

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR KATJANA BALLANTYNE
DEPARTMENT of INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSET MANAGEMENT
ENGINEERING DIVISION



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DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSET MANAGEMENT

BRIAN C. POSTLEWAITE, PE
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

Date: 2 December 2024

To: Traffic & Parking Commission

From: Brian C. Postlewaite, Director of Engineering

CC: Intergovernmental Affairs, Brad Rawson, Suzanne Rinfret, Rich Raiche

RE: Various Council Items

The Engineering Division is responding to the following Council Orders referred to the Traffic & Parking Committee:

- #3 (ID 24-1609): That the Director of Engineering update this Council on the timeline to straighten the community path crossing of School Street.
 - Engineering is working with a consultant to develop a plan and/or options for the School Street path crossing. Once developed we will meet with MassDOT to determine whether and how to implement.
- #4 (ID 24-1607): That the Director of Mobility re-evaluate and strengthen the NO TRUCKS signage at the corner of Warren Avenue and Bow Street in the aftermath of the 18-wheeler that became seriously stuck and blocked traffic on November 10-11, 2024.
 - The “No Thru Truck Traffic” sign on Warren was a temporary measure to remind truck traffic that Warren and connecting streets are narrow. As this sign is not approved by MassDOT, it is not enforceable. Legal truck restrictions only apply to thru traffic, not truck access to abutting properties. Accordingly, it is the truck operator’s responsibility to only access streets that their vehicle can navigate. Schedule P of the City’s Traffic & Parking Regulations delineates the streets that have legal truck restrictions. MassDOT requires substantial traffic analysis to add public streets to this list, typically requiring numerous instances of unnecessary truck traffic.





- #6 (ID 24-1592): That the Director of Mobility install a raised crosswalk at the intersection of Cedar Street and the Community Path.
 - The Engineering Division's paving contractor reconstructed the approaches to the existing Cedar St raised crossing at the Community Path in November to provide steeper approaches in both directions that will improve the yielding of motor vehicles at this critical pedestrian crossing.

- #13 (ID 24-1464): That the Director of Parking and the Director of Mobility install ALL-WAY STOP signs and safety measures at the Cedar Street intersection with the Community Path.
 - Mobility, Parking & Engineering are analyzing the various Community Path crossings, including at Cedar St, this winter and spring to determine the most effective traffic control changes to improve safety of cyclists and pedestrians at these locations.

