



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

City of Newton **In City Council**

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Present: Councilors Ciccone (Chair), Cote, Downs, Noel, Grossman, Lipof, Auchincloss and Markiewicz

City Staff: Chief Bruce Proia and Assistant Chief Gino Lucchetti, Newton Fire Department; Chief David MacDonald and Sgt. Paul Anastasia, Newton Police Department

Others Present: Attorney Frank Stearns, Holland & Knight, LLP; John Savino, Transportation & Parking Manager, Boston College; Karen Brady, Senior Regional Office Manager, Trip Advisor and Lisa Cinella, Director of Operations, TransAction Corporate Shuttles, Inc.

Chair's Note: Chief MacDonald provided Committee members with updated material regarding crash trends in the city from October 3, 2017 to June 5, 2018 indicating the top ten accident locations and accident totals where changes have been made. This material is attached to this report.

Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committees

#353-18 Request to transfer funds to purchase an Incident Command Vehicle for the Police
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from Current Year Budget Reserve for the purpose of purchasing an Incident Command Vehicle for the Police Department.

Action: **Public Safety & Transportation Committee Approved 8-0**

Note: Chief MacDonald, Newton Police Department and Chief Proia, Newton Fire Department joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Chief MacDonald stated that the \$100,000. request is to purchase an incident command vehicle (MCV), a multi-purpose vehicle. The vehicle is a 2017, Ram ProMaster, 7 passenger conversion van, 34,000 miles with an approximate cost of \$60,000. The build out cost is approximately \$40,000 to remove rear-seating, build out a workstation area, outfit radio communications and a generator. The Winnebago is no longer with the department.

The MCV vehicle will be used for community engagements, Boston College graduation, accident reconstruction, graduations, football games, marathons, small police events, school events, village days, drug take-back days, touch-a-truck exposition, child safety seats, incident commands, natural and criminal crises, etc. The NEMLEC vehicle will also be deployed for large incidents.

The incident command vehicle would be an asset to the City. The vehicle will have unique markings and will increase visibility. Included in the vehicle will be computers, a meeting space, seating, battery chargers, portable radios and crime prevention space. The vehicle will provide rest and relief of officers and the ability to work free of noise and elements.

Chief MacDonald described an embarrassing situation during the Sweet Tomatoes incident. He said that a large table was placed on the island for the Police Department to work at. He would be grateful if the Council approves this necessary 'tool'.

Committee member's questions:

Questions:

- What will the MCV be used for when there is no crisis? Chief MacDonald answered that it will attend other events. The intent is to attend incident scenes, schools and emergencies.
- Will the MCV be equipped with a generator and water? Chief MacDonald answered that these are available options. Bottled water will be stored for incidents.
- Will the MCV have bullet shielding? Chief MacDonald answered that this is an option, this MCV will not.

Chief Proia stated that he fully supports this request. It is an important tool in order for the Police and Fire Departments to work together. He added that the MCV would be used in active shooter drills and high profile events. This MCV will allow both departments to be prepared to organize and make decisions in a private setting. The incident command vehicle is necessary and would be another City asset.

Without further discussion, Councilor Lipof made the motion to approve this transfer. Council members agreed 8-0.

#273-18 Bus License renewals for Boston College Bus

BOSTON COACH TRANSPORTATION, request for annual renewal of the Boston College Bus Licenses. There are no changes proposed to last year's licenses.

- 1) Boston College Law School Routes
- 2) Boston College Main Campus to Boston Route

Action: Public Safety & Transportation Committee Approved 8-0

Note: Captain Anastasia, Attorney Frank Stearns and John Savino, Boston College Transportation and Parking Manager presented the request to renew the annual bus licenses for Boston College.

Atty. Stearns stated that for over twenty-years the City has issued Boston College bus licenses to serve the Boston College law school and the Boston College main campus routes. The buses transport students and staff between these locations. Yearly, Boston College returns to review the specific vehicles, routes, utilization and functions in order to renew their licenses. Several years ago, the Newton City Council approved a shopping mall route. Atty. Stearns stated that the bus routes remain the same as last year and there are no changes to last year's licenses.

Captain Anastasia reported that the Police Department has not received any complaints and supports renewal of these bus licenses. When asked, he stated that he would support renewing this request biennial (every two years), rather than annually.

