

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
March 16, 2026

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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 Barbara Smyth; Commissioner Tony Lopez; Commissioner Ronald Paladino; Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons; Commissioner Nate Sumpter

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

OTHERS: Jill Magda; Morris Redd; Johan Lopez; Brad Craighead; James Gerweck

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smyth called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public comments this evening.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR TRAFFIC AUTHORITY MEETING ON JANUARY 26, 2026.

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

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

B. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL TRAFFIC AUTHORITY MEETING ON MARCH 9, 2026.

**** 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 PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE MARVIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA WALKATHON

Ms. Magda provided an overview of the event, noting that the walkathon will begin at Marvin Elementary School and go to Calf Pasture Beach and back. The northbound lane of Calf Pasture Beach will be closed during the walkathon.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked which route the people exiting the beach and heading north will take. Ms. Magda said they would use Canfield Street.

Mayor Smyth asked when the last walkathon was held. Ms. Magda said the year before COVID.

Commissioner Lopez asked if there was a need for police. Mr. Yeung said in a previous correspondence with the police that he and Ms. Lengyel agreed to have a total of three police officers.

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

**B. APPROVE PROPOSED PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE GREGORY
BURNETT, SR. MEMORIAL 5K & FUN RUN**

Mr. Redd provided an overview of the event, noting they wanted to honor Greg Burnett this year and, hopefully, in subsequent years with a 5K run. Mr. Burnett enjoyed running as well as coaching, refereeing, and going to the beach, so it was appropriate to have the run at Calf Pasture Beach. He noted that the date of the race has changed to May 3, 2026, and setup will be from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM; the run will be held from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM; and cleanup will be from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Funds will be raised for a scholarship fund. Four officers will be needed for traffic control and have been in contact with the police department.

Mayor Smyth asked if May 3, 2026, is available. Mr. Yeung said “Yes,” and Ms. Kovacs has confirmed that Calf Pasture Beach is available, and TMP and the Police Department have no issues with the change.

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM WITH THE
AMENDED DATE OF MAY 3, 2026.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C. APPROVE PROPOSED FULL ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE NORWALK
EARTH DAY FESTIVAL**

Mr. Lopez provided an overview of the event, noting that the festival brings together environmental nonprofits and businesses, speakers, and community groups to network and promote environmental sustainability. The event includes live music and a variety of food vendors, exhibitors, and educational displays. Due to the festival's growing popularity, they will provide transportation to and from the festival via the Transit District, with pickup locations around the city to increase accessibility, hopefully reduce potential traffic and parking inconveniences, and promote the use of public transportation for these types of events. An

officer will be assigned to the area where alcohol will be served, and three officers will be stationed at the road-closure locations for the duration of the event.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked how the advertising for the transportation services would be handled. Mr. Lopez said they are still finalizing logistics with the Transit District, and once they are finalized, they will be advertised through the channels used for the event. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked how prominent the advertising is in the mission to encourage people not to use vehicles to get to this event. Mayor Smyth said the city's communications department is working very closely with the Earth Day folks and can make sure, through their social media and newsletter, to get that information out and encourage folks to use public transportation.

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

**D. APPROVE PROPOSED PARTIAL LANE CLOSURES AND SIDEWALK USE
FOR THE ANNUAL O'NEILL'S 5K**

Mr. Gerweck provided an overview of the event, noting that it is in its 13th year and has always been popular. This year's charity is the Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center, and over the years, the event has raised more than \$500,000 for the designated charities.

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

**E. APPROVE PROPOSED FULL ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE WALL STREET
SUNSET MARKET**

Ms. Breault provided an overview of the event noting that they are launching a new market series in the summer called the Wall Street Sunset Bazaar and was inspired by the successful SONO Saturday market, but will be held in the Wall Street historic district on River Street, and will be held on the second Saturday of each month in the summer and will run during the evening hours and will be held from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM with the road closure of River Street beginning at 3:00 PM and will be reopen at 10:00 PM. There will be access to the Yankee Doodle Garage via Burness Blvd. An anticipated 25-30 vendors are expected to participate in the event each month.

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

F. APPROVE PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE SONO SATURDAY MARKET

Ms. Breault provided an overview of the event, noting that the SONO Saturday market will take place on the last Saturday of each month during the summer. They received a lot of feedback from vendors last year requesting that the hours be extended, so they did so and will now run from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, with the road closure beginning at 8:00 AM and reopening at 4:00 PM. The road closure will be directly in front of 50 Washington Street to the entrance of the Webster Street lot and train bridge. Madison Street, along with the rest of Washington Street, to MLK Drive will remain open to local businesses

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

G. APPROVE PROPOSED FULL ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE GLENDENNING AREA STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Mr. Sotnik provided a brief overview of the project and said it is in an area that has experienced chronic flooding over the years, from Glendenning Street to Cannon Street. This area was studied and recommended for drainage improvements. As part of the project, they will request multiple road closures and an area of alternating one-way traffic as the contractor works their way from Betts Brook up through Cannon Street and Glendenning Street. There will be detours from Newtown Avenue through Blake Street, down to East Rocks, and back onto Cannon Street, and vice versa. A VMS sign will be installed as they move through the different phases of construction to add visibility to let people know which way to go.

Mayor Smyth asked when this project is scheduled to begin and how long it will take to complete. Mr. Sotnik said the goal is to start construction in June or July and to have it done by the end of the construction season; otherwise, it will be completed by the spring of 2027. Mayor Smyth asked whether the project must be delayed until the spring of 2027 and what the winter road closures will be. Mr. Sotnik said all areas would be backfilled, the trenches would be paved over, the roads would be open, and any final work would be completed in the spring of 2027. Mayor Smyth said a few years back that a lot of work had been done on the bridge and the park, and asked whether any issues were anticipated with the prior project. Mr. Sotnik said “No”.

Mayor Smyth said the property between Lane Road and East Rocks Road has requested zoning appeals that were denied, but they have a lot of work going on, and asked if anyone has spoken to that property owner to coordinate with them. Mr. Sotnik said he was not aware of their work but would coordinate with them when the project goes out to bid. They are now completing the final design work, and once the plans are approved by the Traffic Authority, he wants to include them in the bid package. Once they receive the permit, he will speak to more residents as well. Mayor Smyth requested that they reach out to many of the residents in that area, as there was significant outcry about what was being planned for the property.

Commissioner Lopez asked about traffic control. Mr. Sotnik said that during the closure, a certain number of police officers and uniformed flaggers will be required. Chief Walsh said it is a long distance for one officer to safely stop traffic back and forth. Mr. Sotnik agreed, saying that at least two officers would be required. Mr. Yeung clarified that the alternative one-way traffic area would not be done in concurrent phases, and the work would already have been completed on Lane Road.

Commissioner Paladino asked how far in advance of the project the affected homeowners will be notified. Mr. Sotnik said they have already began speaking to the residents that are in the easements and based on the Mayor's recommendation will be reaching out to those residents this week so they are aware of the project and once there is a contractor on board and there is contract, and notice to proceed, notices will be handed out in the area so there will be multiple layers of the public being informed. Mayor Smyth requested that this project be shared at the Mayor's Night Out on April 30th.

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

H. APPROVE PROPOSED “NO THRU TRUCKS” REGULATION REQUEST TO OSTA FOR LAWRENCE STREET BETWEEN MEADOW STREET (SR 136) AND WOODWARD AVENUE.

Mr. Yeung said this is a TMP-initiated item based on customer service requests received over recent months and years from residents along Lawrence Street. The data has shown that Lawrence Street is being used by some trucks as a cut-through. The street's characteristics are not conducive to truck traffic. In recent months and years, they have received reports of crashes involving trucks and parked cars along Lawrence Street, and in total, there have been 20 crashes. He said this is something TMP would like to address and that it will also improve the quality of life for the residents on the street. They are proposing “No Thru Truck” signage on Lawrence Street. This will require state approval, so the Traffic Authority is to approve TMP's request to OSTA.

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

I. APPROVE PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT CHANGE REQUEST TO OSTA FOR EAST ROCKS ROAD BETWEEN BAYNE STREET AND CANNON STREET

Mr. Yeung said that TMP is requesting a 25 MPH speed limit along the entire length of the road from Cannon Street to the north end of Bayne Street. The average speed is currently 30 MPH, and at the 85th percentile, it is 37 MPH, so on average, 15% of vehicles are traveling even higher than 37 MPH. He said that other potential traffic calming measures could also be considered to support this. When funding becomes available, they would also like to install

sidewalks to make the street more walkable and livable. Reducing the speeds along the corridor is a start and is consistent with what has been done on West Rocks Road.

Mayor Smyth asked how long the process with OSTA takes and when the signs will be posted. Mr. Yeung said approximately six to nine months.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**J. APPROVE PROPOSED REQUEST TO OSTA FOR FORMALIZING SPEED LIMITS
AS POSTED ON VARIOUS ROADS CITYWIDE**

Mr. Yeung said there are many different road segments that TMP would like to address as part of this. The issues that are being faced is that there are a lot of roads that were posted at 25 MPH by the city prior to the formation of TMP, and are realizing that there are a number of roadway segments that were never officially approved by the state, and TMP would like to formalize those speed limits at the state level.

Mayor Smyth said she has heard complaints regarding speeding on all of these streets, and posting the 25 MPH speed limit is a step in the right direction.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS 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 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd