

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
September 15, 2025

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via e-mail in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Ben Yeung at byeung@norwalkct.gov to provide written comments prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Tony Lopez; Commissioner Ronald Paladino; Commissioner Nate Sumpter; Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Terry Blake; Deputy Chief Joseph Dinho; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore; Ben Yeung, Senior Engineer, TMP; Anna Breault, Special Events Coordinator

OTHERS: Ryan Buckland, Project Engineer, Eversource Gas

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Rilling called the roll, and all those listed in the attendance were present.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diane Cece- East Norwalk Neighborhood Association

Ms. Cece requested that the parking regulations changes on Howard Avenue be tabled based on her comments and the concerns of the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association. When the application was reviewed for the condo complex at 93 Winfield Street, the ENNA had expressed concerns not just about the traffic, but specifically about the parking requirements and whether the reconfiguration, even with the reduced number of units, would allow for adequate on-site parking. She now suspects that some of the issues experienced by the folks on Howard Avenue may be due to overflow parking from that development. She pointed out that this request is coming before the Traffic Authority based on a concern from a single resident and she is concerned about that because there are a lot of houses on the street, and if the intent of the staff is only to notify residents, if approved, after the installation of the signs the other residents who live there would not be aware of this proposed change and would not have an opportunity to comment on it. She said she thinks it's important that, before the commission possibly approves this, the other residents on that street who would be impacted are notified ahead of time. She said she is confused about the remedy for the sightline because when the application went through for 93 Windfield Street the city required a traffic analysis be done and Planning and Zoning was provided that report so if they have not already staff need to look at what is causing these cars to be on Howard Avenue, that is creating the sightline and access to get through. When she looks at the map and the proposed restrictions, she understands why this is being proposed from a safety and sightline point of view, but thinks they are at risk of fixing one problem but creating another.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Approve Traffic Authority Meeting Minutes from August 18, 2025.

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION- COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS.**

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVE PROPOSED FULL CLOSURE OF WASHINGTON STREET AT NORTH MAIN STREET AND SOUTH MAIN STREET, FOR THE 2025 HALLOWEEN NIGHT FAIR ON OCTOBER 25, 2025.

Mayor Rilling noted that this item, as well as the next item, has been approved in the past.

Ms. Breault provided a brief overview of the event, stating that it would be the third annual Halloween Night Fair on October 25th from 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM. They are requesting road closures and local traffic closures on the day of the event. The local traffic closure will begin at 8:00 AM and end at 10:00 PM, affecting the area from MLK Drive to the entrance of the Webster Street Lot. The entirety of Madison Street will be designated for local traffic only. This will be for Safavieh employees to reach their designated parking lot and for patrons who wish to use the post office. There will be a full closure on Washington Street, from the entrance of the Webster Street Lot to The Pearl, as well as on North Main Street/South Main Street, from Marshall Street to Haviland Street, from 8:00 AM to midnight.

Commissioner Lopez requested that Madison Street not be blocked off from MLK Drive, allowing for local deliveries as well as local residents.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. APPROVE PROPOSED FULL CLOSURE OF WASHINGTON STREET BETWEEN DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRIVE AND NORTH MAIN STREET/SOUTH MAIN STREET, FOR THE 2025 HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA ON DECEMBER 6, 2025.

Ms. Breault said this will be the fourth annual holiday extravaganza and is requesting a full closure from MLK Drive to the train bridge on Washington Street from 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM, as well as a partial closure for local traffic from 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Madison Street for Safavieh employees.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked how the full closures would impact Safavieh. Ms. Breault said that employees will have access to the employee lot, and prior to the event, staff will personally notify employees at Safavieh that this event is happening.

Commissioner Lopez requested that Madison Street not be blocked off from MLK Drive for this event either.

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. APPROVE PROPOSED MULTI-WEEK FULL CLOSURE ON CATHERINE STREET BETWEEN GRAND STREET AND WEST MAIN STREET, FOR EVERSOURCE GAS MAIN INSTALLATION.

Mr. Buckland stated that Eversource Gas is requesting a road closure on Catherine Street, between Grand Street and West Main Street, to replace aging gas infrastructure located underneath the railroad. The anticipated duration is 18 working days and requires continuous closure for the entire work period. The scheduling is subject to the railroad's permitting and the Traffic Authority's approval. At this time, they do not have the exact dates of the work, but anticipate that it will be done by the end of 2025.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if the Traffic Authority would be notified once a scheduled start date is confirmed. Mr. Buckland said "Yes" and wants to ensure that they give the residents two to four weeks' advance notice prior to the activity starting.

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. APPROVE PROPOSED PARKING REGULATION CHANGES ON LEANN DRIVE AND CAROTHERS LANE.

Mr. Yeung said these streets are local residential streets just northeast of Norwalk High School. In recent months, residents of Carothers Lane and Leann Drive have contacted TMP multiple times with the same complaint. Ever since construction at the high school began, it has seemed to have displaced some of the student parking to the local neighborhood. While there are no parking restrictions during school hours on some of the nearby streets surrounding Norwalk High School, there aren't any here. It appears that some students are parking in the nearby cul-de-sac, occupying many of the available parking spaces for residents and their guests. It is also reaching the point of public safety and operational hazards, as these are narrow streets. TMP is proposing to restrict parking on one side of the street during school hours on both Carothers Lane and Leann Drive. This will be a pilot for a couple of months, but if there are still issues with students parking on the streets and occupying the remaining parking spaces, no parking during school hours can be implemented on the entirety of Carothers Lane and Leann Drive, provided the residents agree.

Mr. Yeung said he is requesting approval today for the whole approach to first implement no parking during school hours. If there are still issues based on staff review, they would be pre-authorized to implement no parking during school hours on the rest of the street. He said they already have a good amount of neighborhood support. In April 2025, local residents gathered a petition requesting no parking during school hours on one side of the street, which was signed by 13 households, representing more than 50% of the households. He said he has been in contact with the high school administration, and they stated that, technically, during construction,

students are supposed to park at Andrews Field; however, it has been difficult for the school administration to enforce this due to the availability of free parking nearby. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if the students are currently parking around the cul-de-sac. Mr. Yeung said “Yes”. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if the no-parking request marked in blue on the map would remain after the project's completion. Mr. Yeung said that whatever regulations are implemented are permanent unless there is a need to rescind them. The no-parking during school hours regulations on other nearby streets have been in place for years.

Commissioner Paladino asked if doing phase one would just delay phase two from ultimately happening. Mr. Yeung said that, although they have not had any residents who have explicitly spoken against the no-parking during school hours idea, various residents have voiced the idea that a better long-term solution would be a residential permit parking program, which is something that the Parking Authority has been actively discussing. Because they need to create regulations that apply to both residents and students, they want to ensure that some unregulated spaces are available for residents and their guests.

Commissioner Lopez expressed concern about the cost of the permit for students to park at Andrews Field. Mr. Yeung said he will follow up with the administration to determine what factors may be leading students not to park at Andrews Field. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons requested that he also convey to the administration the concern about the cost to the students.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

E. APPROVE PROPOSED PARKING REGULATION CHANGES ON WARD STREET.

Mr. Yeung said TMP has begun construction of new sidewalks on both Ward Street and Adams Avenue. A sidewalk is being added along the entirety of the northeast side of Ward Street. While they are using the public right-of-way, for safety and to calm traffic, the road will be narrowed somewhat. Therefore, they would like to restrict parking at least on one side of the street. They conducted parking counts before the project began and found that most people park on the southwest side of Ward Street. Therefore, they will maintain on-street parking there but implement a new permanent no-parking restriction on the northeast side of the street.

Commissioner Lopez asked if the community had been surveyed for the proposed change. Mr. Yeung said “No,” but they will let everyone know well in advance of the changes. Commissioner Lopez requested that some preliminary outreach be done prior to the changes.

Commissioner Paladino asked if it would make sense to have half the parking on one side of the street and half on the other. Mr. Yeung said that this is something to consider in the future if issues are raised by the residents.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

F. APPROVE PROPOSED PARKING REGULATION CHANGES ON HOWARD AVENUE.

Mr. Yeung said that Howard Avenue is a two-way street, but the roadway width is low and is so tight that it is difficult to even have parking on one side of the street. People are parking in front of the new development located at 93 Winfield Street, and the issue that the nearby residents have raised is that it has created a sightline issue on the other side of the street, risking a head-on collision. A field investigation, conducted in conjunction with car counts, revealed that the problem persists, so we propose establishing a no-parking regulation on both sides of the street. Because it is located on the relatively short side of Howard Avenue and there is ample frontage to relocate the parking spaces, a thorough community survey was not conducted for this restriction. However, it had received resident feedback and support from some of the nearby residents for the parking restriction.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked whether the approximately 10 residents who live on the street would be contacted. Mr. Yeung said that in terms of direct impact, there are four households and the new development at 93 Winfield Street. Commissioner Sumpter suggested contacting the residents before the change is made. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons is concerned about head-on collisions; she does not suggest waiting to make the change.

Commissioner Lopez said that there are hedges that are also causing a sight issue and suggested contacting the property owner to trim them.

Commissioner Paladino suggested removing parking from one side of the street until the property owners are notified of the proposed change.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons is suggesting that contacting the residents be expedited because she is very concerned about the safety aspect.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons requested that the commission be notified of the date the change was made.

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

G. APPROVE PROPOSED SCHOOL ZONE REQUEST TO OSTA FOR HIGHLAND AVENUE BETWEEN MERIDITH COURT AND 450 FEET SOUTH OF CHARCOAL ROAD (BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND BRIEN MCMAHON HIGH SCHOOL).

Mr. Yeung said they already have a state-approved school zone in place for Roton Middle School and want to expand that northward to include more of Highland Avenue, specifically Brien McMahon High School and Brookside Elementary School. They have received feedback from residents regarding speeding on Highland Avenue, even with the new pavement markings, sidewalk, and curb installations. The proposal is for a 20 MPH school zone on Highland Avenue during the pickup and drop-off periods of those schools.

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

H. APPROVE PROPOSED SCHOOL ZONE REQUEST TO OSTA FOR SECTIONS OF VAN BUREN AVENUE (US. ROUTE 1), GRANDVIEW AVENUE, BEDFORD AVENUE, AND PROSPECT STREET SURROUNDING JEFFERSON MARINE SCIENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

Mr. Yeung said they have received feedback directly from the school administration regarding traffic and safety issues that they face during pickup and drop-off, so they would like to implement an official state-approved school zone, which would include a small portion of Route 1. The proposal is to reduce the 30 MPH speed limit to 25 MPH on this portion of State Route 1 and to 20 MPH on City roadways surrounding the school, and would be effective during pick-up and drop-off periods.

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd