



# CITY OF WATERTOWN

## TRAFFIC COMMISSION



*Mr. Robert Airasian, Chair*  
*Justin Hanrahan, Police Chief*  
*Ryan Nicholson, Fire Chief*  
*Thomas Brady, Director of Public Works*  
*Steven Magoon, Community Development and Planning*  
*Tyler Glode, City Engineer*  
*Ms. Kelly Gallagher*  
*Mr. Daniel Grieneisen*  
*Mr. Ryan McMorrow*

September 4, 2025 Special Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Robert Airasian, Justin Hanrahan, Ryan Nicholson, Thomas Brady, Steven Magoon, Tyler Glode, Kelly Gallagher, Daniel Grieneisen, Ryan McMorrow

A special meeting of the Traffic Commission was held to discuss a request by Director of Public Works Thomas Brady to restrict parking on the east side of Russell Avenue from Mount Auburn Street to Bellevue Road.

Mr. Airasian began the meeting by setting the agenda and purpose of the meeting and introducing new Commission members, Mr. Grieneisen and Mr. McMorrow.

City Manager George Proakis explained that a proposed plan to restrict parking on Russell Avenue and add a bicycle lane was shared with the residents in June, 2025. Mr. Proakis felt that a Traffic Commission meeting was an appropriate venue for residents to express their thoughts on the proposal. The City is attempting to comply with its Complete Streets policy, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and the City's Curb and Sidewalk Ordinance. The goal is to accommodate all modes of travel, install granite curbing, and keep traffic moving slowly.

Mr. Proakis noted that there are several challenges to Russell Avenue. The roadway is currently 33' wide, and although granite curbing has been installed, the current drainage system prevents using the curbing to narrow the roadway. The alternative to slow traffic is to apply road markings to narrow travel lanes, delineate parking areas, etc.

The original plan submitted to the Traffic Commission provided parking on the west side of the street, an uphill bike lane, and marked travel lanes to slow traffic. When the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was reviewed it revealed that the first two blocks of Russell Ave from Mt. Auburn to Columbia were prioritized. Mr. Proakis felt that roadway painting will encourage slower traffic.

Director of Public Works Mr. Brady stated that the resident feedback received on June 26, 2025 has been incorporated into a revised plan.

City Engineer Tyler Glode presented the new plan which maintains a 33' roadway width, a designated bicycle lane with restricted parking on the east side of Russell Ave from Mt. Auburn Street to Columbia Street, and delineates parking spaces on the street. The parking restriction in this area will help facilitate higher volumes of traffic to and from the high school.

During Mr. Glode's presentation, many audience members asked questions while sitting in their seats. Residents had concerns including the potential loss of parking near the Church of the Good Shepherd, available HP parking, parking for the daycare that is housed in the church, vehicle speeds on Russell Avenue, and cut-through traffic.

Mr. Airasian reported that the Commission receives many complaints about drivers cutting through neighborhoods. He stated that the Commission takes traffic calming seriously.

Mr. Magoon reported that it was important to recognize the question that was in front of the Commission (to restrict parking on the east side of Russell Avenue from Mount Auburn Street to Bellevue Road). He felt that striping the roadway is not a large capital investment, and can be adjusted if needed. Mr. Magoon addressed the sentiment that there aren't enough bikes to justify these types of projects. Mr. Magoon felt that these areas are not heavily used partly because there is a lack of bicycle facilities. Bicycle facilities help people feel more comfortable, which leads to increased use. Mr. Magoon felt that the new proposal was a good compromise.

Ms. Gallagher concurred with Mr. Magoon, and asked whether HP Only parking on the west side of Russell Avenue across from the church would be feasible as an additional compromise.

Chief Nicholson asked whether the proposed bicycle lane could be just from Mt. Auburn Street to Broadway. If that could be done, approximately 6 parking spaces could be preserved.

Chief Hanrahan asked whether the proposed parking restriction could be limited to a certain time of day, and only when school is in session.

Mr. Brady acknowledged the concerns and questions raised at this meeting and will assess the road plan from Mt. Auburn Street to Columbia Street for other possible alternatives.

Mr. Airasian felt that the new proposed plan is a generous compromise and thanked City Engineer Glode for reassessing Russell Avenue.

Mr. Proakis appreciated the Commission scheduling a special meeting to address Russell Avenue and asked the Commission to consider another special meeting to continue the discussion. Mr. Proakis asked the Department of Public Works to consider marking/painting the crosswalks while parking restrictions within the first two blocks continue to be worked out.

Mr. Magoon made a motion to table the parking restriction discussion on Russell Avenue to a future meeting; Ms. Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sgt. David Sampson  
Assistant to the Traffic Commission