Committee member's questions, concerns, suggestions and requests:

Questions:

- Where are the buses parked when they are not in operation? Mr. Savino answered that the buses are parked at Boston Coach Corporation in Everett, MA.
- Has Boston Coach Corporation considered using electric vehicles rather than diesel fuel? Mr. Savino responded that they are reviewing this option but the mechanics are hesitant due to electric vehicles not being dependable.
- Do the shuttles operate to and from the Chestnut Hill Mall for commencement and is the commencement shuttle listed under 'special events' subject to a different license? Mr. Savino answered that parking is available at the mall. Atty. Stearns answered that historically, shuttles operating during commencement was not part of the original Board Order.
- Please provide the numbers on ridership. Atty. Stearns stated that the expanded route is well utilized. Mr. Savino provided a handout to Committee members, attached to this report. The handout included total passenger counts for 207 to 2018. The total is 5,413 passengers. The twelve routes have between 13 to 54 riders. The average number of route trips varies between 6.8 and 19.0 trips.

Suggestions:

- It was suggested that Boston College return annually to request renewal of their bus licenses, rather than biennial (every two years) in a positive manner in order to review alternative transportation options, terms, how the bus is operating and pilot programs, etc.

Concerns:

- It is concerning to witness bad driver behavior at the Chestnut Hill Mall during commencement.

Requests:

- Please provide data on ridership for each route.

Chair Ciccone asked Atty. Stearns if he would be willing to have a police detail at the Chestnut Hill Mall for commencement in order to curb driver bad habits? Captain Anastasia and Atty. Stearns agreed to a police detail. Committee members thought a police detail would be helpful addressing the concern of bad driver habits.

Council members determined it would be best if Boston College returned annually requesting to renew their licenses annually, rather than biennial (every two years). Without further discussion, Councilor Noel made a motion to approve the annual renewal of Boston College bus licenses. Committee members agreed 8-0.

#341-18

Bus License renewals and one new bus license request for Trip Advisor Bus

TRIP ADVISOR, requesting triennial renewal of four (4) bus licenses AND one (1) new bus license for a triennial term to provide employee-only shuttle service.

Action:

Public Safety & Transportation Committee Approved 8-0

Note: Captain Anastasia, Karen Brady, Senior Regional Office Manager, Trip Advisor and Lisa Cinella, Director of Operations, TransAction Corporate Shuttles, Inc. presented the request to renew the four annual bus licenses and one new license for Trip Advisor.

Ms. Cinella stated that the buses are successful and prove to benefit Trip Advisor. Ridership is approximately 5,000 to 5,500 riders per month with working amenities; because of this success, an additional bus license is requested. Ms. Brady said that Trip Advisor is working with three neighboring companies discussing the possibility of busing their employees.

Captain Anastasia stated that he spoke with Ms. Cinella and reports that the Police Department has not received any complaints, supports the four renewals and issuing of one new bus license.

Committee member's questions and suggestions:

Questions:

- Has TransAction Associates considered using electric vehicles rather than fuel? Ms. Cinella responded that fuel vehicles are running much more efficient at this time. Electric buses are very expensive. It has been difficult for a company to demonstrate electric buses because of the difficulty starting the bus and that they are not dependable. Electric vehicles are still in the early stages.
- Can the general public ride on these buses? Ms. Cinella answered no; Trip Advisor is a dedicated private business providing transportation for employees to/from Cambridge/Boston and to/from Needham. She then added that the 128 Business Council picks up the public. Trip Advisor pays for this private service.
Northland Properties is building on Needham Street and transportation for this site will be critical. Ms. Cinella suggested working with the 128 Business Council. TransAction Associates has not been approached for transportation services. A Councilor said that there were not enough businesses interested at this time to consider a bus route for Needham Street construction.
- What are the obstacles prohibiting the public to ride on these buses? Ms. Cinella reiterated that TripAdvisor is a private business providing dedicated private transportation for employees. A Councilor then stated that other than liability issues, it is a public license, benefiting the community by providing fewer vehicles and less emission.

Suggestions:

- It was suggested that the success rate should be reinforced making businesses aware on how valuable employee bus licenses are.
- It was suggested that collaboration, creativity and advocacy are all necessary to determine ways that benefits the company may also benefit the City and the public in the future. Ms. Cinella reiterated that approximately 5,000 to 5,500 employees ride these buses per month.

Without further discussion, Councilor Auchincloss made a motion to approve the triennial renewal of four bus licenses and one new bus license for Trip Advisor. Committee members agreed 8-0.

