



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7 Twin Circle Drive, Arlington, MA 02474

To: Board of Selectmen, Arlington, Mass

From: Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Subject: Germaine Lawrence School Parking

Date: 21 September 2009

The Board of Selectmen requested in their Memorandum dated January 10, 2007 that the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) evaluate and develop recommendations regarding traffic and parking in the vicinity of Germaine Lawrence School. The attached report contains the results of this analysis and recommendations. Jeff Maxtutis, Officer Corey Rateau, and Associate John Lentz conducted the study. The TAC voted these recommendations unanimously on July 8, 2009.

The Executive Director of Germaine Lawrence School, the Director of *A Place to Grow* daycare center, and neighborhood abutters were contacted. The Arlington Police Department provided parking and accident information as part of this evaluation and contributed information on previous evaluations, issues and recommendations. Issues and recommendations from a Memorandum from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) dated January 23, 2008 were reviewed as part of this evaluation. Parking issues evaluated included illegal parking, adequacy of off-street and on-street parking, signage, Special Permit violations, and safety issues.

The following is recommended to improve parking conditions in the vicinity of Germaine Lawrence and reduce the impacts on neighbors:

1. The School should improve its enforcement of the current snow parking policy by ensuring all school-affiliated vehicles are parked off-street (in tandem operation if necessary) during snow conditions. This will allow town plows to clear the roadways and maintain adequate roadway width for two-way travel. The School should be responsible for clearing snow around any vehicles in violation. The additional new parking spaces on lower Claremont Avenue will help this situation.
2. The School should continue to implement tandem (stacked) parking in its lots, especially on peak days (Wednesdays) and during snow conditions and special events. This will reduce the demand on the surrounding streets.
3. The School should designate a parking coordinator and develop an information sheet that is distributed to area residents. Information provided will include who to call with parking issues (24 hours), school schedules, and upcoming special events. Residents can call directly to report vehicles parked overnight, vehicles parked too close to intersections or driveways, etc.
4. The School should install a new “No Parking Here to Corner” sign on the east side of Claremont Avenue north of Appleton Street that is consistent with signs previously installed by the school. The school should also relocate three “No Parking Here to Corner” signs

Transportation Advisory Committee Members:

Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, Officer Corey Rateau, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise,
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currently located less than 20 feet from an intersection including those on both corners of Wollaston/Hillside and the southeast corner of Wollaston/Claremont.

5. The School should replace the bituminous berm on the west side of Claremont Street fronting the Merck Center with a granite curb. The existing berm curb was constructed during construction of the Merck Center, but it is substandard and does not conform to town standards. This measure should be coordinated with the Department of Public Works.

6. The School should continue to promote non single-occupant automobile travel options for faculty/staff such as carpooling, MBTA bus, and walk/bike. Incentives such as mileage reimbursements for employee carpools should again be considered.

7. The Town should consider replacing the granite/cobble curb on the east side of Hillside Avenue between #28 Hillside Avenue and Wollaston Avenue and repair the curb on the southwest corner of Wollaston/Hillside. This should be considered as part of its curb replacement program or when the road is reconstructed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffery Maxtutis – Working Group Lead and Vice Chair
Edward Starr - Chair

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