

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM IX



CITY OF FRANKLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

August 3, 2015 City Council Meeting

Subject: City Council to consider setting a public hearing on Ordinance #04-16, relative to proposed amendments to Chapter 284, "Vehicles and Traffic" of the Franklin City Code.

Motion: "I move that the Franklin City Council schedule a public hearing on Ordinance #04-16 for Tuesday, September ?,2015, at 6:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall."

Mayor calls for a second, discussion and the vote.



**CITY OF FRANKLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

City Council Meeting of August 3, 2015

From: Brian J. Sullivan, Municipal Services Director

Subject: City Council to consider setting a Public Hearing on Ordinance # 04-16 , relative to a proposed amendments to Chapter 284, "Vehicles and Traffic" of the Franklin City Code.

Recommended Motion:

1. Councilor moves to set a public hearing:
"I move that the Franklin City Council schedule a public hearing on Ordinance # 04-16 for Tuesday September ?, 2015 at 6:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall."
 2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, and the vote.
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Background:

In the late spring of 2015 I attended Career Day at the Franklin High School. While at the High School I was approached by the Principal who expressed his desire to reverse the direction of the traffic flow at the main front entrance and exit to the school, primarily for safety reasons. He explained that the three handicap spaces used to offload students were not being utilized to their maximum potential. As set up currently, the exit platforms of the handicap buses, place students into the schools exit lane and the line of traffic leaving the facility. At the same time other vehicles are simultaneously using that same "through traffic" lane for dropping off students from vehicles. A school employee must monitor the through traffic and stop the traffic during each offload as the school bus lights are in the red flashing mode. This poses a conflict, confusion and a safety hazard. It was suggested that if the direction of traffic flow were reversed, buses could offload students safely onto the sidewalk and curbed area.

Reversing the direction of traffic flow would clearly eliminate the existing traffic conflict, greatly improve safety and could result in a more efficient use of the drop off process however after numerous sight visits at different times of the day and measuring the width Central Street, I believe we need to take a different approach.

Central Street is not wide enough WESTBOUND to accommodate a left turn lane into the High School if we were to reverse the direction of traffic flow and use the current main driveway exit as the new entrance. The result of not having a left turn lane for entering the High School main entrance would back up westbound traffic on Central Street significantly at peak hours of heavy traffic volume.

As important, we will be creating a problem for EASTERLY traffic because vehicles dropping off students will need to wait for students to offload from the buses before they can circulate through the main driveway. As a result, the potential exists of stacking up traffic extending out of the High School entrance and backing up onto Central Street, with the likelihood we would be stopping the EASTERLY traffic flow during peak hours. This could be a real problem as Webster Valve releases their employees about the same time that afternoon school releases. Simply stated Central Street narrows down significantly thus reversing the High School Main Driveway traffic flow is not a viable solution.

Upon the original request, I agreed to meet on site with the Principal and Superintendent relative to any infrastructure changes that may be required. In addition to their request I also mentioned I would review Chapter 284 of the "Vehicles and Traffic" section of the Franklin City Code to see if a "One Way" entrance/exit was listed in the code.

Subsequent to the meeting, I reviewed Chapter 284 in its entirety and discovered that neither the existing Handicap Parking Spaces nor the One Way Traffic Flow in the front of the High School was designated in the City Code. Upon further research I discovered that very few if any of the required regulatory signs are currently listed in the Traffic Code throughout all three schools. I mentioned this to the City Manager who spoke the City Attorney and it became clear, according to Attorney Fitzgerald, that all signs regulating traffic within public ways and areas including Public Schools or any other City Owned Property must be included in the "Vehicles and Traffic" section of the City Code. Such regulatory signs include: One Way; Stop Signs; Yield Signs; Do Not Enter and various types of Parking and No parking Signs designating various restrictions such as Handicap, Loading Zones, and Staff Parking etc.

As a result of the narrow layout of Central Street preventing a left turn lane, I have incorporated changes to the original Ordinance #04-16 presented to the School Board at their meeting of July 20, 2015. Since a Public Hearing is necessary regardless of the outcome, there are various scenarios towards completing the goals of the project at a minimal cost, mainly because all that will be needed is signage and pavement markings.

Concurrences:

I spoke to Councilor Boyd, Chairman of the Highway Safety Committee, about this subject and he suggested preparing an Ordinance and set a September Public Hearing. In the meantime he stated the Highway Safety Committee could decide to meet prior to the September 2015 City Council meeting if needed. The opportunity for public input can take place at the public hearing(s).

If there is a date set by Highway Safety Committee meeting, it should allow sufficient time for staff to include any further recommendations in preparation for the September public hearing and changes to the proposed ordinance.

Fiscal Impact:

Most of the signs at the schools that need to be codified are already in place. Thus, other than necessary pavement markings and sign maintenance this should not amount to a significant cost other than manpower to undertake various related tasks. The Municipal Department can work with School Department Staff and our line painting company "Markings Inc." as most of the cost will be for labor and a lot of the work can be done while school is in session.

