

CITY OF NEWTON
IN CITY COUNCIL
TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016

Present: David Koses, Traffic Council Chair; Sgt. Jay Babcock, Newton Police Department;
Alicia Wilson, Resident member; Gloria Son, Traffic Engineer and Councilor Ciccone
Absent: Danielle Delaney, Council Clerk
Also Present: Councilors Albright, Brousal-Glaser, Gentile and Sangiolo

Mr. Koses provided a PowerPoint presentation on these items, attached to this report.

TC1-16 COUNCILOR BROUSAL-GLASER, requesting a discussion of parking regulations on Oak Avenue, both in terms of location to corner of Webster Street and length of stay to deter commuter parking. (Ward 3) [01/19/16 @ 3:54 PM]

ACTION: **HELD for Trial (5-0). Held for trial of the following: Prohibited, all days, east side from Webster Street 411 feet northerly (no change from the existing regulation); No parking, 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M., except Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, west side, entire length. Additionally, the following administrative action will be taken: No parking Oak Avenue, both sides, within up to 50 feet of the intersection of Webster Street, and within up to 50 feet of the intersection of Auburndale Avenue, based on engineering judgment.**

NOTE: Council members were provided with a location map, site photos and street characteristics. Mr. Koses stated that Oak Avenue is a public way, a narrow street approximately 19-20 feet wide, with inconsistent curbing. He then said that parking observations on three days proved approximately 8-10 vehicles and one motorcycle parking with some parking occurring on the sidewalk/off-street. The utility poles and fire hydrants are located on the west side. Council Brousal-Glaser noted that parking is prohibited, all days, east side in front of the park in the Traffic and Parking Regulations (TPR).

Mr. Koses stated that zero e-mails were received. He then opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Residents expressed their concerns and stated that it appears that commuters are parking up the area, making it difficult to exit driveways and travel on the street.

Councilor Brousal-Glaser requested no parking Oak Avenue, both sides, within up to 50 feet of the intersection of Webster Street. Mr. Koses answered that the suggestion could be considered based on engineering judgment.

Mr. Koses stated that Oak Avenue is very narrow, 19-20 feet wide. He then explained that Traffic Council tends to restrict parking to one side of a street to ensure emergency vehicle, and to ensure access for trash and recycling pick-up.

Sgt. Babcock stated that he would support a parking restriction on the fire hydrant side, west side of Oak Avenue and a two-hour parking restriction, weekdays, west side, entire length as a trial to deter commuter parking. He then made the above motions for a trial. Council members agreed 5-0.

TC3-16 SGT. BABCOCK, requesting no parking signage on Woodside Road between Kirkstall Road and Oakwood Road, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., school days, except by Newtonville Resident parking permit. (Ward 2) [02/04/16 @ 4:30 PM]

ACTION: **HELD (5-0). Held pending draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) to approve the following: 1) remove the following: two-hour limit, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, both sides, except by Newtonville Resident parking permit; 2) add the following: No Parking, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, School Days, except by Newtonville Permit (both sides)**

NOTE: Council members were provided with a location map, site photos and characteristics of Woodside Road between Kirkstall and Oakwood Road. Mr. Koses stated that Woodside Road is a public road, approximately 23-29 feet wide. The Police Department has implemented temporary signage indicating no parking, Woodside Road between Kirkstall Road and Oakwood Road, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., school days, except by Newtonville Resident parking permit to deter student parking. This request is to make the temporary signs permanent.

Councilor Albright stated that she has not received any constituent complaints regarding this restriction and agreed to make the temporary signs permanent.

Without discussion, Sgt. Babcock made a motion pending a draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) to approve this parking restriction. Council members agreed 5-0.

