



CITY OF WATERTOWN

TRAFFIC COMMISSION



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Thomas Brady, Director of Public Works
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January 22, 2026

The next meeting of the Watertown Traffic Commission will be held on Wednesday January 28, 2026 in the Philip Pane Meeting Room (Ground Floor), 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA at 7:00 p.m. The following items are on the agenda for discussion:

1. Approve the minutes of the December 3, 2025, Commission meeting.
2. Request by Ms. Radha Pertaub of Common Street for the installation of speed bumps on Common Street.
3. Request by Ms. Julie White of Wheeler Lane to restrict parking on Wheeler Lane at the intersection of Riverside Street.
4. Request by Mr. Barney Heath of Coolidge Ave for the installation of a speed bump in the vicinity of 199 Coolidge Avenue.
5. Request by Ms. Hannah Sevian of Mt. Auburn Street for a No Parking restriction on the east side of Auburn Court.
6. Request by Ms. Erin McLaughlin of Palfrey Street for traffic calming measures on Palfrey Street.
7. Request by Mr. Nick Andriolo of Lowell Avenue for the installation of an in-street Do Not Enter sign on Lowell Avenue at Carroll Street, and to assess roadway width on Lowell Avenue between Carroll Street and York Avenue.
8. Request by Sgt. Sampson to remove the Handicap Only parking space in front of 42/44 Copeland Street.
9. New Business

Respectfully Submitted,
Sgt. D. Sampson

Jan 20, 2026

Dear Members of the Watertown Transportation Committee,

My name is Radha Pertaub, and I am a resident of 177 Common Street in Watertown. I am writing to formally request the Committee's prompt consideration of traffic-calming measures—specifically, the installation of a speed bump or similar intervention—on Common Street due to ongoing and serious safety concerns.

Since moving to this neighborhood, I have consistently observed vehicles traveling well above the posted speed limit on Common Street, both during and outside of school hours. The volume and speed of traffic create conditions that feel unsafe on a daily basis for residents, pedestrians, and anyone attempting to cross or access the street. These conditions are not occasional or isolated; they are persistent and predictable, which raises concern that a serious incident is not a matter of if, but when.

While I appreciate the City's existing efforts, including speed display signage and periodic police presence, these measures have not resulted in sustained speed reduction. As a resident who witnesses traffic behavior firsthand on a daily basis, I am increasingly concerned that the current conditions pose a real and immediate risk to public safety.

I am grateful for Councilor Lisa Feltner's outreach and acknowledgment of the documented concerns related to speeding, pedestrian safety, and sightline limitations in this area, including near the Bellevue crossing. I understand that traffic-calming solutions such as speed bumps require data collection, analysis, and careful planning, and I fully respect and support that process. At the same time, given the ongoing nature of the safety issues, I respectfully ask that this location be treated as a priority for evaluation.

I am prepared to assist in any way that may be helpful, including coordinating neighborhood input, gathering signatures of support, or participating in data collection efforts. My goal is to work collaboratively with the Transportation Committee, the Watertown Police Department, and City staff to help prevent accidents and improve safety for all roadway users.

Thank you for your time, attention, and service to the community. I would appreciate guidance on the next formal steps and anticipated timeline for reviewing traffic-calming measures on Common Street.

Sincerely,

Radha Pertaub

177 Common Street, Watertown, MA Tel:

rpertaub@gmail.com

December 17, 2025

Watertown Traffic Commission
Attn: Sgt. D. Sampson
552 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Good day Sergeant Sampson,

I am the owner of the home at 4 Wheeler Lane in Watertown.

I am writing to express concern about parking, traffic obstruction, and poor line of sight at the top of Wheeler Lane at its intersection with Riverside Street.

Individuals often park on the west side of the street on the corner leading up to Riverside Street. It is not uncommon to see cars parked there for the entire day. Frequently, the trash and recycling trucks have difficulty or are entirely unable to make the right hand turn onto Riverside Street. A couple of weeks ago, the trash truck had to back out of Wheeler Lane onto Charles River Road, as he was unable to turn onto Riverside.

