

February 12, 2025

Watertown Traffic Commission

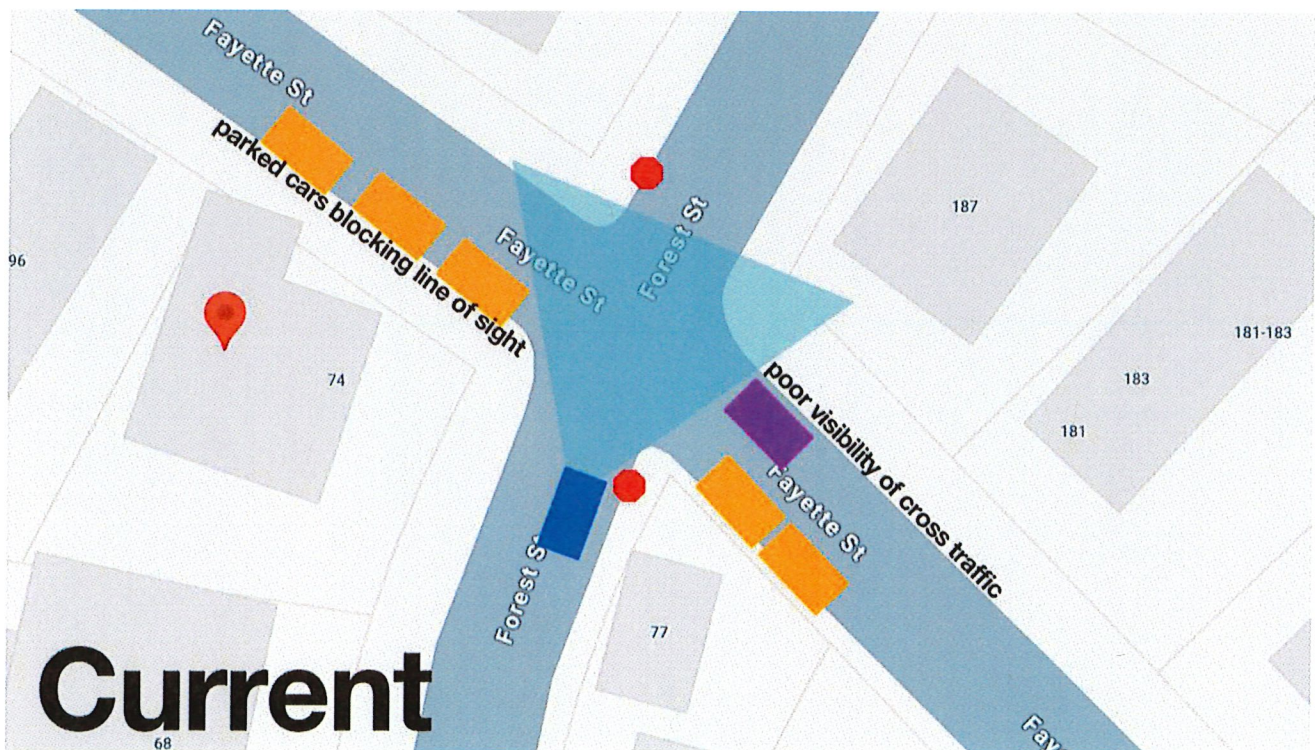
552 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