#274-18

Semi-annual taxi license/public auto inspections

POLICE DEPARTMENT, submitting reports of semi-annual taxi license/public auto inspections for review.

Action:

Public Safety & Transportation Committee Approved 7-0, Councilor Cote not voting

Note: Captain Anastasia joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Captain Anastasia stated that the semi-annual inspections were completed the last week of March 2018. The following taxi and livery companies remain in the City.

- one (1) public auto license for Covenant Transportation, Inc.
- one (1) public auto license for Mahase Livery Services, LLC.
- three (3) taxi licenses for Holden's Taxi, Inc.
- two (2) taxi licenses for Newtonville Cab Co., Inc.
- three (3) taxi licenses for Newton Taxi Co.
- two (2) public auto licenses and forty-six (46) taxi licenses for Veterans Taxi of Newton, LLC.

It is unfortunate, in the most recent past; approximately one-hundred medallions have been turned in to the Newton Police Department due to the upclimbing of Uber and Lyft companies making the taxi and public auto companies licensed in the City struggle. The Police Department does not regulate Uber/Lyft vehicles.

The application cost of a taxi or public auto license is \$25.00 per vehicle. The medallion cost is \$50.00 per vehicle.

Captain Anastasia reported that all vehicles passed inspection and he recommends approval for these public auto and taxi medallions.

Without discussion, Councilor Lipof made the motion to approve this item. Committee members agreed 7-0, Councilor Cote not voting.

Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committees

#351-18 Request to transfer funds to cover increases in cost of electricity for Fire Department
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the Fire Department Full-time Salaries Account to the Fire Department Electricity Account to fund the increase in costs of electricity as a result of the Station #3 addition.

Action: **Public Safety & Transportation Committee Approved 7-0, Councilor Cote not voting**

Note: Chief Proia and Asst. Chief Lucchetti, Newton Fire Department joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Chief Proia stated that this request is to pay for electricity costs at six fire stations, Head Quarters and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), station #3 addition and the wire division building for the remainder of FY18. This funding is from the unspent payroll account, money remaining due to unfilled positions. The utility account was underfunded and the additional usage of electricity has depleted the current budget.

Council member's questions:

Questions:

- Is electricity funding in next fiscal years' budget? Chief Proia answered that it costs approximately \$204,000 for electricity in the seven Fire Department buildings. He then said that Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer would be best to answer this question.
- Does the Fire Department charge a fee from people who train in or use the EOC? Chief Proia answered no.

Without further discussion, Councilor Lipof made the motion to approve this request. Council members agreed 7-0, Councilor Cote not voting.

Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committees

#331-18 Appropriate \$121,770 to replace Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend one hundred twenty-one thousand seven hundred seventy dollars (\$121,770) from Free Cash for the purpose of replacing 120 bottles (50% of the Fire Department's inventory) for the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.

Action: Public Safety & Transportation Committee Approved 7-0, Councilor Cote not voting

Note: Chief Proia and Asst. Chief Lucchetti, Newton Fire Department joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Chief Proia stated that this appropriation is to replace 120 bottles of the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). It was requested that the SCBA be replaced in the CIP for several years.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard recommendation is to replace the SCBA every fifteen years. Using them beyond the recommended standard would place an undue liability upon the City. Once replaced, the old ones would be returned to the vendor who destroys them making them inoperable ensuring no person is harmed.

The Fire Department has an additional 120 bottles, which are five years old. These bottles will be replaced in ten years.

Without discussion, Councilor Downs made the motion to approve this appropriation. Council members agreed 7-0, Councilor Cote not voting.

Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committees

#332-18 Appropriate \$33,739 for extractor and gear dryer for two fire stations

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend thirty-three thousand seven hundred thirty-nine dollars (\$33,739) from Free Cash to purchase an extractor and gear dryer for both Station 1 (Newton Corner) and Station 2 (Commonwealth Avenue).

Action: Public Safety & Transportation Committee Approved 7-0, Councilor Cote not voting

Note: Chief Proia and Asst. Chief Lucchetti, Newton Fire Department joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Chief Proia stated that this appropriation is to purchase an extractor and gear dryer for Stations 1 and 2, the last two stations that do not have these appliances available. The extractors are commercial washing machines designed to wash firefighter gear. They can also be used to wash contaminated clothing. The gear dryers will allow a firefighter to dry their gear after washing, or when wet at a much faster rate. Proper washing and drying extends the life of expectancy of the expensive firefighter gear. Stations 1 and 2 sometimes use nearby stations to wash and dry their gear to rid the carcinogens and synthetics from their gear and equipment. It is now mandated for the vital long-term health of the firefighters that contaminants be cleaned prior to them going back into service.

