

CITY OF NORWALK  
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE  
January 26, 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](mailto: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

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Joseph Dinho; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore; Benjamin Yeung, Senior Traffic Engineer, TMP; James Travers, Director, TMP; Nathan Fankhanel, Junior Engineer, TMP; Anna Breault, Special Events Coordinator; Rebecca Kovacs, Recreation and Parks

OTHERS: Prashant Chandra, CTDOT; Richard Leso; CTDOT; Jeff Bird; WSP; Gus Melo; CTDOT; Kerry Dobson

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Smyth called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Diane Cece- East Norwalk Neighborhood Association

Ms. Cece said that back in October, with the proposed parking regulations and signage for Cemetery Street, the commission was presented with the proposed parking regulations and signage for Cemetery Street, and then Mayor Rilling had pointed out that the actual road modifications that would support the parking to begin with were not presented to the Traffic Authority for approval. At that meeting, Commissioner Lopez proposed that staff address her specific issues, but this did not occur until this afternoon, after she noticed it on the agenda. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons had moved to table the item until the next meeting, but it was not on the agenda for the November or December meetings, and she was surprised to see it on the agenda for this meeting without the common courtesy of being notified in advance by TMP. She said her concern is that she does not think that this commission should be bypassing the protocol for having approved a complete alteration of the traffic pattern there, including the lane configuration changes that happened on Cemetery Street and the addition of parking of East Avenue. She expected that this item be tabled again, and that the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association is informed when it is back on the agenda. She said that if the intention of the commission is to add an item to the agenda this evening to approve the modifications that were made, before the parking regulations could be approved, it would not be in the interest of the community who had not had the opportunity to see this on the agenda and would also potentially be an FOI violation.

**IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**A. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR TRAFFIC AUTHORITY MEETING ON DECEMBER 15, 2025.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION- MAYOR SMYTH**

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. APPROVE THE FULL CLOSURE OF RIVER STREET FOR THE MELT ON WALL STREET SPECIAL EVENT**

Ms. Breault provided an overview of the event, noting that it is a new event debuting this year and is designed to benefit Wall Street neighborhood businesses. There have been multiple meetings with many of the businesses in the area, and they are very excited and have been putting a lot of time and effort into this event. The event will take place from 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM on River Street, with a stage featuring multiple live music acts, 20-30 vendors on the street, fire pits that have been cleared by the fire department, and heated igloos. For the event, River Street and access to the Yankee Doodle Garage from River Street will be closed, but access from Burnell Blvd. will remain open. They are requesting the closure from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

Commissioner Paladino asked if the permitting is in place for the sale of alcohol. Ms. Breault said, "Yes". Chief Walsh said the alcohol will be sequestered to one area, and they have managed other events like this successfully.

Commissioner Lopez asked whether this would strain on-street parking on Wall Street. Ms. Breault said they will be pushing people to park at the Yankee Doodle Garage, but there is no reservation system, so she expects people will want to park on Wall Street as well if space is available.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. APPROVE PROPOSED PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE BUNNY RUN 5K**

Ms. Kovacs provided an overview of the event and said this is a new event to kick off, and will model the format of the Jingle Bell Run. The event will be held at Calf Pasture Beach, beginning at 9:00 AM and ending at 10:30 AM, and is expected to attract 250-300 people and cause minimal disruption.

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

**C. APPROVE PROPOSED PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE PAWS 5K**

Ms. Dobson provided an overview of the event and said it will be the first time it is held and is similar to the Bunny Run.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked approximately how many people are expected to attend. Ms. Dobson said their goal is 200.

