

**RECEIVED**

*By City Clerks Office at 8:08 am, Aug 15, 2025*

**TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING**

**December 20, 2023 (In Person)**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chair Elena Proakis Ellis, Commissioner Krechmer, Commissioner Parenti, Commissioner Rossi, Councilor Eccles, Former Mayor Infurna, Chief Faller, Sgt. Goc – Technical Advisor, Jennifer Rosa – Clerk

The meeting is called to order at 5:31 PM. Mayor Brodeur addresses the Traffic Commission and thanks everyone for all their hard work and thanks Chief Faller and Sgt. Goc for their technical knowledge. Additionally, he thanks Councilor Eccles as this will be his last meeting on the Commission.

**I. Continued Business:**

**1. Approve June 2023 meeting minutes**

Elena states that the minutes have not been reviewed yet but will be available for the next meeting.

**II. New Business:**

**2. Resident request to change intersection of Warwick Rd at Vinton St from a 2-way stop to a 4-way stop**

Proponent Amy Meade speaks on this item. She states that she has two kids at Roosevelt School. She and other residents feel the change is needed. She states that cars speed down Vinton St and do not stop at the blinking crosswalk. Other times cars stop because they assume it is a four-way stop. Sight lines are also difficult in this area. She brought a petition this evening that has 107 signatures and feels she could have gotten even more. She mentions that she had heard that this item had been presented before but denied because of the difficulty of stopping down the hill.

Commissioner Krechmer asks if anyone refused to sign the petition. The proponent states that two people wouldn't sign because it had already been denied.

Motion to open public comment is made by Former Mayor Infurna, seconded by Councilor Eccles. All are in favor so public comment is opened.

David Markt that lives on Vinton St is opposed to this. He mentions that people look quickly and roll through this intersection. It would create a false perception of safety by adding it. He feels the hill is an issue for stopping and feels that there is also a noise level too of stopping and starting vehicles. He states that the flashing beacons have helped create a warning for people and that has helped improve safety.

Kathy Brodeur lives at 273 Vinton St and has seen a lot of accidents in her 34 years of living here. She states that a stop sign is not designed to slow traffic down, so she does not feel that a four-way stop sign will work. She mentions that she lives only a block away from this intersection and did not get asked to sign a

petition. She states that she heard about this item from the notice that she received at her door. Elena states to the commission that notices were distributed one block up each way from this intersection.

Motion to close public comment is made by Former Mayor Infurna, seconded by Councilor Eccles. All are in favor.

Former Mayor Infurna requests to see the petition to see addresses and passes it around the room.

Elena states that this item has been at the Traffic Commission before, however it was a very long time ago, before her time here. She explains that this area has been brought up to her enough times, so she thought we could revisit it as some time has passed. Elena reads in Commissioner Peart's email (See Attachment) Elena also reads in an email received from Maureen Grant (See Attachment). Lastly Elena reads in an email from resident Hunter Isakson (See Attachment).

Kate Monea of 110 Walton Pk is in favor of the four-way stop as she has two kids at Roosevelt School. She states that there is no crossing guard and just recently the lights were flashing and a car was not going to stop.

Motion to close public comment is made by Commissioner Rossi, seconded by Councilor Eccles. All are in favor, so public comment is closed.

Sgt Goc shares his data for this intersection and states that there have been 14 accidents over 6 years. There were 5 in 2022.

Commissioner Parenti states that he has the same data. The incidents had property damage only and no injuries. Nothing involved a pedestrian or bike.

Former Mayor Infurna asked if the crosswalks are striped with lines there and Elena confirms that there are lines at this intersection. Former Mayor Infurna feels that it would be more dangerous as a four-way stop. She feels that maybe we lay on heavy other traffic calming ideas for this area and is open to other suggestions. Elena reviews the aerial views and wonders if the area was accidentally striped in certain areas and is causing some confusion.