To the Watertown Traffic Commission,

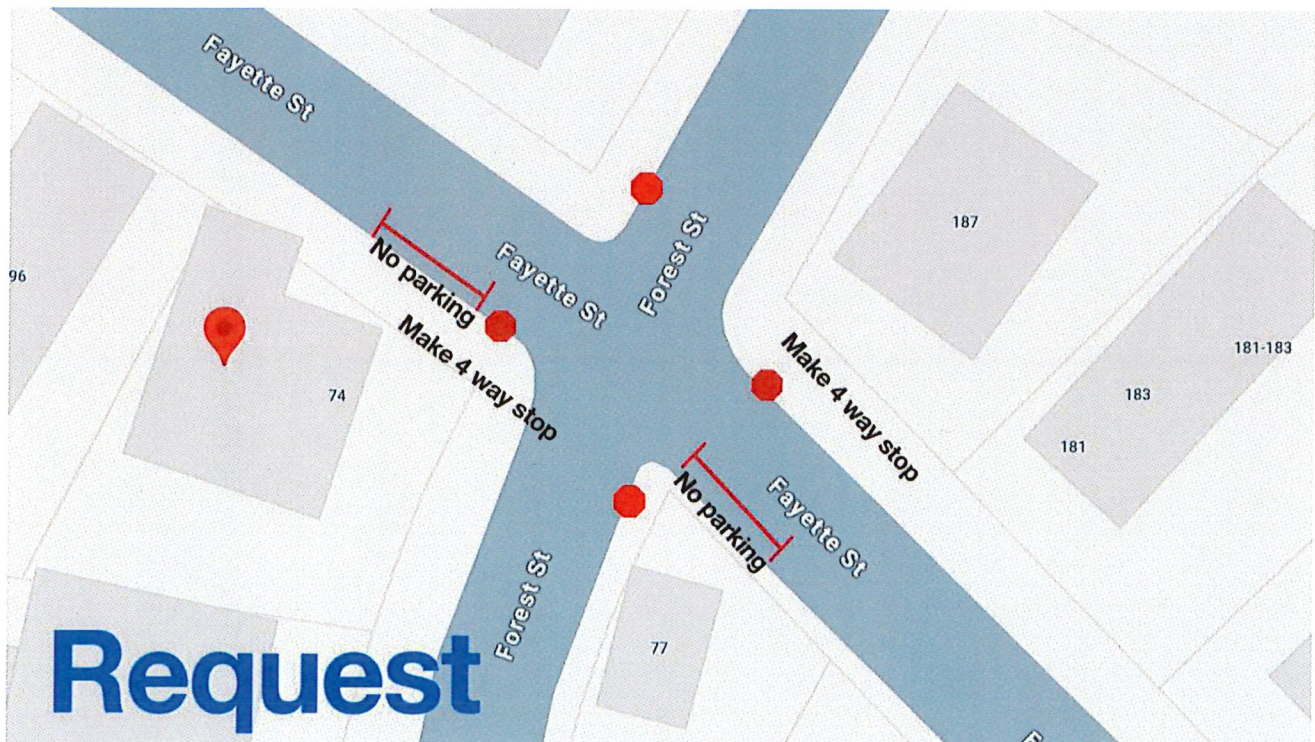
I, Margaret Wong, and my husband, Michael Cutillo, reside at 74 Forest Street at the corner of Forest and Fayette in Watertown, MA. I have owned and lived at this address for almost 12 years and have seen the aftermath of numerous car accidents at this intersection, in addition to needing to drive this corner frequently ourselves and experiencing difficulties in seeing the cross traffic on Fayette, which does not stop at Forest -- particularly because Fayette is not perpendicular to Forest and has a lot of line of sight issues, which is compounded by parked cars along the side of the street.

Please see below for rough illustrations of the current setup:



The blue triangle is a rough approximation of the visibility from the stop sign where one cannot easily see traffic coming from either side on Fayette. Orange rectangles are parked cars. Pink rectangle is cross traffic on Fayette and blue rectangle is stopped traffic on Forest.

We respectfully request the intersection be made a 4-way stop, and eliminate parking along side of Fayette where marked in the below illustration to improve the visibility and increase safety for pedestrians and vehicles crossing at this intersection.



SINCERELY,

MARGARET WONG
MEPONINE@GMAIL.COM, 339-213-2066

MICHAEL CUTILLO
MCUTILLO@GMAIL.COM, 617-803-5783

74 FOREST STREET
WATERTOWN, MA 02472



CITY OF WATERTOWN

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
124 ORCHARD STREET
WATERTOWN MA 02472

Thomas Brady
Director of Public Works

(P) 617-972-6420
(F) 617-972-6402

February 5, 2025

Traffic Commission
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Re: All-Way Stop Analysis for the Intersection of Forest St. and Fayette St.

