

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026 AT 10:00 A.M.
WALTHAM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL**

The Chair made a motion, and the minutes of the February meeting were accepted.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Parking After Snowstorms (Councillor Harris)

Councillor Harris shared communication regarding parking conditions on streets after snowstorms. Councillor Harris spoke of the problems that existed with street parking and impassable sidewalks. These issues, for the most part, were related to D.P.W. and Council Ordinance. Councillor Harris explained that the IT department worked on implementing an electronic form that residents can use to relay concerns to the City as it pertains to impassible sidewalks during snow events. The City Council is also working on modifying current ordinances to minimize the risk of having impassible sidewalks following future snowstorms. **For information only. Voted to table for future updates.**

B. Blind Driveway Sign on School Street at Mt. Pleasant Street

Residents submitted a petition to install a “Blind Driveway” sign on School Street at Mount Pleasant Street. The Traffic Engineer recommended studying the approach to Mt. Pleasant Street and reporting results at a future meeting. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to study the approach to Mt. Pleasant Street and make any recommendations as to a potential “Blind Driveway” sign.**

C. STEM Education Festival Free Parking Request, Saturday May 30, 2026

The organizers of the STEM Education Festival requested 35 free parking spaces for their STEM Education event. This will be the second consecutive year that this event is being held. The free parking would be permitted on the upper level of the Embassy Parking Facility between 7am and 7pm. **Voted to approve 35 parking spaces on the upper deck of the Embassy Parking for the full day, provided that the approved parking placard is displayed.**

D. YMCA Dash & Splash 5K Road Race, Saturday August 1, 2026

Approval was requested from the Waltham YMCA for a 5K road race on Saturday, August 1st. **Voted to recommend a Permit to Issue to the Mayor’s Office.**

E. National Grid Gas Line Replacement, Main Street

National Grid will be replacing the gas line along Main Street. On behalf of National Grid, DDS Company submitted a Traffic Management Plan. The replacement involves a main gas line from Banks Square east to Exchange Street in 18 distinct phases. The work will be done during off-peak hours from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Mayor McCarthy spoke of the frustration that has existed between National Grid and the City. In past road work carried out by National Grid, the City’s traffic loop detectors were torn up and never replaced; road repairs have been inadequate, leaving the streets in horrible condition; and parking lanes have been used to store supplies and heavy equipment with no parking left for businesses and/or residents for long durations of time. National Grid must propose a traffic plan that considers the additional expected traffic from the Felton Street gas line replacement, as these two projects are proposed concurrently, and the Felton Street closure uses Main Street as a detour. Main Street already operates at or near capacity, so additional detoured traffic in combination with lane closures would lead to overwhelming traffic congestion and significant delays. The Mayor requested that National Grid provide a two-year plan in advance of proposed work, instead of providing large projects in a piecemeal fashion, with little advanced notice/warning. She also emphasized that all abutters should get notices of proposed upcoming work. The

Commission echoed the sentiments of the Mayor and stated that performing utility work on both Felton Street and Main Street at the same time will not be feasible, from a traffic management perspective. Furthermore, not enough information was presented in terms of the project's anticipated timeline, duration, extent of work, extent of closures, etc. The Commission concluded that it needs more information before it can make an informed decision, and that the Police and Fire Department's involvement should be included. **Voted to table until more project details and information, including the proposed timeframe, duration, and specific traffic management measures are presented.**

F. National Grid Gas Line Replacement, Felton Street (Moody to Water)

National Grid will be replacing the gas line along Felton Street, between Moody Street and Water Street. BL Companies submitted a Traffic Management Plan.

G. National Grid Gas Line Replacement, Felton Street (Prospect to Water)

National Grid will be replacing the gas line along Felton Street, between Prospect Street and Water Street. VHB submitted a Traffic Management Plan.