Former Mayor Infurna makes a motion to deny the four-way stop but to do all other traffic calming methods. Commissioner Krechmer agrees that we should try other methods. Elena states that this location is not a good candidate for the toolkit pilot due to the hill. Signage and paint are doable. Councilor Eccles seconds the motion to deny.

Commissioner Rossi states that the Traffic Commission can approve a stop sign but not how something is striped. Elena states that it is not a warranted intersection. The intersection of Foster and Dell is the only exception where we allowed a four-way-stop without meeting the warrants, because of the number of crashes and sight lines. In this case a stop sign on the hill is very dangerous in winter. A car wouldn't be able to stop and the flashing beacon would also need to be removed, as they are not allowed at a four-way stop.

Chief Faller states that the police will do whatever they can do to make the intersection safer. Elena states that she hopes a crossing guard will go back.

Commissioner Parenti corrects his statement about the 5 or more crashes in a 12-month period not being a warrant criterion for a four-way stop. It comes down to expectations. If we put a stop sign the pedestrian expects the car to stop. Our job as a commission is to create a condition that is as safe as possible. Elena states that there are other items that we can do that do not require a vote, such as more police presence, remove error stop bar, add hashes, yield triangles and signage to yield for crosswalk. We will let the school department know that the parents are clearly concerned and Elena will discuss with the school the importance of having a crossing guard back at this intersection. She states that we will also have trees trimmed to ensure the RRFB is getting enough sun. Motion to deny. Elena calls the role and all are in favor. We have 7 yes votes to deny.

**3. Resident request to extend the 1 hr parking 7am – 10am Mon-Fri signs on the west side of Cottage Street from Alden St to the end of the property at 18 Cottage St**

Elena asks if the proponent Heather MacDonald of 19 Cottage St is here to discuss this item and she is not. Elena states that we only distributed notices to the residents at 17, 18 and 19 Cottage St because the request is only to move the signs down. Elena had looked at past minutes regarding the signage in this area and it was requested by Cottage St to restrict all day parking. Commuters were parking all day and taking the bus. When they had the meeting, people beyond Alden St had no concerns and it was an even split as to who wanted the signs for the parking restrictions. Now we have a resident that wants the signs to move down one more home. Elena's concerns however are that it is not for the proponent's side of the street, it is for the opposite side. The resident at 18 Cottage St is the most impacted by this.

Elena states that we can put it on hold until we hear from the resident at 18 Cottage St. All are in favor.

**4. Resident request that the city consider installing a timed turn restriction from Lebanon St onto First St (northbound) during afternoon rush hour**

The proponent, Joe McGonegal of 11 First St states that he had heard of the Traffic Calming Toolkit pilot. He states that many vehicles tend to turn onto First St during rush hour from Lebanon St. The cars are usually in a hurry and the kids crossing the street are most at risk. The street is red on google maps and there are lots of annoyed commuters. It's dangerous and a blind turn that cars are making. He also mentions that Winthrop School is over there, which contributes to high foot traffic. He loves the idea of the toolkit but is open to other ideas. Elena states that we provided notices to the entirety of First St all the way up to Waverly Ave and we received very few comments. Elena asks the proponent if they will have any concerns getting home if this turn restriction were put into place. He states that he is not concerned as there are a variety of other ways to go to his house.

Motion to open public comment is made by Former Mayor Infurna, seconded by Councilor Eccles. All are in favor, so public comment is now open.

A resident in the area states that Parker St is terrible and is a cut through. Sewall St is just as bad. He thinks it's a great idea for the turn restriction.

Elena reads in an email sent in late from Mark Smith (See Attachment). Former Mayor Infurna wonders if we should wait to vote on this because it would be a big change. Elena feels that people had enough notice, however maybe we can get some traffic counts to see how big of a problem this location is.