TC66-15 ALDERMEN ALBRIGHT AND NORTON, requesting a review and possible change to the parking regulations on Carter Street. (Ward 2) [12/21/15 @ 10:23AM]

ACTION: **HELD for Trial (5-0). Held for trial of the following: No parking, any time, west side, entire length. Additionally, the following administrative action will be taken: No parking Carter Street, east side, within up to 50 feet of the intersection of Newtonville Avenue, based on engineering judgment.**

NOTE: Council members were provided with a location map, site photos and the characteristics of Carter Street. Carter Street is 23-24 feet wide, a typical Newton street width. Parking observations on four visits showed 2 to 5 vehicles parked on Carter Street, both sides. There are no current parking restrictions on either side of Carter Street. The utility poles and fire hydrants are located on the west side.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Residents expressed their concerns and suggestions.

Concerns: Residents stated that it appears that commuters and residents are parking up the area. It is difficult exiting driveways. Vehicles are parking within 5 feet of driveways. Residents are concerned with emergency vehicle, trash pick-up access without difficulty.

Suggestions: Residents suggested implementing a residential permit parking program, alternate street side parking and no parking, within up to 50 feet of the intersection of Newtonville Avenue.

Councilor Albright explained her parking observations. She stated that at times, she observed Carter Street parked up and sometimes it is not. She then said that vehicles have the tendency to park on the corner of Carter Street and Newtonville Avenue and that she would support implementing no parking, within up to 50 feet of the intersection of Newtonville Avenue. Mr. Koses answered that the suggestion could be considered based on engineering judgment.

Mr. Koses said that it appears residents, commuters and Cabot School staff was parking on Carter Street. He suggested that public transit is important and valuable to Newton, and that the burden of parking should be shared. Some level of parking for commuters is helpful in order to continue the level of transit service currently offered in this area of the City. However, safety and emergency vehicle access is the most important priority.

Mr. Koses stated that if vehicles are parking within 5 feet of a driveway the homeowner can request to have signs posted by the City. City Ordinance prohibits any vehicle from parking within 5 feet of a driveway. Sgt. Babcock asked the resident to take photographs of the vehicles disregarding the City Ordinance and deliver them to the Police Annex.

Councilor Ciccone stated that he would support a parking restriction on the fire hydrant side, west side of Carter Street. He then made the above motion for a trial of no parking on the east side, to include a parking restriction within up to 50 feet of the intersection of Newtonville Avenue, based on engineering judgment. Council members agreed 5-0.

TC10-16 COUNCILORS NORTON AND ALBRIGHT, requesting no parking, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Saturdays only, in front of Congregation Beth El-Atareth, 561 Ward Street. (Ward 2) [04/07/16 @ 6:09 PM]

ACTION: **HELD (5-0). Held pending draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) to approve the following: No parking, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Saturdays only, Ward Street in front of Congregation Beth El-Atareth, north side.**

NOTE: Council members were provided with a location map, site photos and the characteristics of Ward Street. Ward Street is a public street, one-way, westbound. Ward Street is approximately 28 to 29 feet wide, accommodating parking on both sides. The current parking restriction along this portion of Ward Street is that parking is prohibited, all days, north side from a point 142 feet east of Morseland Avenue, easterly 40 feet, and prohibited, up to 50 feet from the intersection.

Councilor Albright explained that she docketed this request due to the Congregation placing cones on the street on Saturday mornings due to security measures. It would be best to implement a no parking regulation. Sgt. Babcock stated that there have been several meetings

with the Congregation, Police Department and Ward Councilors addressing the concerns of placing cones on a public street. There is a City Ordinance prohibiting placing cones on a public street. In conclusion, the Congregation, Police Department and Ward Councilors agreed to support a parking prohibition of 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Saturdays only, north side to address the Congregations security concerns. A Police detail will be present on Holidays.

Without discussion, Councilor Ciccone made a motion pending a draft Traffic and Parking Regulation (TPR) to approve this parking restriction. Council members agreed 5-0.

TC11-16 COUNCILORS SANGIOLO AND HARNEY, requesting a review and possible changes to the parking regulations on Charles Street, between the underpass and the dead end, *as well as on Riverside Road*. (Ward 4) [04/27/16 @ 1:38 PM] [REVISED 06/08/16]

ACTION: **HELD for Trial (5-0). Held for trial of the following: 1) Remove all existing parking regulations along Charles Street between the tunnel under I-90 and the cul-de-sac; 2) Remove all existing parking regulations along Riverside Street; 3) Add the following parking regulations: parking prohibited any time, Charles Street, within the tunnel under I-90, both sides; parking prohibited any time, Charles Street, east and north side, from the I-90 tunnel to the cul-de-sac; parking prohibited any time, Riverside Road north side, entire length.**

NOTE: Council members were provided with a location map, site photos, street characteristics, current official parking regulations and signage locations.

In October 2015, Traffic Council approved no parking, any time, Charles Street, west side, Auburn Street to the I-90 Underpass; two-hour limit except by Auburndale Permit, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except holidays, east side, Auburn Street to the I-90 Underpass hoping to deter commuter parking.

Mr. Koses stated that Charles Street is a public street with unique characteristics including a 200-foot portion tunnel under the Massachusetts Turnpike, owned and maintained by the City. A mix of residential, commercial and recreational uses and abuts the Charles River.

Length and Width of Charles Street and Riverside Road:

	Tunnel	Charles Street -- cul-de-sac	Riverside Road -- cul-de-sac
Width	24 feet	20 feet + 40 feet (head in parking)	20 feet + 40 feet (head in parking)
Length	200 feet	200 feet	240 feet

Mr. Koses stated that on three site visits he observed minimal parking at each location. In the past, he recalls observing many vehicles parking *in* the tunnel.

Mr. Koses explained in detail the current official parking regulations in the Traffic and Parking Regulations (TPR) manual and stated that signs posted on the streets are conflicting with regulations in TPR manual. It was noted, that Riverside Street should state Riverside Road.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Residents expressed their concerns and suggestions.

Concerns: Residents stated that it is concerning that vehicles are parking on sidewalks on both sides of Charles Street. There is heavy traffic volume. It appears that the over flow parking from employees of the Charles Street office building are parking on the street. Each day from 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. school buses, coaches and students have the tendency to drive over the sidewalk and park up the area. Students are unloading in the no parking zone area. Drivers are parking in the prohibited parking areas. Meetings are held daily at the DCR property with significant parking needs.

Suggestions: Residents suggest and support a one-side parking restriction on Charles Street and Riverside Road. It is necessary to add and expand parking areas. It is necessary to implement a parking restriction to allow for emergency vehicle access. Police enforcement is needed to address speeding concerns. Traffic and speed counts should be performed. Parking needs to be prohibited in the tunnel and speed limit signs need to be posted.

Councilor Sangiolo said that Lasell College and Representative Khan want to meet to discuss the opening up of the tunnel that is currently blocked off to allow pedestrian access. It will also be necessary to meet with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) about their property and meetings they allow on their property to address the possibility of expanding their parking areas in hopes of decreasing vehicles parking up the area. Councilor Sangiolo then stated that a meeting was held with Lasell College to discuss residents' concerns. The Noble and Greenough School have agreed that they would not allow parents to park on Charles Street or Riverside Road.

Sgt. Babcock said that it is illegal to drive over a sidewalk to access properties. Mr. Koses stated that the City does not post speed limit signs unless the speed limit is either under or over 30 miles per hour. He then asked the residents if they are interested in extending the Auburndale Parking Program Permit in this area. Council members suggested eliminate tunnel parking, both sides, and eliminating parking between the tunnel and Riverside Road, both sides to the bend of the road. Councilor Ciccone than made the above motions to hold for a trial. Council members agreed 5-0.

