



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7 Twin Circle Drive, Arlington, MA 02474

Memorandum

To: Board of Selectmen, Arlington,

From: Transportation Advisory Committee

Subject: Request for yellow lines on Highland Avenue near Massachusetts Avenue

Reference: Board of Selectmen letter to the TAC: 22 June 2005 re Marzilli request

Date: December 19, 2005

The TAC has reviewed the above-referenced request for a yellow line on Highland Avenue near the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue.

Findings:

- Traffic parked on both sides of the street near Massachusetts Avenue creates a bottleneck for traffic moving up or down Highland Avenue.
- Parking occupancy on Highland Avenue and the general area is highest around noon.
- Peak occupancy rate is close to 90% of capacity on Highland between Wildwood and Massachusetts Avenue.
- Restricted parking spaces near the corner of Massachusetts Avenue help ease turning traffic, and are only occasionally abused.
- Buildings close to the corners of the intersection make visibility an issue.
- Further parking restriction on Highland Avenue was considered.

Further parking restriction on Highland Avenue, to ease the bottleneck, is not recommended because at peak hours capacity is already nearly overloaded, and it could cause hardship for area residents or businesses around the lunch hour. Also, since Highland Avenue is downhill towards Massachusetts Avenue, this bottleneck forces traffic to slow, and creates a safer situation.

A yellow line is appropriate, because it would help direct turning traffic into the appropriate lanes, and it could also discourage parking on Highland Avenue too far out from the curb.

Recommendations:

1. Paint a yellow mid-line for the first 60 ft or so of Highland Avenue at the intersection with Mass Ave.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Starr
Chair of Transportation Advisory Committee

Transportation Advisory Committee Members:

Joseph Cahill, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ralph Elwell, Jeff Maxtutis, Lt. James McHugh, Kevin O'Brien, Charles Pappas, Michael Rademacher, John Sanchez, Scott Smith, and Edward Starr.

Web site: www.tac.arlington.ma.us/