REPORT OF THE TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
William M. Roche	Chair	Present	
Robert C. Trane	Vice Chair	Present	
Walter F. Pero	Ward Four Alderman	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Ward Two Alderman	Present	
Omar Boukili	Administrative Assistant	Present	
Matthew Dias	Director, Traffic and Parking	Present	
Terry Smith	Traffic Engineer	Present	
Leo Martini	Police	Present	

**188941 - That the Executive Director of OSPCD prepare to discuss #188633 in or around June, 2010.:**

Mr. Boukili spoke about the lot in Ball Square and stated that the owner of the property has been warned by OSPCD that it is a violation of the city's zoning ordinance to park cars in the lot and that further violations will result in the issuance of fines.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

**190195 - Sixteen residents requesting that this Board conduct a public hearing to discuss concerns about the Somerville Avenue reconstruction project.:**

The petition was reviewed and placed on file.

**RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**

**190398 - That the Director of Traffic and Parking appear before this Board's Committee on Traffic and Parking to discuss pedestrian safety and traffic issues on Concord and Newton Streets and remedies to eliminate speeding traffic and unsafe situations for pedestrians and children who attend the Argenziano School.:**

The committee, along with Mr. Dias, heard from residents on this matter who complained about large trucks traveling through the neighborhood, the amount of vehicles using the streets as a

shortcut to the Mass Pike and the inadequate number of crosswalks on Concord Avenue. Alderman Heuston stated that this has been a long standing problem in Ward 2 and that she has put in several orders to restrict traffic in certain areas to alleviate the problems. Alderman Heuston requested that Mr. Dias and the Traffic Commission notify the Traffic and Parking Committee when the requests for signage are effectuated and inform the committee when the signs will be installed.

Mr. Smith spoke about the use of bump outs as a means of slowing traffic and referenced a list of 20 locations where traffic calming tables are needed. He also spoke about the need to involve the state in the planning of truck routes. Alderman Heuston stated that she has received a commitment from the mayor for a traffic calming measure on Springfield Street. Mr. Dias spoke about the measures taken regarding Concord and Newton Streets and told the members that he has requested that the Police Department conduct speed enforcement in the area. With regard to the crosswalks, Mr. Dias has no objection to relocating them to alleviate neighborhood concerns.

After reviewing a host of past improvements undertaken in this area (one-ways, signage, median extensions, repainting crosswalk every 2 years instead of 4, etc.) Mr. Dias agreed to the following:

- to immediately contact the Police Department for enhanced speed enforcement,
- to install yellow reflective tape and glow sticks on area signs,
- to continually petition Mass DOT to reduce the city-wide speed limit from 30 MPH to 25 MPH,
- to make a recommendation to the Traffic Commission to prohibit parking on either side of the crosswalk opposite Springfield Street, eliminating two parking spaces and
- to make a recommendation to the Traffic Commission for turn prohibitions on Prospect Street and Webster Avenue to Newton Street and Concord Street from 7:00 - 9:00 AM and 4:00 - 7:00 PM.

<b>RESULT:</b> <b>WORK COMPLETED</b>
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**190403 - That the Director of Traffic and Parking meet with the Ward 2 Alderman to determine locations for limitations on truck traffic on small residential streets in various sections of Ward 2.:**

See discussion of Item 190398, above.

<b>RESULT:</b> <b>WORK COMPLETED</b>
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