



Thomas F. Rocca  
Chief of Police

# CITY OF WATERTOWN

## TRAFFIC COMMISSION



David Sampson  
Sergeant  
Tel: 617-972-6547

Thomas F. Rocca, Chair  
Ryan Nicholson, Provisional Fire Chief  
Gregory St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works  
Steven Magoon, Community Development and Planning  
Ms. Kelly Gallagher  
Mr. Robert Airasian

October 20, 2022

September 28, 2022 Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Thomas Rocca, Ryan Nicholson, Steven Magoon, Gregory St. Louis, Robert Airasian

Traffic Commission members addressed the following items:

**Item 1** – Mr. Magoon made a motion to approve the June, 2022 Traffic Commission meeting minutes; Mr. Airasian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

**Item 2** – The Commission received an informational presentation by Mr. Ted O'Hagan of Vanasse and Associates on behalf of their client Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc regarding proposed corridor improvements on Arsenal Street associated with the proposed Arsenal on the Charles project located at 3 Kingsbury Avenue.

The improvements will include widening the roadway to allow 5-foot minimum bicycle lanes on both sides of the road from School Street to Greenough Boulevard, traffic signal upgrades at the intersections of School Street, Talcott Ave, Arsenal Court, Bond Street, Watertown East Drive, and Arsenal Street at Arlington Street, resurfacing Arsenal Street, new sidewalks, street lighting and streetscaping, and signing upgrades. The project extends approximately 5,000 feet in length. The bike lanes are expected to end at School Street, where they would meet with the City's cycle track.

This has been a joint project between VAI and Stantec Engineering. There are two separate design packages associated with the Arsenal Street improvements:

Package A is funded by a MassWorks grant project (\$6.9 million) jointly applied for by Vanasse and Associates and the City and comprises the area from Arsenal Court to Upper Greenough Boulevard. Package B is privately funded (Alexandria), coordinated by Stantec and comprises the area from Wooley Ave to Arsenal Court. There will be widening of the corridor and bike lanes that will terminate at School Street to meet the current cycle track.

Package A will consist of new traffic signals, new bike markings, exclusive bike lanes, and high friction green paint for bike boxes, and signing and striping upgrades.

Mr. O'Hagan answered questions about the width of the bike lanes, the purpose of bike boxes, whether there would be signage to reinforce the bike boxes, and bicycle symbols and detection markers.

To reduce bike box maintenance costs, a special type of colored pavement will be used that lasts longer than typical applications. The plans presented at the meeting will be used for community outreach to make people aware of the upcoming changes.

Mr. St. Louis further explained the bike markings and application and explained that this type of application will be used each time a project meets the warrants for it.

Mr. O'Hagan confirmed that there are no plans to reduce the number of lanes on any portion of Arsenal Street within the City Limits – A reduction was made near Greenough Boulevard in the DCR portion to eliminate the exclusive left lane.

Construction is anticipated to begin in 2024.

**Item 3** – The Commission reviewed a request by Mr. Stephen Boudreau of Vanasse and Associates on behalf of their client Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc to restrict right turns on red at the following locations:

- a. Arsenal Street westbound at Arsenal Way
- b. Arsenal Street eastbound at Arsenal Court
- c. Arsenal Street westbound at Watertown Mall West Drive
- d. Arsenal Street eastbound at Forge Road
- e. Arlington Street southbound at Arsenal Street\*

Mr. O'Hagan from VAI continued a presentation for these requests. To comply with standards requiring No Turns on Red where there are bike boxes, these areas need turning restrictions. Mr. O'Hagan added an additional location of Arsenal Street eastbound at Bond Street to the list of intersections. When VAI optimizes the signals, the cycles will include exclusive pedestrian phases; it will be safer to have right turns prohibited.

Sgt. Sampson explained that signage is currently present at Arlington Street southbound at Arsenal Street however, the restriction is not listed in the Traffic Rules and Orders.

Mr. Magoon made a motion to restrict right turns on red at the six locations noted above; Mr. Airasian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 4** – The Commission reviewed an informational presentation by Mr. Gregory St. Louis regarding the City's Chapman Street Roadway Reconstruction project and a request to restrict parking on the west side of Chapman Street from the driveway of #56 to the driveway of #66 Chapman Street.

Mr. St. Louis reported that during the site review, it was noted that there are two wide diameter healthy trees that the City would like to maintain. In order to do so, small bump-outs will be required that will restrict the width of the roadway from the typical 24 feet to 20 feet; this narrowing of the roadway necessitates a parking restriction on the even side of the street. Notices were sent to abutters and the DPW received no opposition.

Mr. Airasian agreed with the parking restriction but was concerned about narrow roadways in general, and delivery vehicles causing congestion in these areas. Based on the need in this area on Chapman Street, Mr. Airasian agreed with the proposed parking restriction.

Chief Nicholson agreed with Mr. Airasian's sentiments and supported the proposed restriction.

Mr. Magoon made a motion to restrict parking on the west side of Chapman Street from the driveway of #56 to the driveway of #66 Chapman Street; Mr. Airasian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 5** – The Commission reviewed a request by Mr. Tom Ayling of Nash Street for the installation of an in-street Yield to Pedestrian sign on Main Street at Evans Street. Sgt. Sampson reported that motorists failing to stop for pedestrians in this area has been an ongoing issue. There is a chance that more extensive improvements could be made at this location through a development project at 148 Waltham Street. If this occurs, the in-street yield to pedestrian sign would be helpful as an interim measure. Due to the number of complaints the Department has received and for the safety of pedestrians in that area, Sgt. Sampson supported Mr. Ayling's request.

Mr. St. Louis reported that the DPW was in the process of ordering 12 new in-street pedestrian signs.

Mr. Magoon and Chief Nicholson supported the request. Mr. Airasian thought the sign would be helpful due to the bus stop at this area as well.

Mr. Magoon made a motion to install an in-street Yield to Pedestrian sign on Main Street at Evans Street; Mr. Airasian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 6** – The Commission reviewed a request by Sgt. Sampson of the Watertown Police Department to install advance warning signage approaching the turn on Bailey Road northbound onto Bellevue Road, and on Bellevue Road eastbound approaching Bailey Road.

Sgt. Sampson reported that the requestor was concerned about how motorists navigate the turn at this location. Although traffic volume is light and there is no crash history, the geometry of the roadway is unique and this is a fairly secluded area. The signage may help raise awareness of the sharp turn in the road and help motorists navigate the turn.

Bailey Road resident Marshall Carter was in attendance and supported the request. He was concerned about cut-through traffic during peak hours of the day.

Mr. Magoon made a motion to install advance warning signage approaching the turn on Bailey Road northbound onto Bellevue Road, and on Bellevue Road eastbound approaching Bailey Road; Mr. Airasian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business** – Sgt. Sampson reported that a bus stop may be requested on Arsenal Street at the Arsenal on Charles property west garage (near Arsenal St at Louise Street). The intent of the stop would be for shuttle buses.

Mr. Magoon made a motion to adjourn; Mr. St. Louis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

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