TC12-16 COUNCILORS, SANGIOLO, HARNEY AND GENTILE, requesting parking restrictions on Albert Road to alleviate parking issues from neighboring development. (Ward 4) [05/02/16 @ 11:41 AM]

ACTION: **HELD 5-0. Additionally, the following administrative action will be taken: No parking No Standing signs to be installed at the end of cul-de-sac (southerly end), so to clarify that there is no parking allowed within or on top of the fire lane/sidewalk area.**

NOTE: Council members were provided with a location map, site photos, street characteristics and parking observations.

Mr. Koses stated that Albert Road is a public street. It is approximately 28 feet wide (wider at the cul-de-sacs). The Lexington Street housing development abuts the cul-de-sac. Four site visits showed zero to one car parking in the cul-de-sacs. The utility poles and fire hydrants are located on the north side. There are currently no parking restrictions, making Albert Road a convenient parking location for the housing development and the park.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Residents expressed their concerns.

Concerns:

On weekends, the cul-de-sac becomes a parking lot. Drivers have the tendency to block driveways. Vehicles stay for long periods including parking overnight. Albert Road is used as a pick-up/drop-off area for the Burr Elementary School. Drivers park on the grass area/sidewalk. It is necessary to relieve the parked up areas to allow for easy emergency vehicle access.

Residents said that during discussions regarding the housing development that they requested a fence be installed to deter people from cutting through their properties. During these discussions, the Fire Chief opposed to installing a fence. It is necessary to keep the road open to allow access for emergency vehicles. Instead, two removable bollards were installed.

Councilor Gentile said that he recalls a condition approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) regarding the Lexington Street housing development prohibiting residents from parking on Albert Road. All parking was to be within the housing development. He then suggested to Mr. Koses to review the ZBA decision to determine if in fact, that is true. If parking is mentioned in the decision then Inspectional Services Department should be contacted to enforce parking regulations citing the development that the residents do not comply with the parking agreement in the decision.

Councilor Gentile stated that residents should report the vehicle that has the habit of parking overnight to the Police Department. The City's Ordinance prohibits overnight parking on any street, public or private.

Mr. Koses stated that parking on a sidewalk is illegal and agreed the fire lane should be marked indicating such.

Councilor Ciccone then made the above motion to hold this item in order to review the ZBA decision and to add no parking, no standing signs to be installed at the end of cul-de-sac southerly end, to clarify that there is no parking allowed within or on top of the fire lane/sidewalk area. Council members agreed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

David Koses, Transportation Coordinator
Traffic Council Chair

Traffic Council

City of Newton

June 23, 2016

Agenda

- ❖ TC1-16 COUNCILOR BROUSAL-GLASER, requesting a discussion of parking regulations on Oak Avenue, both in terms of location to corner of Webster Street and length of stay to deter commuter parking. (Ward 3)
- ❖ TC3-16 SGT. BABCOCK, requesting no parking signage on Woodside Road between Kirkstall Road and Oakwood Road, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., school days, except by Newtonville Resident parking permit. (Ward 2)
- ❖ TC66-15 ALDERMEN ALBRIGHT AND NORTON, requesting a review and possible change to the parking regulations on Carter Street. (Ward 2)
- ❖ TC10-16 COUNCILORS NORTON AND ALBRIGHT, requesting no parking, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Saturdays only, in front of Congregation Beth El-Atareth, 561 Ward Street. (Ward 2)
- ❖ TC11-16 COUNCILORS SANGIOLO AND HARNEY, requesting a review and possible changes to the parking regulations on Charles Street, between the underpass and the dead ends. (Ward 4)
- ❖ TC12-16 COUNCILORS SANGIOLO, HARNEY AND GENTILE, requesting parking restrictions on Albert Road to alleviate parking issues from neighboring development. (Ward 4)

TCL-16

⌂ 3 ⌂

Request for a discussion of parking regulations on Oak Avenue

6.23.16

Traffic Council

Location Map

TCL-16

A map of a residential area in Portland, Oregon. A red rectangle highlights a section of Oak Avenue between Auburndale Ave and Webster St. The map shows various streets including Auburndale Ave, River St, Elm St, Cherry St, Webster St, and Border St. Landmarks such as Dolan Pond Conservation Area, Webster Park, and Captain John Ryan Memorial Park are also visible. A location pin is placed on Webster St near the intersection with Oak Avenue.

