



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Arlington Planning Department, 730 Mass Ave,
Arlington MA, c/o Laura Wiener

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Subject: Parking at 14-16 Mill Street

Date: July 6, 2016

Background

A resident has requested (through the BoS) an investigation of on-street parking on Mill Street that may impede traffic flow during the morning peak hours. There are 2 designated on-street parking spaces on the west side of Mill Street fronting the High Rock Church building. The spaces are signed for "One Hour Parking 9 AM-7 PM". These parking spaces are immediately to the south of Mill Brook Drive. The intersection of Mill Street/Jason Street/Mass Ave has two southbound lanes approaching Mass Avenue. The inside lane is designated for a left turn only; the outside lane is a shared thru-right lane. The two southbound approach lanes on Mill Street extend back to approximately to Mill Brook Drive. When vehicles are parked in the Mill Street spaces in front of the High Rock Church building, one travel lane is blocked. As a result, vehicles queue into one southbound travel lane that extends back upstream towards Summer Street in the weekday morning commuter period.



Posted Parking Regulation



Traffic on southbound Mill Street approaching Mass Ave



Traffic on southbound Mill Street at the parking spaces in question

Observations

The TAC working group observed the traffic flow on Mill Street on Friday, June 3, 2016 for approximately 40 minutes from 7:26 AM until 8:07AM in good weather. During this busy morning commute, these observations were made:

- There were no vehicles parked in the 2 spaces on Mill Street;

- Traffic on Mill Street generally cleared the signal at Mill/Jason/Mass Ave in one cycle; and
- The vehicle queue was much shorter for the thru-right lane than the left lane.

We observed 25 cycles of the signal at Mill/Jason/Mass Ave. To determine if vehicles parked in the 2 spaces would obstruct the flow of traffic on southbound Mill Street, the number of times that vehicles were queued back to these spaces was recorded. The following results were observed:

- For the first 16 minutes, from 7:26 to 7:42 AM, the queue was long enough 5 out of 10 signal cycles to reach the spaces; and
- For the remainder of the observation period, from 7:42 until 8:07 AM, the queue was long enough every signal cycle, or 15 times, to extend back or beyond to the parking spaces. For three cycles the queue extended back to Summer Street.

Recommendations

The observations reinforce the concern that when vehicles are parked in the 2 on-street spaces on Mill Street at the High Rock Church building, the Mill Street southbound traffic flow toward Mass Ave is impeded during the busy morning commute period. Previous observations conducted by TAC confirmed this operation. When vehicles are in either one of these two spaces, the amount of storage space for southbound Mill Street vehicles is reduced, resulting in longer queue lengths on Mill Street.

It is recommended that parking should be prohibited between 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM weekdays for the two on-street spaces on southbound Mill Street in front of the High Rock Church building. This recommendation would not change the existing "One Hour Parking 9 AM-7 PM" regulation.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Maxtutis -- Working Group Lead
Howard Muise -- Chair