Commissioner Rossi asks if we have traffic counts. Do we want Lebanon St to back up to East Foster St? Commissioner Krechmer asks about how much enforcement would be required. Sgt Goc states that message boards would be out for a bit and then you would have an officer. We would need about a month. Elena wants traffic counts for Parker St as well. She states that we can we do a traffic count for going up First St. We could do a week on Parker St and a week on First St. This issue doesn't warrant extensive research. Sgt Goc will get volume on First St and Parker St. We will wait until after the holiday and 3pm to 5pm would be ideal.

Councilor Eccles makes a motion to place this hold. Commissioner Parenti states that you can't solve a cut through problem with one turn restriction. We would need to discover the extent of the problem and then layout a neighborhood plan and a consultant. It would go beyond this board. Another option would be to put a traffic counter down. To combat this you would need to research the entire area. Commissioner Parenti is fine putting it off to get counts and deciding at the next meeting. Commissioner Rossi seconds this. Elena calls the role and all are in favor. She states that we will start with First St and Parker St and go from there.

##### **5. Discussion on the Franklin St crosswalk at Belmont St next to the train tracks (No Vote Anticipated)**

Elena states that Former Mayor Infurna brought this item to our attention because a resident has concerns about the crosswalk at Belmont St next to the train station. There are two crosswalks and the question is whether one is too close to the train tracks. In 2014 and 2015 when the MassWorks project happened, this neighborhood was designed by a consultant. Any markings that are there were designed by a traffic engineer. It doesn't make them right or wrong, but the city did not stripe any of this. Elena states that she does notice that one of the crosswalks is close to the train gate, so what do you do if the train gate comes down. Commissioner Krechmer does state that there is room for a car to sit in between the gate and the crosswalk. Elena's concern with eliminating it is that a lot of commuter's park on Belmont St and this is the most direct route. If we were to remove it people are still going to cross there. If we all feel that this should stay there then we can let the resident know that we had an informal discussion and feel that it should stay. The Commissioners were in agreement with this approach.

Motion to adjourn is made by Former Mayor Infurna, seconded by Councilor Eccles. All are in favor.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:04 PM.

December 20, 2023

*Please read this letter into the record, if possible.*

Melrose Traffic Commission Members,

I'm sorry to be unable to attend the December 20 Traffic Commission meeting. I am writing to you as both a Traffic Commissioner and as a resident of 318 Vinton Street who received the public flyer notice of tonight's meeting. I understand that under New Agenda Item #2, a resident has requested the intersection of Warwick Road/Vinton Street/Orris Street be changed from a two-way stop to a four-way stop. And while I cannot vote on this issue in absentia, I would like to share my observations and opinion.

As background, I have lived on Vinton Street for 26 years; I can see the intersection from my house; I drive or walk through this intersection almost daily; and my children crossed Vinton Street as they walked to/from the Roosevelt School. The relatively recent installation of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon, RRFB, on the southbound Vinton Street approach has been a welcome addition to the intersection and has improved pedestrian safety by raising driver awareness of pedestrians.

I do not support the conversion of this intersection to four-way stop control. The three key factors influencing my opinion are described below:

1. As you are aware, traffic along the major approaches to this intersection, the north-south direction of Vinton Street/Warwick Road, do not have stop control. The minor approaches, the east-west direction of Vinton/Orris streets, do have stop signs, with additional signage alerting drivers that "cross traffic does not stop." The major approaches carry much higher volumes of traffic than the minor approaches. In my opinion, the unequal distribution of traffic volumes would prevent the intersection from meeting the four-way stop control warrant. (Warrants for traffic control are prescribed in the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices, or MUTCD, published by the Federal Highway Administration). **Installing four-way stop signs which are not warranted can actually increase the safety risk to both drivers and pedestrians because drivers tend to violate stop signs when the minor street volumes are low.**
2. Another aspect for consideration is the steep downhill approach. **Some northbound vehicles travelling down the Warwick Road hill may have difficulty stopping at a stop sign during bad weather when roadway conditions are slippery.**
3. Note that the MUTCD states that RRFBs should not be installed along intersection approaches that have a stop sign. Therefore, if a four-way stop control were to be considered at this intersection, then the RRFB would need to be removed. **I contend that the existing condition with a two-way stop and an RRFB is safer than a scenario with a four-way stop and no RRFB.**

Thank you for your attention, and I know the Commission will give this resident's concern thoughtful consideration.