Without discussion, Councilor Noel made the motion to approve this appropriation. Council members agreed 7-0, Councilor Cote not voting.

At approximately, 8:15 p.m., Councilor Auchincloss made the motion to adjourn. Committee members agreed 7-0, Councilor Cote not voting.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chair

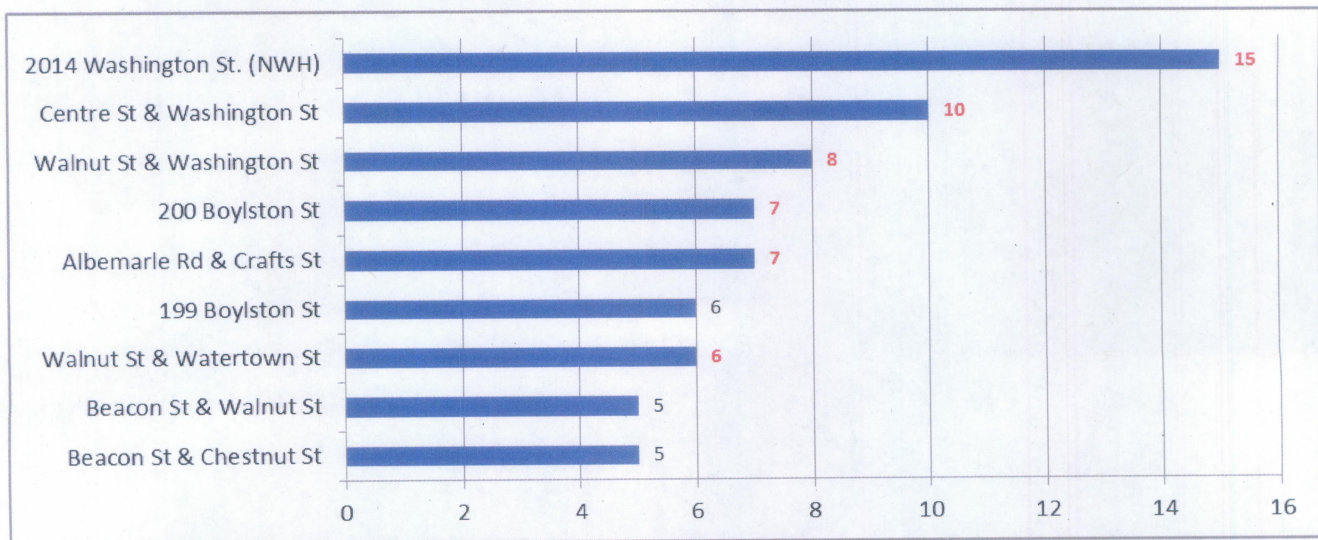


Newton Police Department



Top Accident Locations & Accident totals where traffic changes have been made

October 3, 2017 to June 5, 2018 – Last report issued on May 8, 2018.



Accident totals at locations where traffic control changes have been made

Lexington St. & Staniford St. – Install temporary Pedestrian Crossing, March of 2018

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 2/1/2018) - 0

Accidents after change (3/1/2018 – 6/5/18) – 0

California St. & Jassett St. – New Controller Installed, February of 2018

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 1/31/2018) - 1

Accidents after change (2/1/2018 – 6/5/18) – 0

Centre St. & Bowen St. – New Cabinet installed, February of 2018

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 1/31/2018) - 0

Accidents after change (2/1/2018 – 6/5/18) – 1 **+1**

Harvard St. & Washington St. – New signal operational, October of 2017

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 9/30/2017) - 6

Accidents after change (10/1/2017 – 6/5/18) – 1

Beacon St. & Beethoven St. & Evelyn St. – New signal operational, August of 2017

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 7/31/2017) - 0

Accidents after change (8/1/2017 – 6/5/18) – 0

Jackson St. & Pearl St. – Upgrade signal hardware, August of 2017

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 7/31/2017) - 7

Accidents after change (8/1/2017 – 6/5/18) – 0

Centre St. & Tyler Ter. – New emergency signal installation, Summer of 2017

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 6/20/2017) - 4

Accidents after change (6/21/2017 – 6/5/18) – 1

Washington St. & Auburn St. & Perkins St. – Prospect, Upgrade Signal Hardware and Detection, Summer of 2016