Site Photo	TCL-16
	<<<<< Looking South toward Webster St
Looking North toward Auburndale Ave >>>>>	
6.23.16	5 Traffic Council

Oak Avenue - Characteristics	TCL-16
• <u>Public Way</u> • 1,197 feet long • 19' – 20' wide, with inconsistent curbing • <u>Parking Observations</u> • 10 + 1 motorcycle (10:30 AM 6/8/16) – some parking occurs on the sidewalk/off-street • 8 + 1 motorcycle (2:00 PM 6/9/16) – some parking occurs on the sidewalk/off-street • 8 + 1 motorcycle (11:15 AM 6/20/16) – some parking occurs on the sidewalk/off-street • <u>Current Parking Restrictions</u> • No restriction, either side • <u>Location of Utility Poles and Hydrants</u> • Both on the west side	
6.23.16	6 Traffic Council

TC3-16

∞ 7 ∞

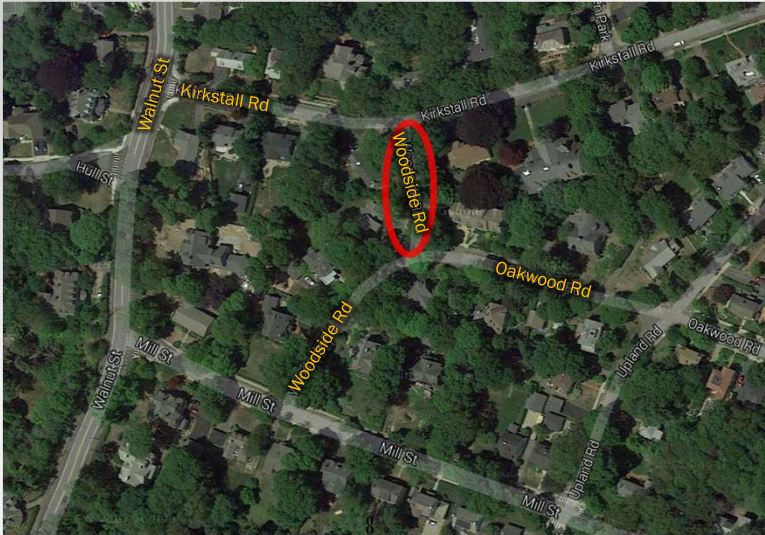
Request no parking signage on Woodside Road between Kirkstall Road and Oakwood Road, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., school days, except by Newtonville Resident parking permit

