



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council Traffic and Parking Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

6:00 PM

This meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order by Chair Sait at 6:02 pm and adjourned at 6:37 pm on a roll call vote of 3 in favor (Councilors Wheeler, Mbah and Sait), 0 opposed, and 0 absent.

Others present: J.T. Scott - Ward 2 City Councilor, Brian Postlewaite - Director of the Engineering Division, Michael Holland - Somerville Police Lieutenant, Kevin Klein - Director of Inspectional Services, Jacqueline Stagnari - Parking Department Project Manager, Anna Rebelo - Director of Operations, Parking Department and Delaney Fisher-Cassiol - Clerk of Committees

Roll Call

Present: City Councilor At Large Ben Wheeler, City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah and Ward Five City Councilor Naima Sait

1. Public Hearing

1.1. Order (ID # [26-1024](#))

By Councilor Scott, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Wheeler, Councilor Sait and Councilor Link

That this Council schedule a Public Hearing regarding construction parking permits and the impact of current enforcement policy on neighborhood residents.

Chair Sait noted this was briefly discussed before summer recess and the goal of today is for the public to share input. This will be discussed again at a later date as well. Additional input can be shared to: publiccomments@somervillema.gov

Councilor Scott introduced the item, noting that Ward 2 currently has the highest concentration of construction in the city, although construction-related parking challenges occur citywide. He acknowledged the difficulties of living near construction and expressed his interest in working together to address these concerns.

Four members of the public spoke on this item, raising concerns about construction-related parking in Ward 2. Residents noted that construction vehicles occupy a significant number of on-street parking spaces, limiting availability for residents, particularly during snow emergencies. Suggestions included suspending construction parking permits during snow emergencies, limiting the number of spaces permitted per project, assigning permits to specific construction areas, and implementing fines for violations. Speakers also noted that construction workers have been using space savers, which are not permitted. Multiple people expressed concern about construction

vehicles parking in designated fire lanes and no-parking areas, creating safety hazards for pedestrians and cyclists and obstructing access for garbage trucks. Speakers emphasized the need for stronger enforcement and consequences for parking violations, and suggested encouraging construction workers to use public transit and making use of available parking garages. One resident noted that Cambridge allows up to three parking spaces per construction project. Concerns were also raised about construction projects on Prospect Street where sidewalks have been roped off, further affecting pedestrian access.

Councilor Scott highlighted the safety concerns associated with vehicles parking in fire lanes and the misuse of construction parking permits. He noted that while there is not currently a process for revoking these permits, it is worth considering. He emphasized the need for meaningful consequences for violations, similar to the revocation of business licenses.

Chair Sait closed the public hearing at 6:33 PM.

Director of Inspectional Services, Kevin Klein noted he would be happy to stop by the area of concern in Ward 2 and talk to the contractors to encourage them to be more respectful of the neighborhood. He will provide updates as well. Councilor Scott expressed appreciation for his offer.

**RESULT: RECOMMENDED TO BE MARKED WORK
 COMPLETED**