Items F & G were considered together. The Commission expressed deep concern with this project commencing at the same time as the Main Street project. National Grid reported Felton Street must be completed by September 2026 because the M.W.R.A. is expected to start its project replacing a water main along Prospect Street immediately after. A traffic management plan, with specific details, must include Police and Fire input before any work commences. **Voted to approve both Traffic Management Plans along Felton Street (#1F and #1G) with the stipulation/condition that a National Grid liaison meets with Police/Fire/DPW on a weekly basis to discuss and plan traffic management, parking, project progress, etc.**

H. Moody Street Outside Dining 2026 (Councillor Harris)

Councillor Harris requested approval of the 2026 Moody Street Outside Dining Plan. Traffic Engineering recommended approval, as the set up is the same as last year, and seems to serve as the fairest hybrid model among Moody Street restaurants and other Moody Street businesses. Member Mr. Kelly opposed and made a motion to deny, which Member Mr. Waters seconded. Member Mr. Chiasson mentioned that some business owners experienced conflicts with extended outdoor dining beyond the limits of the parking lane directly in front of each respective restaurant. He therefore proposed that restaurants can only use the parking lane outside of their respective restaurant's store front, with no ability to extend their outdoor dining in front of adjacent businesses, even with expressed approval. **Voted to approve the request for outdoor dining on Moody Street and repeat the same setup and application process as last year from May 22 to September 7, with the caveat that no outdoor dining extensions beyond a restaurant's store frontage will be permitted.**

I. Adams Street and Walnut Street All Way Stop (Councillor Harris)

Councillor Harris requested an All-Way Stop control at the intersection of Adams Street and Walnut Street. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to conduct a warrant analysis for All-Way Stop control at the intersection of Adams Street and Walnut Street.**

J. Crescent Street Portable Speed Cushions (Councillor Harris)

Councillor Harris requested that, for 2026, the portable speed cushions on Crescent Street be replaced with a similar device with less noise impacts. The speed cushions were voted to be in place from April 15 through October 15 each year. The residents are happy to see reduced speeds on Crescent Street, but also report that the existing 10' long x 6' wide x 3" high speed cushions introduce

an excessive noise concern when large trucks and landscaping trailers traverse over the speed cushion.

This was not an unforeseen consequence, as warned by the Traffic Engineer. Mr. Garvin reported that a longer cushion (14 feet in length) may slightly reduce some of the noise, but it will not eliminate the noise issue altogether. Furthermore, a longer speed cushion will not have as much speed reduction as the devices used last year. Mr. Magno made a motion to table the request to modify the portable speed cushions until Traffic Commission approves its Policy for Traffic Calming requests. This motion had a roll call vote which resulted in 4 members opposed (Mr. Chiasson, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Vizard, and Mr. Waters) and 1 member in favor (Mr. Magno). A second motion was made to seek funding for two portable speed cushions that are each 14 feet long. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to seek funding for the purchase of two portable speed cushions that are each 14 feet long, for DPW to use instead of the 10-foot-long devices that are currently being used. The speed cushions shall be installed on April 15 and removed on October 15 of each year by DPW. The item regarding the Policy for Traffic Calming requests (item #2G) will remain on the tabled list.**

2. TABLED ITEMS: (Only items in Bold and Highlighted will be discussed at this meeting)

A. Elson Rd. Parking Study (Councillor Durkee) (6/19) (9/19) (6/23) (3/24) (12/25) (2/26)

Traffic Commission asked Traffic Engineering to refine the limits of the No Parking restrictions, such that there is a buffer area where no parking is allowed on either side of the street, between where parking transitions from the north side of the street to the south side of the street. The concern is that if there is no buffer length, vehicles traveling along the street would not have the ability to shift over in a gradual manner to avoid parked cars. This is especially true for larger emergency response vehicles such as fire trucks that inherently need additional width to maneuver. The revised parking plan along Elson Rd introduces two buffer areas: one closer to Prentice Street along the “S” curve, and one along the intersection of Irving Street and Elson Road. **Voted to approve the revised parking restrictions on Elson Road and to rescind the vote from September 2024 that established a disabled parking space in front of #25 Elson Road.**

In the Traffic Rules & Regulations, Schedule 1 (Parking, Standing, and Stopping Restrictions):

Delete:

- Elson Rd, south side, from Prospect Hill Rd to 50' east of Prospect Hill Rd, No Parking
- Elson Rd, south side, from 142 feet west of Hammond St to Hammond St, No Parking