6.23.16

Traffic Council

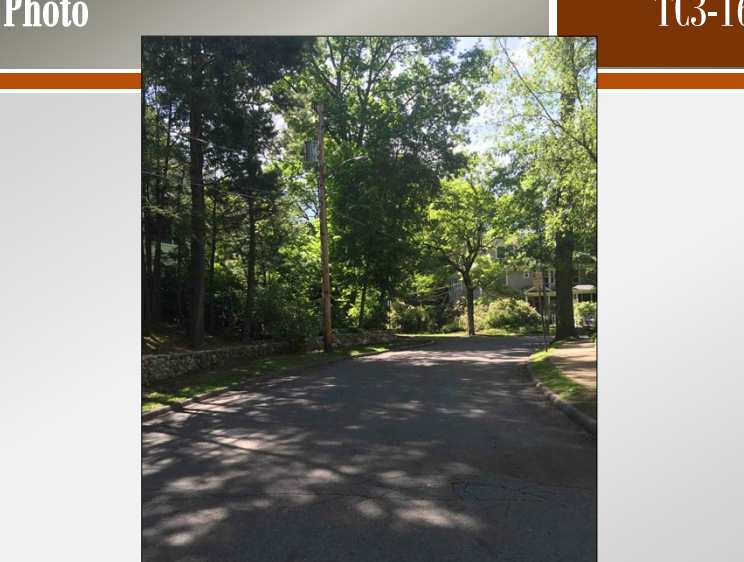
Location Map

TC3-15



Site Photo

TC3-16



6.23.16

Traffic Council

Characteristics of Woodside Road (between Kirkstall and Oakwood) TC1-16

TC66-15

∞ || ∞

Requesting a review and possible change to the parking regulations on Carter St

6.23.16

Traffic Council

Location Map

TC66-15

6.23.16

12

Traffic Council

Site Photos — Looking north	TC66-15
	

13

Carter Street - Characteristics	TC66-15	
• <u>Public Way</u> • 290 feet long • 23' - 24' wide • <u>Parking Observations</u> • 4 vehicles (10:00 AM 6/8/16) • 4 vehicles (1:00 PM 6/9/16) • 2 vehicles (11:45 AM 6/20/16) • 5 vehicles (9:30 AM 6/21/16) • <u>Current Parking Restrictions</u> • None • <u>Location of Utility Poles and Hydrants</u> • Both on the west side		
6.23.16	14	Traffic Council

TC10-16

15

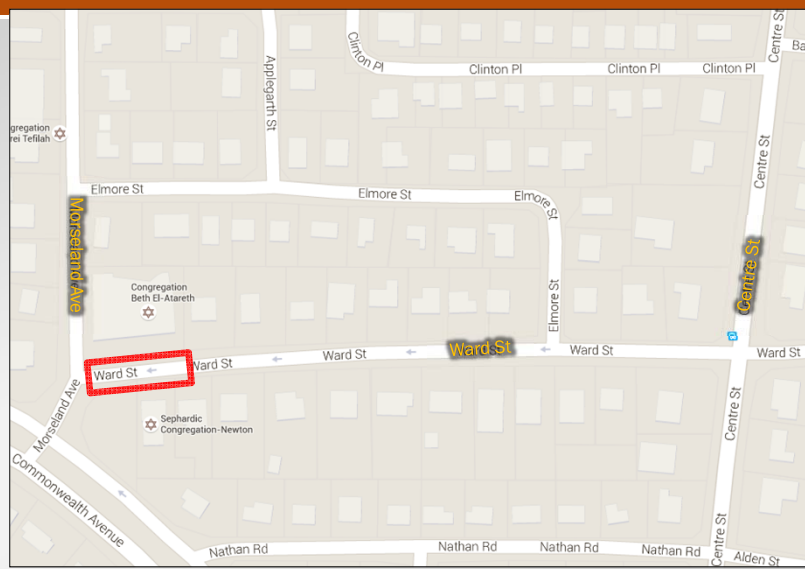
Request for no parking between the hours of 8am and 12pm Saturdays only, in front of Congregation Beth El-Atareth

6.23.16

Traffic Council

Location Map

TC10-16



Site Photo — Looking West

TC10-16



Characteristics of this portion of Ward St

TC10-16

- Public street, one-way westbound
- Length and Width along this portion of Ward Street:
 - Approximately 130' long along this section (property boundary to the stop sign)
 - 28' to 29' feet wide
- Current Parking Restrictions along this portion of Ward Street:
 - Prohibited, all days:
 - North side from a point 142' east of Morseland Avenue, easterly 40'
 - Prohibited, up to 50 feet from intersections, based on engineering judgment

TC11-16

19

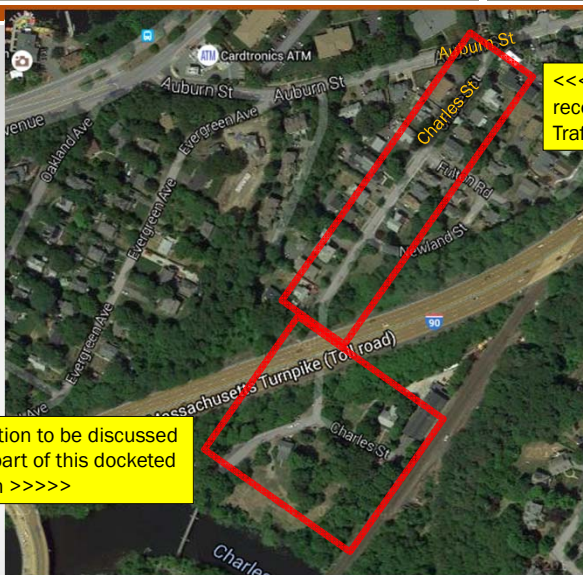
Request for a review and possible changes to the parking regulations on Charles Street and on Riverside Road, between the underpass and the dead ends

6.23.16

Traffic Council

Location Map

TC11-16



Section to be discussed as part of this docketed item >>>>

<<<<< Section recently discussed at Traffic Council

6.23.16

Traffic Council

Site Photo — Looking north toward underpass

TC11-16



6.23.16

21

Traffic Council

Looking east toward cul-de-sac

TC11-16



Looking west on Riverside Road

TC11-16



Charles St & Riverside Rd Characteristics

TC11-16

- **Public street with these unique characteristics:**
 - 200 foot portion under the Massachusetts Turnpike, owned and maintained by the City
 - Mix of residential, commercial and recreational uses
 - Abuts the Charles River

- **Length and Width**

	Tunnel	Charles St – cul-de-sac	Riverside Rd – cul-de-sac
Width	24 feet	20 feet + 40 feet (head in parking)	20 feet + 40 feet (head in parking)
Length	200 feet	200 feet	240 feet

- **Parking Demand Observed**

	Tunnel	Charles St – cul-de-sac	Riverside Rd – cul-de-sac
6/8/16 10:30 am	1	0	2
6/9/16 2:00 pm	2	4	0
6/20/16 1:30 pm	0	9	4

Current Official Parking Regulations

TC11-16

Charles Street

(1) Prohibited, all days:

- a) East side from Riverside Road to circle at the end of Charles Street.
- b) Charles Street Circle, both sides.
- c) West side from Auburn Street to hydrant at the corner of Riverside Road.

(2) Two-hour limit, east side from Riverside Road to the circle at the end of Charles Street.

(3) Two-hour limit, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., east side from Riverside Road to Riverside Road.

(4) Two-hour limit, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, except holidays, east side, Auburn Street to the I-90 Underpass, except by Auburndale Resident parking permit.

Riverside Street

(1) Two-hour limit, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., south side

6.23.16

25

Traffic Council

Current Official Parking Regulations and Signage Location

TC11-16



LEGEND

- 2 hr limit 9-5, M-F, except by permit
- Prohibited all days
- 2 hr limit
- 2 hr limit 7am-8pm

Note: The following restriction is also on the books for Charles Street, but can not be determined or shown on the map: "two hour limit, 8-8, east side, from Riverside Road to Riverside Road."

The following regulation is on the books for Riverside STREET

(1) Two-hour limit, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., south side.

6.23.16

Traffic Council

TC12-16

27

Request for parking restrictions on Albert Road to alleviate parking issues from neighboring development

6.23.16

Traffic Council

Location Map

TC12-16

Albert Rd — Looking toward cul-de-sac

TC12-16



6.23.16

29

Traffic Council

View from the cul-de-sac

TC12-16



Albert Road - Characteristics	TC12-15
• <u>Public Way</u> • 1,019 feet long • 28' wide (wider at cul-de-sacs) • <u>Parking Observations (cul-de-sac portion)</u> • 0 (10:45 AM 6/8/16) • 0 (2:00 PM 6/9/16) • 1 (7:00 PM 6/17/16) • 1 (1:30 PM 6/20/16) • <u>Current Parking Restrictions</u> • No restriction, either side • <u>Location of Utility Poles and Hydrants</u> • Both on the north side 6.23.16 31 Traffic Council	