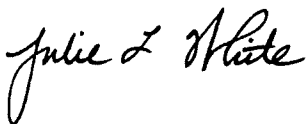
Trucks frequently drive onto the curve that abuts my lawn at the exact corner of Wheeler Lane and Riverside, and one, in fact, recently hit the one-way street sign that is located there. The sign is bent and there are tire tracks on the sidewalk as evidence.

When cars are parked on the west side of the street, Wheeler Lane traffic heading north to Riverside Street is forced to hug the East side of the street and do not always see pedestrians who are walking around the corner. Although there is a sidewalk on Wheeler Lane on the West side of the street, it is not unusual for people who are coming from Riverside East of Wheeler Lane to walk down the street.

I am hoping that restrictions could be placed on parking on both sides of the street where the curve begins and the lane goes up to Riverside Street to allow trucks to make the corner and to reduce the chance of a pedestrian being struck by a vehicle.

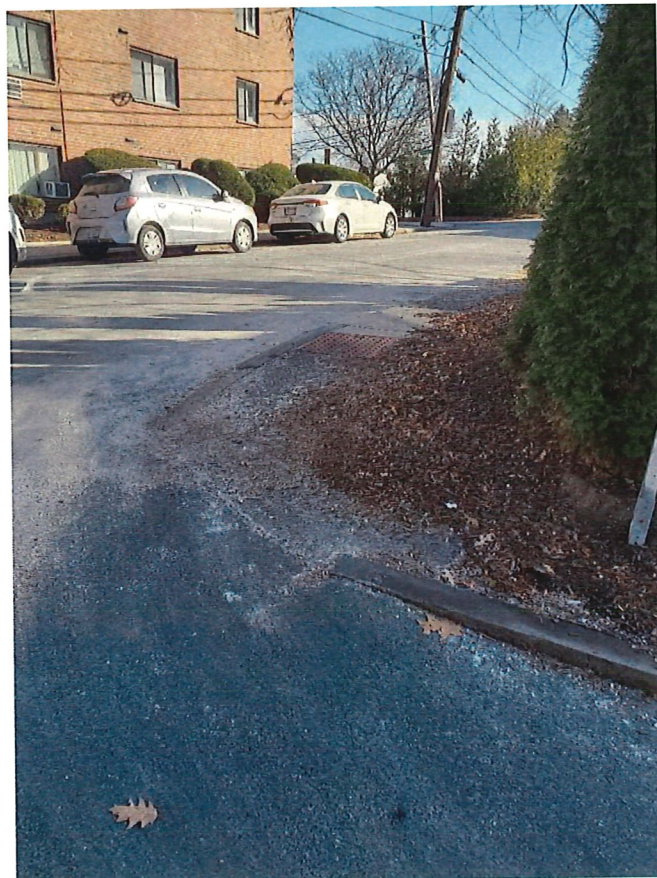
Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie White
4 Wheeler Lane
Watertown, MA 02472

Wheeler Lane





December 25, 2025

Sgt. Sampson
Watertown Police Department

Subj: Coolidge Avenue Traffic Calming

Dear Sgt. Sampson:

I am a resident at Crossroads on the Charles, 199 Coolidge Ave. in Watertown. I walk my dogs an average of three times daily before 9, late afternoon around 4pm and evenings around 8pm. On these walks, I can observe and witness how quickly cars move east as they accelerate from the Grove St. intersection and west as they approach the intersection from Cambridge. They move at great speed especially passing our exit driveway and the just past our building and the driveway immediately adjacent – neither of which has great visibility.

My sense is that drivers see this open stretch of road as a speedway cut through with little traffic and interruption seen and therefore invites high speed.

My request is a simple speed bump somewhere in the stretch near our driveway to slow cars in the approach to our driveway.

Happy to provide further information.

Sincerely,

Barney Heath

199 Coolidge Ave, Unit 204

December 23, 2025

Watertown Traffic Commission
Attn: Sgt. D. Sampson
552 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Re: Request to consider "No Parking Here to Corner" restriction on Auburn Court

Dear Sgt. Sampson and the Watertown Traffic Commission,

I am a resident at the corner of Mount Auburn Street and Auburn Court, writing with neighbors to request a parking restriction that would alleviate access difficulties on Auburn Court.

When vehicles, particularly large ones, park at the very end of Auburn Court where it intersects Mount Auburn Street, it becomes difficult for cars to enter and exit Auburn Court, a short dead-end street. Garbage and recycling trucks have skipped pickups on Auburn Court, likely because they cannot enter the street. I have had to call DPW to request makeup pickups. Additionally, visibility is reduced for vehicles entering and exiting Auburn Court. Recent construction activity on Mount Auburn Street has increased the access problem, with work vehicles parked at the entrance to Auburn Court for entire days.

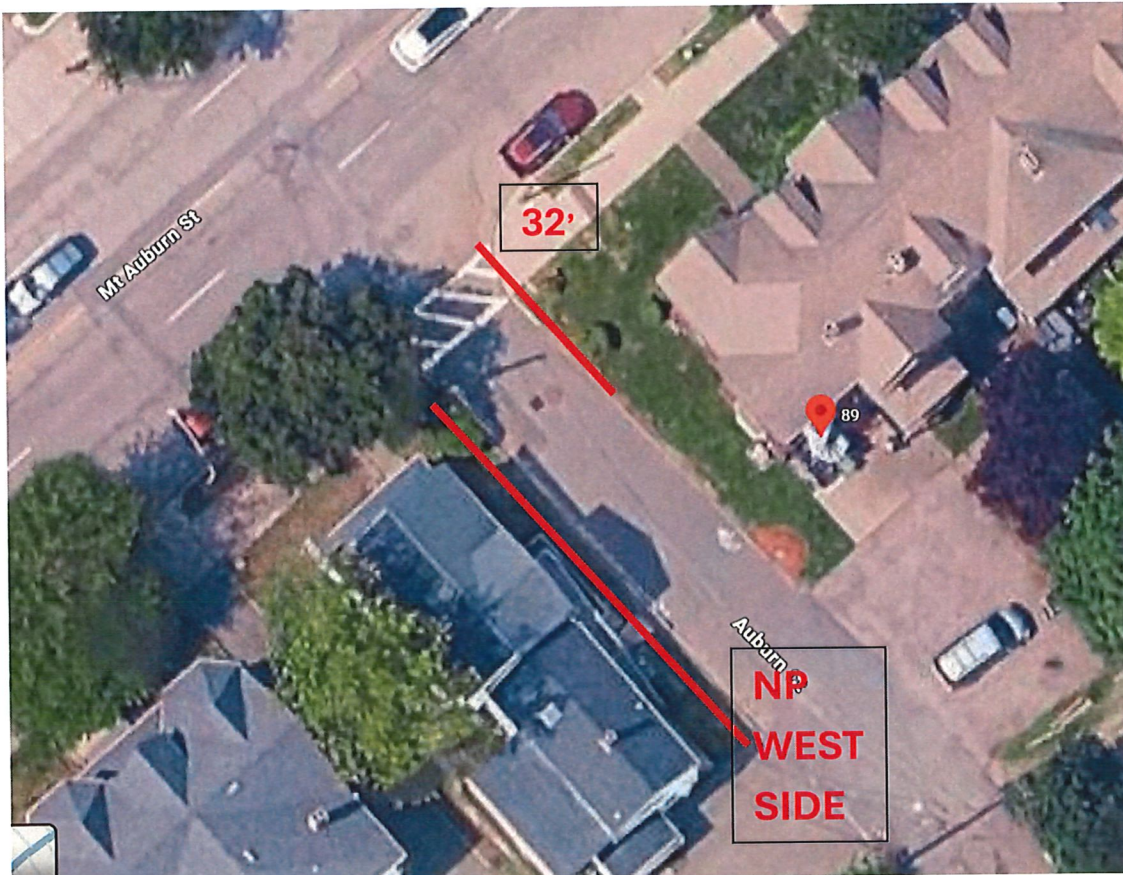
Auburn Court currently has no parking signs. Neighbors are already in the habit of parking on the side where 89 Mount Auburn Street is located. I request that the City place a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign on this same side of Auburn Court (the 89 Mount Auburn Street side) at the appropriate distance from the Mount Auburn Street intersection.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,
Hannah Sevia
89A Mount Auburn Street

Auburn Court





Sampson, David

From: erin mclaughlin <erinamclaughlin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 10:49 AM
To: Hanrahan, Justin; Traffic Commission
Subject: Palfrey Street Traffic

Dear Traffic Commission- It is beyond time something was done to manage the traffic on Palfrey St.