Deputy Chief Lepore asked for clarification on the date because the backup states it will be held on Saturday. Ms. Dobson said it will be held on Sunday, March 22nd.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE  
ITEM WITH THE AMENDED DATE OF SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**D. APPROVE TIME EXTENSION FOR FULL CLOSURE ON FORT POINT  
STREET FOR CARS AND ALTERNATING ONE-WAY TRUCK TRAFFIC FOR  
WALK BRIDGE PERMEATION GROUTING WORK ON FORT POINT STREET  
RETAINING WALL.**

Mr. Bird said this is a request to extend a currently approved daytime traffic closure on Fort Point Street from South Smith Street to Moore Place. Currently they are working 24 hours a day. This request would be to extend the daytime portion of that closure until April 3, 2026. The closure is currently approved until January 24, 2026. They would like to continue the existing closure for daytime so that the traffic headed north on Fort Point Street would be detoured onto VanZant Street and Osborne Avenue, and the traffic heading south would be detoured onto Reynolds Street and South Smith Street, and would continue to allow higher vehicle traffic to utilize the Fort Point Street underpass to avoid detouring to Strawberry Hill Avenue.

Mr. Bird said the request is due to unforeseen conflicts encountered during subsurface work. He presented scenario one and said that extending through April 3rd would allow them to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and complete the work on time, avoiding schedule and budget impacts. He presented scenario two and said that if they were not granted the extension, they would continue to work only at night and would push the completion date of this work into early June, which would increase the total risk of their schedule, prolong the detour, and extend the impacts to the commuters, residents, and businesses.

Mayor Smyth asked whether there would be any changes to the detours in place today. Mr. Bird said “No” and will just be an extension of the work since December 1, 2025.

Commissioner Lopez asked whether they knew how much disruption this had caused the community and the tolerance level. Mr. Bird said they do have a public information group with a welcome center that graciously fields all questions, concerns, or complaints directed to the project, and reported that they have not received any complaints since the work began.

Commissioner Paladino asked Mr. Bird how comfortable he is with the new projected completion date. Mr. Bird said other than the weather, which would certainly delay the work, they have identified the conflicts and have completed the bulk of the primary work, so they have a high level of confidence that they will be able to complete this work by April 3, 2026.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked whether the project would have been delayed if not for the encountered conflicts. Mr. Melo said that if they had not encountered those delays in their production rates and had not had to make design modifications to avoid some of these conflicts, they would have hit those dates, which is why they are requesting this extension.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE SCENARIO ONE AS PRESENTED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**E. APPROVED THE PROPOSED LOCATIONS AND INSTALLATION OF THE DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAY SIGNS AT NORWALK POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Mr. Yeung said that Deputy Chief Dinho had sent a request to TMP, asking that driveway signs not be blocked at the two entrances to the Norwalk Police headquarters. The purpose of this is to prevent queuing at the nearby signals.

Deputy Chief Dinho said that, frequently throughout the day and during high-volume times, the entrance and exit to the police department are blocked by stopped traffic in both directions. So, if signs were posted, they would at least allow them to enter and exit. Subsequently, there is a school bus stop at the crosswalk at the South Main Street driveway, and a do not block the driveway sign would enhance safety there by keeping cars from queuing into the crosswalk. Mr. Yeung added that this would be very similar to the do not block the driveway signs at the fire department on Connecticut Avenue.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said traffic heading north on South Main Street has a long queue from the Washington Street signal to South Main Street. Mr. Yeung said they have discussed this and decided to have the do not block the driveway signs approved at this meeting, but the do not block the intersection will take more conversation internally, as well as an investigation on traffic queuing, and coordination with the state and the ordinance committee before that can be moved forward. Mr. Travers added that, as part of the Walk Bridge Project, they have negotiated with the Department of Transportation for upgrades to the traffic signals at South Main and Washington Street, so those signals should be more up-to-date and adaptive in the near future. He said they were able to include 14 intersections in the Walk Bridge Project for modernization.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**F. APPROVE PROPOSED PARKING REGULATION CHANGES ON PORTIONS OF EAST AVENUE, CEMETERY STREET, AND GREGORY BOULEVARD**

Mayor Smyth said she has been aware of this for going on two years as part of this project and has seen many presentations over the years. She asked whether, at any time in the past, this should have been presented to the Traffic Authority rather than seeking approval now.