Accidents before change (1/1/2015 – 6/20/2016) - 5

Accidents after change (6/21/2016 – 6/5/18) – 5

Watertown St. & Adams St. – New signal operational, Summer of 2016

Accidents before change (1/1/2015 – 6/20/2016) - 2

Accidents after change (6/21/2016 – 6/5/18) – 6

Comm. Ave & Lexington St – New Cabinet, Summer of 2016

Accidents before change (1/1/2015 – 6/20/2016) - 2

Accidents after change (6/21/2016 – 6/5/18) – 8

BC Shuttle

The Shops at Chestnut Hill Shuttle

Bus leaves every hour at the hour from Alumni Stadium:

| <u>DATE:</u> | <u>TIME:</u> |
|---|--------------------|
| Thursday | 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM |
| Sunday | 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM |
| *Last bus leaves Chestnut Hill Mall 30 minutes before | |

All Stops:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A. Alumni Stadium | D. The Street |
| B. Chestnut Hill Mall | E. Boston College Main Gate |
| C. Chestnut Hill Square | F. Boston College Robsham Theatre |

*Traffic and weather may cause changes in the schedule. Times are approximate.
Check on Transloc Rider for bus location, stops and announcements.
Questions or Concerns? Contact the Parking and Transportation Office*

By Phone: (617) 552-0151

Or by Email: shuttle@bc.edu



Governor
Charles D. Baker
Lieutenant Governor
Karyn E. Polito
EOEA Secretary
Matthew A. Beaton
DCR Commissioner
Leo P. Roy

DCR PERMIT
MOVING VEHICLE
Make: Gillig
Model: Low floor
Height: 10'
Length: 35' 8"
Weight: 27,360 lbs

COMMERCIAL / BUS

#273-18

John Savino-BC

06-06-18

2019

**PERMIT
ISSUED TO:**

Boston College
140 Commonwealth Ave, Boston, MA 02467
John Savino: 617-552-1273
john.savino@bc.edu

**PURPOSE
of
PERMIT:**

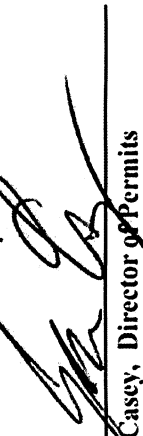
Transporting students to shopping malls

**DCR Parkways,
Boulevards, Roads:**

Hammond Pond Parkway

* PERMIT MUST BE AVAILABLE IN VEHICLE UPON DEMAND BY POLICE OFFICER *
HEIGHT AND WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED

DCR may revoke this permit at any time upon written notice for violation of any term or condition, or upon a determination that is in the public's interest. Permit is valid one (1) year from issue date.


Sean Casey, Director of Permits
Issue Date 3/15/18

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|----------------|----|------------------|-------|
| Total Passengers2017-2018: | | 5,413 | | | |
| <u>BUS #</u> | | <u># Rider</u> | | <u># trips</u> | |
| ↓ | | | | | |
| Total 11:00 AM | 463 | # 11:00 AM | 34 | Average 11:00 AM | 13.62 |
| Total 12:00 PM | 493 | # 12:00 PM | 34 | Average 12:00 PM | 14.50 |
| Total 1:00 PM | 429 | # 1:00 PM | 34 | Average 1:00 PM | 12.62 |
| Total 2:00 PM | 408 | # 2:00 PM | 34 | Average 2:00 PM | 12.00 |
| Total 3:00 PM | 329 | # 3:00 PM | 34 | Average 3:00 PM | 9.68 |
| Total 4:30 PM | 119 | # 4:30 PM | 13 | Average 4:30 PM | 9.15 |
| | | | | | |
| Total 4:00 PM | 895 | # 4:00 PM | 54 | Average 4:00 PM | 16.6 |
| Total 5:00 PM | 628 | # 5:00 PM | 33 | Average 5:00 PM | 19.0 |
| Total 6:00 PM | 533 | # 6:00 PM | 33 | Average 6:00 PM | 16.2 |
| Total 7:00 PM | 489 | # 7:00 PM | 33 | Average 7:00 PM | 14.8 |
| Total 8:00 PM | 416 | # 8:00 PM | 33 | Average 8:00 PM | 12.6 |
| Total 9:00 PM | 191 | # 9:00 PM | 28 | Average 9:00 PM | 6.8 |