I live at 175, at the top of the hill, and am regularly shocked by how fast drivers fly over the hill, not knowing who might be going just as fast in the other direction. Often cars or work vehicles are parked at the top of the hill, narrowing it down to 1 lane. I'm shocked there hasn't been a head on collision. Additionally pulling out of our driveway is challenging. No matter how cautious I am there are frequently drivers flying up from the mount auburn side, again with little visibility of what they are going to encounter as they reach the top of the hill.

Drivers also think (and I know this from reading a very long thread on NextDoor about this) that honking as they fly over the hill is not only enough warning to whoever else is on the road but the correct, legal thing to do rather than just slowing down. This not only does nothing to increase safety but is a noise nuisance late at night.

I am not just a homeowner on Palfrey, but a parent. I worry every time one of my children crosses the street. If we are walking to the library or a restaurant in the city center, generally we walk down to Pearl St or Church St and use an intersection with a cross walk and better visibility, but that is not necessarily practical if we are crossing the street to a parked vehicle or to see a neighbor. My 12 year old has started to navigate our community on her own, including cat sitting for our across the street neighbors. I do not feel safe letting her cross the street without me present to make sure that the way is clear or that drivers are slowing down and yielding. The speeding drivers are negatively impacting the neighborhood dynamic.

As conditions stand drivers have no incentive to change how they behave while moving through my community. The city needs to do something to make the street safer. I wish I could have been at the meeting today, but 1:30 is a tough time for members of the community who work a standard schedule.

Thank you,

Erin McLaughlins

175 Palfrey St, 2

Sampson, David

From: Nick Andriolo <andriolo.nick@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2025 9:17 AM
To: Traffic Commission
Subject: Lowell Ave During School Hours
Attachments: IMG_4854.jpeg; IMG_4853.jpeg; IMG_2496.jpeg; IMG_4855.jpeg

Hello Traffic Commission,

I would like some help with the parking on my street, Lowell Ave. I live at 90 Lowell, at the very end between Carroll and the school. Between parking on both sides of the street, people parking where it says "no parking from here to corner", and drivers ignoring the "Do Not Enter during school hours" sign, it is very difficult to make it in and out of my house during the school day and drive on this portion of the road.

I've attached a few pictures of the street from today, 12/12/25, at about 9 am and another picture from my house showing a white car parked in a no parking area.

The street is hardly 8' wide when cars are parking on both sides and if some enters the from the "Do not enter" direction it causes a problem if someone is driving in the correct direction. Can an a-frame sign be put in the middle of the road?

Also, when the cars are parked on the corner where it says "No parking here to corner" it is very difficult to get out of my driveway. This is seemingly not enforced.

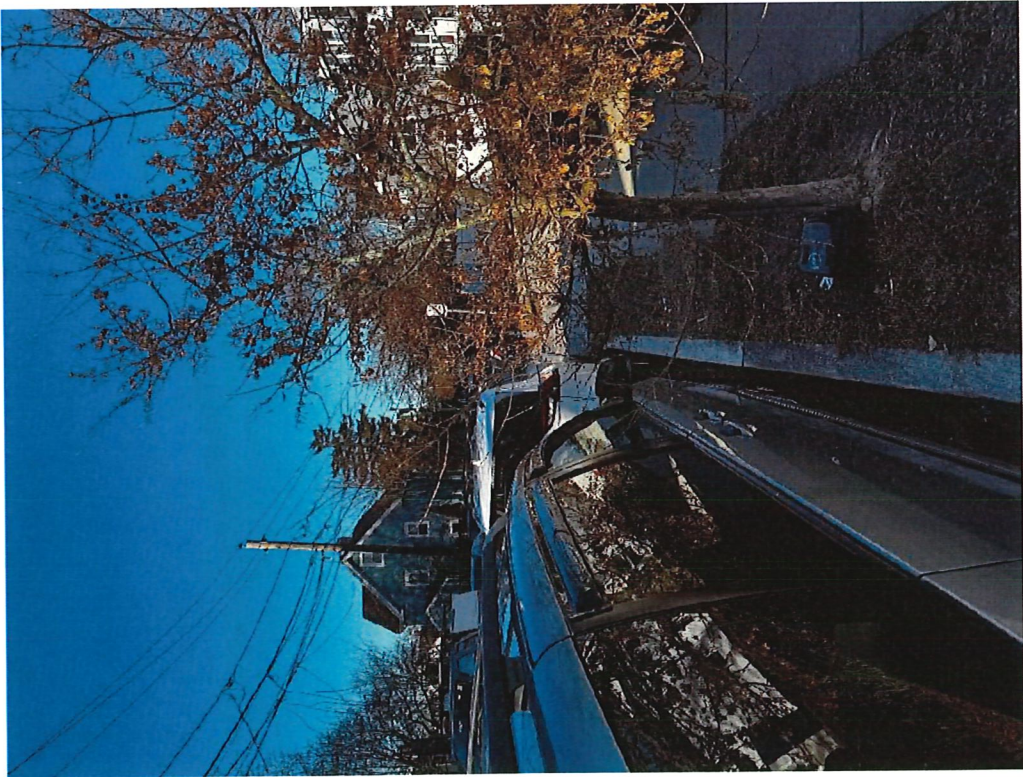
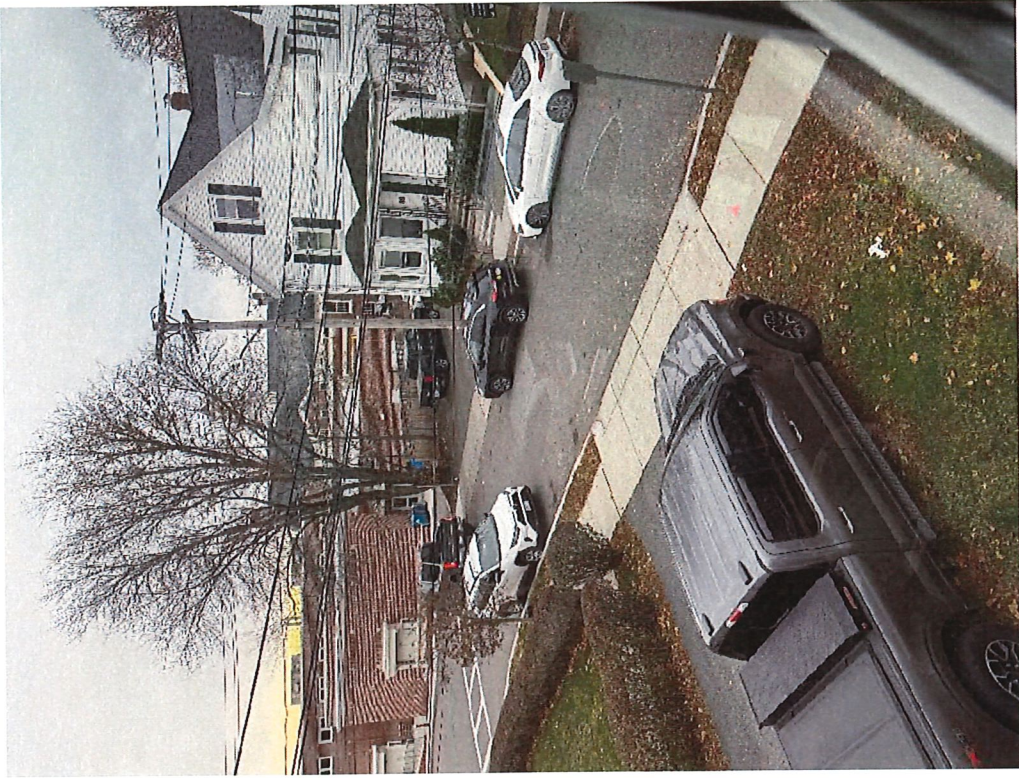
I just want to make the street a bit easier to drive on.

Thank you,
Nick Andriolo

617-909-9410

Lowell Avenue – Photos by M. Andriolo





Lowell Avenue