Alternatives and Further Action:

After learning of Attorney Fitzgerald's recommendation that properties under control of the School Department should codify their regulatory signs, I am willing to assist with the process of inventory and codification. This may take several months but it is my suggestion we begin by adding an "Article VII ", Section 284-38 entitled " Public Schools", to Chapter 284 of the "Vehicles and Traffic" section of the Franklin City Code. Article VII would encompass the various types of regulatory signs and pertain solely to signage located on properties under the jurisdiction of the School Department. This concept would be easier to track and add future changes to a particular section of the code designated for the schools and avoid having to search throughout the entire traffic code for specific regulatory signs pertaining solely to school property. Ordinance # 04-16 will accomplish this objective.

Attachments/Exhibits:

Ordinance #04-16

ORDINANCE # 04-16

AN AMENDMENT TO THE FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL CODE:

In the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Fifteen;

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Franklin that the Franklin Municipal Code, Chapter 284, Vehicles and Traffic, be changed as follows:

Add:

A new section to the Franklin City Code creating "Article VII, Section 284-38, Public Schools"

Subsequent to creating this section add the following sections:

Add:

A. One Way Streets, Passages, Access and Egresses

<u>Location</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Direction of Traffic Flow</u>
High School Main Driveway	Entering from Central Street onto Daniell Point Rd. and into Main Driveway entrance.	Northwesterly from Daniell Point Rd. to Main Access Driveway at High School exiting northwest to Central St.
High School	Westerly Parking lot exiting northerly onto Central St.	Northerly onto Central St.
High School Traffic Pattern	Beginning at Daniell Point Rd. proceeding to Central St.	Westerly around the rear of the school towards the West Parking Lot then Northerly exiting onto Central St.

Add:

B. <u>Stop Signs</u>	<u>At intersection of</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>
High School	Main Driveway, exiting onto Central Street	Stop Sign
Daniell Point Rd.	Exiting onto Central Street	Stop Sign
Westerly Parking Lot	Exiting northerly onto Central Street	Stop Sign

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Add:

C. Handicap Parking Zones:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Number of spaces</u>	<u>Side</u>
Main Driveway at High School : "Restricted Entrance" from only Daniell Point Rd. to Central St.	3	NOTE: The Entire Front Driveway Entrance is "Restricted to Bus Traffic Only" between the hours of 6::30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m and 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Main Driveway between Central St. to Daniell Point Rd.	2	Northerly Side Main Driveway
S.A.U Parking Lot behind West Wing of High School Building	2	Southeasterly portion of Lot behind West Wing of High School Building

Add:

D. Designated as Limited Parking; Reserved Parking

<u>Location</u>	<u>Section and number of spaces</u>	<u>Side</u>
Main Driveway between Daniell Point Rd and Central St. (Visitor Parking)	6	Northerly side of Main Driveway
Daniell Point Rd. (School Staff Parking)	18	Easterly side of Daniell Point Rd.
Daniell Point Rd. from end of (School Staff Parking) to end of Daniell Point Rd. (Undesignated)	23	Easterly side of Daniell Point Rd.
Far West Lot (School Coach Staff Parking)	2	Southwesterly corner of Lot
Far West Lot (Undesignated)	37	Furthermost westerly Lot
West Lot (Undesignated)	13	Westerly side of building

S.A.U. Parking Lot behind West Wing of High School Building (School Staff Parking)	10	Southerly Lot behind West Wing of High School Building
S.A.U. Parking Lot behind West Wing of High School Building (Visitor Parking)	13	Southerly Lot behind West Wing of High School Building
Parking Lot along East Wing of High School Building (School Staff Parking)	7	Southerly Lot along East Wing of High School Building, North of Daniell Point Rd.
Parking Lot behind East Wing of High School Building (undesignated)	14	Center lot behind East Wing of High School Building, North of Daniell Point Rd.
Parking Lot behind East Wing of High School Building (undesignated)	10	Athletic Field side North of Daniell Pointe Rd.

Add:

E. Parking Prohibited

<u>Location</u>	<u>Section and number of Spaces</u>	<u>Side</u>
Rear of middle section of High School Building	4	South/Central section of Building in the rear of the building
Daniell Point Rd.	Central St. to Dead End	Entire Westerly side of Road to Dead End, No Parking

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Roll Call:

Councilor Barton	_____	Councilor Feener	_____
Councilor Boyd	_____	Councilor Giunta	_____
Councilor Clarenbach	_____	Councilor Starkweather	_____
Councilor Desrochers	_____	Councilor Wells	_____
Councilor Dzujna	_____		

Approved: _____
Mayor

Passed: _____

I certify that said vote has not been amended or repealed and remains in full force and effect as of the date of this Certification and that Katie A Gargano is the City Clerk for the City of Franklin, Franklin, New Hampshire.

A true copy, attested: _____
City Clerk

Date: _____