Mr. Travers said that anytime there is an introduction of new parking or a change to parking regulations, it is approved by the Traffic Authority and then transferred to the Parking Authority for information. Following the October meeting, he met with then-Mayor Rilling and Chief of Staff Tom Livingston to discuss the overall Cemetery Street improvements as part of the Walk Bridge Project. This is on Route 136, so it falls under the CTDOT's jurisdiction. They have complete jurisdiction over the use of their road, but he knows there have been several community conversations. The CTDOT had conducted extensive reviews, and TMP also had a third-party traffic reviewer review this. When he reviewed this with Mayor Rilling, he did not indicate that it needed to go on the Traffic Authority agenda, and he was satisfied with it. This is now on the agenda for the parking perspective. One of the issues they see in the area is a lack of timed parking to support local businesses, which will ensure there are no long-term visitors in these spaces.

Commissioner Lopez said that the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association has expressed its concerns about this and asked whether they had been addressed. Mr. Travers said there had been numerous public hearings before the Planning & Zoning Commission, and the introduction of parking and travel lanes had been discussed on numerous occasions. Commissioner Lopez asked to clarify for the record what the community's opposition is. Mr. Travers said Cemetery Street,

between East Avenue and Gregory Blvd., used to be two lanes, and the community has opposed reducing it to a single lane of travel, allowing room for a bike lane and on-street parking, which staff believe would be a huge benefit to local businesses. Commissioner Lopez asked whether the CTDOT has approved of the one-lane option. Mr. Travers said “Yes”. Commissioner Lopez asked if the community had expressed concerns regarding the proposed parking. Mr. Travers said he thinks there had been some concern from the community that the parking would be there to support the development, but by imposing time restrictions, it ensures turnover. Commissioner Lopez asked if the Traffic Authority reached out to the community to address their concerns. Mayor Smyth said she does not believe that is the Traffic Authority's role. She said that what is being approved today are the parking regulations and that the parking spaces exist, and they want to be sure that they are regulated to be sure there is not long-term parking, as that has been an issue in other parts of town, so they are looking at two-hour parking that is free, which will benefit the businesses.

Mayor Smyth asked whether any comments had been received from any businesses in the area, in particular, Sweet Ashley's. Mr Travers said they have been very supportive of the additional parking spaces and, more importantly, the timed parking spaces. The businesses on Van Zant Street will also benefit from the parking, as will those on East Avenue, which have limited parking. He understands that there are concerns with the current roadway layout, but reiterated that those are interim conditions as the CTDOT works on the larger project, which will include new sidewalks around the entirety of Cemetery Circle and numerous crosswalks that don't exist today and are designed to be a pedestrian-friendly zone and a multi-modal zone that supports cyclists throughout this corridor. CTDOT is implementing drainage improvements at Cemetery Street and Gregory Boulevard to facilitate the lowering of the East Avenue roadway at the rail bridge by two feet. The current interim condition with delineators is meant to support the drainage and roadway improvements. This was a plan presented as part of the TOD Plan, and the CTDOT is implementing it at 100% of their cost, with zero cost to the city. The city is receiving a pre-approved plan that incorporates a new streetscape, including numerous new trees, along the roadway. Mayor Smyth added that the traffic patterns [*delineators*] seen today are temporary.

Commissioner Lopez said that if the regulation is limited to two hours, that is one thing, but if it involves other dynamics that are not itemized or addressed, he would like to know that too. Mr. Travers confirmed that the items under discussion and vote are regarding two-hour parking regulations. Mayor Smyth asked how many regulated parking spaces there would be. Mr. Yeung confirmed there are 10 on Cemetery Street, four on East Avenue, and three on Gregory Blvd. (the three on Gregory Blvd. haven't been striped yet but will be included in the final configuration).

**\*\* 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 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd