

Date: June 6, 2022

From: William Copithorne, Assistant Town Engineer / TAC

To: TAC

Subject: Turning Improvement Request - Everett Street at Massachusetts Avenue

In November 2021 the Office of the Select Board referred the request of an Everett Street resident to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) for consideration. The request centered on the behavior of motorists at the intersection of Everett Street and Massachusetts Avenue and the tendency of many motorists to approach the intersection from the right-hand side of Everett Street regardless of the direction they intend to turn onto Massachusetts Avenue. As a one-way road between Broadway and Massachusetts Avenue, motorists on Everett Street have the ability to approach Massachusetts Avenue in the left-hand side of the road if they intend to take a left turn and to approach Massachusetts Avenue on the right-hand side of the road if they intend to take a right turn. Per the resident, many motorists fail to do so and instead try to turn left onto Massachusetts Avenue from the right-hand side of the road, resulting in traffic backups on Everett Street and confusion amongst motorists taking left-hand turns. The resident proposed the installation of roadway markings to include left turn and right turn arrows delineated by a solid white line just prior to the stop bar located at the northern end of Everett Street. The resident also proposed the installation of signage to indicate turning traffic should stay on the corresponding side of the road (i.e. left turning traffic should stay left, right turning traffic should stay right).

In reviewing the resident's concern and proposals, members of TAC noted that this issue is present in numerous locations throughout Arlington, particularly in the eastern half of Town where one-way roads are more prevalent. These roads are often narrower residential ways that do not meet the traffic warrants to merit signalization of intersections, such as the case at Everett Street and Massachusetts Avenue. As a general policy, the Town does not typically install paint markings to designate turn lanes at unsignalized intersections. Reasons for this policy include, but are not limited to:

- Cost of installation and ongoing maintenance of the markings when considering limited traffic volumes
- The roads are narrow and the resulting lanes can be infringed upon by snow banks during and following snow events; this further narrows the road, potentially leading to unsafe conditions between drivers in the respective lanes

While not typical, it is noted that exceptions have been made to this policy (ex. Victoria Road at Mystic Street). However, in such instances the installation of traffic markings were driven by other safety concerns (i.e. pedestrian safety, accident history, wrong way traffic, etc.). There is no data to indicate that such additional safety concerns are present at Everett Street and Massachusetts Avenue.

Based on past precedent and other information presented above, TAC recommends that the Select Board take no action in regard to the proposed traffic markings and corresponding signs. However, it was noted that one additional issue may be the illegal parking of cars on Everett Street in close proximity of the intersection. Existing State statute restricts vehicles from parking within 20-feet of an intersection. Vehicles that do so can limit the visibility of motorists travelling on Everett Street to vehicular and pedestrian traffic traveling along Massachusetts Avenue. To improve this condition, TAC does recommend that the Department of Public Works (DPW) install "No Parking Here to Corner" signs on both sides of the road setback 20-feet from the stop bar on Everett Street. In addition to improving driver visibility, TAC hopes this result in a consistently wider roadway as cars approach Massachusetts Avenue and may help ease the congestion and turning issues that the

resident noted. As the parking restriction is a State statute, no further approval is required by the Select Board to post the signs and thus the request for signage was forwarded to the DPW for installation. The signs were installed by the DPW in March 2022.