Add:

- Elson Rd, north side, from 115 feet west of Hammond St to 290 feet east of Prentice St, No Parking
- Elson Rd, south side, from Prospect Hill Rd/Prentice St to 410 ft east of Prospect Hill Rd/Prentice St, No Parking
- Elson Rd, south side, from 270 feet west of Hammond St to Hammond St, No Parking

In the Traffic Rules & Regulations, Schedule 6 (Disabled Parking):

Delete:

Elson Rd, south side, 1 space in front of #25 (TC 9/24)

- B. MBTA Better Bus Project Update (1/23) (1/24) (1/25) (1/26)
- C. Traffic Signal Inventory: Winter Street/First Avenue (1/24)
- D. Traffic Signal Inventory: Winter Street/Second Avenue (1/24)

- E. RRFB Request, Moody Street at Adams Avenue (9/24) (9/25)
- F. Beaver Street Railroad Crossing Design Modification (10/24) (6/25)
- G. Policy for Traffic Calming Requests (2/25) (3/25) (4/25)
- H. Wellington Street Speed Bump (Councillor Durkee) (4/25)
- I. Cedarwood Avenue/Villa Street Intersection Improvements (Councillor Katz) (6/25) (9/25) (11/25) (2/26)

J. Crosswalk Across Gardner Street at Spray Park (Councillor Logan) (6/25) (9/25)

Councilor Logan, Councilor Katz, and resident Tammy Wong-Bigelow spoke in favor of the installation of the crosswalk adjacent to the Spray Park on Gardner Street. The Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin, reported that a new crosswalk would require removal of 60 feet of parking space on the west side of the street, to provide adequate stopping sight distance for approaching vehicles. **Voted to approve a new crosswalk crossing Gardner Street at the intersection with Gorham Street, removing some parking on the west side of Gardner Street.**

In Schedule 1 (Parking, Standing, and Stopping Restrictions):

Add:

Gardner Street, west side, from 245 feet south of Pine Street to 185 feet south of Pine Street, No Parking

- K. Potential Traffic Signal at Lexington St/Pond St (Mayor McCarthy) (10/25) (11/25)
- L. West End Traffic Study Evaluation (Councillor Katz) (10/25) (11/25)
- M. Southside Safety Plan, Lowell Street (Mayor McCarthy) (11/25)
- N. Car Charger Upgrades (1/26) (2/26)
- O. Parking Regulations on Private Ways (2/26)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Parking Meter Report:

Parking collections through the end of February totaled approximately \$82,000. At the same time last year, parking collections were approximately \$80,000, showing a roughly \$2,000 increase in parking revenue from this time last year.

B. Traffic Commission Status Report:

List of completed items: Lexington/Kennedy Egress (detection not approved, but otherwise completed), Church St extended 15-minute parking length

C. Traffic Signal Inventory: South Street/Bedford Street:

- Traffic volume is slightly down
- Voted to update signal timings, install visors on Signal Head B, decrease the Phase 1 initial interval/minimum green time (South St movement), and for Traffic Engineering to incorporate the new mast arm in the updated drawing of the approved intersection signal plan

D. Traffic Engineering FY27 Budget:

The requested budget for the Traffic Engineering Department for FY27 was approved with no revisions. The Wires Department will add a line item in their budget for signal improvements.

AND ANY LATE FILED ITEM(S) THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Adjourned @ 11:35 AM

Attendance: All members present, except Fire Chief Mullin

Respectfully Submitted,
Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk

WALTHAM TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Off Committee Speakers

Date of Meeting: March 19, 2026

Name of Speaker	Address	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Cathyann Harris	42 Hovey Road	W8	WCC
Robert Logan	109 Taylor St	W9	WCC
Tammy Wong-Bigelow	20 Gardner St	W9	Resident
Paul Katz	89 Cedarwood Ave	W7	WCC
Daniel Delevin	40 Elson Road		Resident
Robert Perry	61		National Grid
Jeanette A McCarthy	610 Main St		Mayor
Sean Condon			
Marco Pimerted			
Andrew Cavallo			
Ann Agranal	VHB		