Dear Traffic Commissioners,

The Engineering Division of DPW has conducted an analysis of the intersection of Forest St. and Fayette St. to determine if it meets applicability for the installation of an all-way stop control. Utilizing the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)*, 11th edition, the Division has evaluated the intersection based on the five warrants listed under Section 2B.12 All-Way Stop Control. Per the MUTCD, meeting any one of these warrants would justify in the installation of an all-way stop control when combined with engineering judgement.

1. Warrant A: Crash Experience – five or more reported crashes within a 12-month period
2. Warrant B: Sight Distance – sight distance on a minor road controlled by a STOP sign is not adequate for a vehicle to turn onto or cross
3. Warrant C: Transition to Signal Control or Transition to Yield Control at a Circular Intersection – interim measure that can be installed to control traffic while arrangements are made for the installation of a traffic control signal
4. Warrant D: 8-Hour Volume – when vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian volume entering the intersection is 300/hr on the major streets and 200/hr on the minor streets for each of the same 8 hours.
5. Warrant E: Other Factors – need to control left turn conflicts, intersection of two residential neighborhood collector streets of similar design, or when pedestrian or bicycle movements support installation of an all-way stop control.

Warrant B: Sight Distance has been determined to be applicable as northbound traffic along Forest Street has an obstructed easterly view down Fayette Street. The presence of a building, 77 Forest Street, and the general geometry of the roadway limits the field of view to approximately 70 feet. Figure 1 below helps illustrate the issue with the general geometry of

the roadway outlined in blue, existing stop signs denoted as red dots, and the obstruction building outlined in yellow. The green arrow indicates the northbound vehicle as it approaches the intersection.



Figure 1: Aerial view of intersection via Google Maps

It is therefore the recommendation of the Engineering Division that the intersection warrants an all-way stop control. As of the date of this memorandum, DPW is undertaking preliminary design for the redevelopment of Forest Street as part of the City's overall roadway capital improvements project. If initiated, this all-way stop-controlled intersection will be incorporated in the reconstruction of the intersection. At that time, any recommendations provided by this memorandum may be adjusted as proposed conditions may change.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyler Glode, PE

City Engineer

Sampson, David

To: Wei Dai
Subject: RE: Traffic signals at the Watertown Street and California Road junction

From: Wei Dai <crystaldaian@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 5:03 PM
To: Sampson, David <dsampson@police.watertown-ma.gov>
Subject: Re: Traffic signals at the Watertown Street and California Road junction

Hi Sergeant Sampson,

Thank you so much for getting back to me and explaining in details. I'd like to attend the meeting but it seems both of them are on a weekday afternoon, and unfortunately I don't think I'll be able to make it. But I'll make sure to let you know if anything changes.

Thanks, and have a great weekend!

Kind regards,
Crystal

On Thu, Mar 13, 2025 at 3:24 PM Sampson, David <dsampson@police.watertown-ma.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Ms. Dai,

I received a copy of the email that you sent to Mr. Woodard. Please be advised that your requests must be heard by the Traffic Commission. Typically, a No Turn on Red restriction is used to prohibit vehicles from turning onto another public way but your driveway entrance is part of the signalized intersection. Also, the driveway entrance is quite a distance from the Watertown Street Stop line (but still within the intersection) which may cause some confusion for your neighbors.

In terms of a walk light or some other device for pedestrians, this is a very unique request. Please know that vehicles on California Street are not considered traveling "straight" into the driveway. Vehicles are leaving the roadway to enter the [20 Watertown Street private](#) driveway, just like any other private driveway. Motorists entering the driveway are required to yield the right of way to pedestrians and others on the sidewalk. Given that the sidewalk at [20 Watertown Street](#) is not a shared or multi-use path and there isn't a history of pedestrian related conflicts or collisions on that sidewalk, I don't know whether the Commission would support installing any pedestrian warnings or controls at your driveway.