Elizabeth Peart  
318 Vinton Street

**From:** [Maureen Grant](#)  
**To:** [Rosa, Jennifer](#)  
**Subject:** Intersection of Warwick Rd and Vinton Traffic Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 3:59:18 PM

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Hello Ms. Rosa,

I am forwarding this email to you to submit my thoughts on the request to change the intersection of Warwick, Vinton and Orris Street to a four way stop.

As a 31 year resident on the corner of Warwick and Vinton, I am **completely opposed** to this change. It did take a number of years to get signage on the stop signs of Orris and Vinton signifying a two way stop. We have also requested police visibility during the peak hours of school being in session.

Over the years, there have been a number of accidents and some involving my property.

To move forward with this change would only create more accidents. During the winter with snow and ice, the cars and trucks are unable to stop or slide coming down Warwick and those going up Warwick can't reach the top of the hill and end up sliding back down. I feel many residents of Warwick Road would agree with this.

I have witnessed the positive changes installing the pedestrian lights for those crossing Vinton to Orris Street has made

I regret that I am unable to attend this meeting and I appreciate the time you are taking to understand the further predicament this would cause.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Grant  
10 Warwick Road

**Maureen Grant, Realtor, SRS, MRP**

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**From:** [Hunter Isakson](#)  
**To:** [Rosa, Jennifer](#)  
**Subject:** Notice of Meeting - Warwick Rd Concerns  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:24:14 PM

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Dear Ms. Rosa,

I am writing as a concerned resident of our neighborhood as we just received the Notice of Meeting for 12/20/2023. As a resident of Warwick Road for over two decades, I am horrified of the idea of a four way stop at Warwick and Vinton. I have no idea who would have proposed this, but it is obviously someone that has not been around this intersection with any type of inclement weather.

Every year there are dozens of accidents on Warwick Rd where cars do not have the ability to slow down/stop as they travel down the hill - if there was a stop sign at the base of the hill, the rate of accidents and injuries would increase exponentially. I can't imagine a scenario where a stop sign at the base of a hill with our degree of incline in New England would be a good idea.

Additionally, the town has recently invested significant money in the cross walk and lighting at the base of the hill which appears to be alleviating any concern for the pedestrians/kids as they go along to school. I feel this would end up requiring an additional crossing guard to manage the intersection and would just lead to additional confusion and potential risk for kids/parents heading to school.

I am hoping to make the meeting as well on the 20th but want to make sure that I sent this across in case I can not.

Thank you for your help and consideration in this manner.

Hunter Isakson  
21 Warwick Rd

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**From:** [Comcast](#)  
**To:** [Rosa, Jennifer](#)  
**Subject:** First St restrictions  
**Date:** Friday, December 15, 2023 2:07:49 PM

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Hi Jenn,

I recently received the flyer about the possible timed turn restrictions from Lebanon St. onto First St. during afternoon rush hour. I would be all for it as having been a resident at 156 First for the last 20yrs i see first hand how fast the cars speed up the street to beat the Upham St traffic. I would also suggest that the city do something about the number of vehicles that completely ignore the one way signs at First & Geneva Rd during school. Over the course of the school day i see car after car intentionally or unintentionally going up First and through the do not enter signs. This could cause potential accidents as First St always has cars parked on it while the Winthrop school is in session. I for one have 4 cars in my driveway at times and always have to park cars on the street during the day. I have tried to relay this to the police but they don't seem to care ! Maybe a couple of flashing signs would help. Any help with this would be greatly appreciated

Thanks,

Mark Smith

Sent from my iPad

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