I can add your requests to the March 26th Traffic Commission meeting. I believe that the meeting will be at 1:30pm and will be held in the Administration Building, Council Chambers (149 Main Street). You are not required to attend the meeting, but I strongly encourage you to do so. It is helpful to be there so that you can convey your concerns and answer any questions that the Commission may have. If you would like to be present but cannot make the March meeting, the following meeting is on April 30th at 1:30pm (same location). Please respond to this email, and let me know your preference. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Sgt. D. Sampson

From: Woodard, Kevin <kwoodard@watertown-ma.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 11:08 AM
To: Wei Dai <crystaldaian@gmail.com>
Cc: Sampson, David <dsampson@police.watertown-ma.gov>
Subject: Re: Traffic signals at the Watertown Street and California Road junction

Hi Crystal,

Thank you for reaching out with your concerns. I am including Sgt Sampson with the WPD, and who is also on the Traffic Commission, to assist with this matter.

Thank you,



Kevin Woodard

Supervisor of Traffic Control

Department of Public Works

Phone 617-972-6420 x13134

Mobile 857-300-3316

Email kwoodard@watertown-ma.gov

[124 Orchard St.](#) Watertown, MA 02472

From: Wei Dai <crystaldaian@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 8:07 PM

To: Woodard, Kevin <kwoodard@watertown-ma.gov>

Subject: Traffic signals at the Watertown Street and California Road junction

 _031125_recording.mp4

 _021025_recording.mov

Hi Kevin,

Greetings, and I hope this message finds you well!

My name is Crystal and I am a resident at [20 Watertown St., Watertown, MA 02472](#). I am reaching out to you because I have some concerns regarding the traffic control right in front of our complex garage, at the junction of Watertown St and California Rd. It is a bit unlike a standard crossroad because the 1) two roads are not perpendicular, 2) one way goes into our garage, and 3) there is no pedestrian signal for people walking on Watertown street and passing the garage (you'll see in one of the videos).

I attached two video recordings from my dashcam where I found dangerous and hoped that maybe we can improve the situation and make it safer for everyone.

In both videos, I was coming back from work and going from California Road into our garage on a green light. No accidents happened, but I do find there could be potential safety concerns.

In the 021025 recording, a resident just blew through a red light and turned right to enter the garage. There was no accident but it just scares me - what if I was at a higher speed and did not have time to react to this? Obviously this person should have stopped before making the right turn. But I also found that because of the angle between California Rd and Watertown St, it is not easy to observe cars coming from California Rd, especially when there is another car in the left lane on Watertown St. I was hoping we could add a 'No turn on red' sign there.

In the 031125 recording, a person on skateboard passed the garage on the pedestrian part on Watertown St. I always slow down and look for any pedestrians before I enter the garage. But I think it can be a bit misleading as a driver should feel safe to go straight on a green light. Plus if the pedestrians are walking, it would be easy to notice. But this person skated so fast and was harder to notice in advance. I don't know whether we can do something to improve the situation.

These may not seem huge issues - I just need to be 'careful' and watch out. But these are just two examples of all the potentially dangerous scenarios I encountered at this junction. Not to mention certain drivers who don't yield when coming from California Rd to Watertown St by 'making a left turn' when I need to go from the garage to California Rd by 'going straight' (even with a 'left turn yield' sign). And also all the cars blocking the intersection with the 'Do not block intersection' sign during peak hours. Thinking of all of our residents who live here and have to go through this everyday, I hope we can make it safer and easier for everyone. It's always fine, just until accidents happen.

I understand it's a busy and complicated junction, and honestly I can live with being blocked by cars in the intersection and having to wait for 3 lights before being able to get on the road, but I sincerely hope that we can make it safer.

Thank you so much for reading through and any help you may offer! I am happy to chat if needed.

I am looking forward to hearing from you!

Kind regards,

Crystal Dai

When writing or responding, please remember that any email sent or received by an employee of the City of Watertown is subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law (M.G.L. c. 66).