



Thomas J. Aspell, Jr.
City Manager

CITY OF CONCORD

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City Manager's Office

City Hall • 41 Green Street • Concord, NH 03301 • (603) 225-8570

citymanager@concordnh.gov

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Matthew R. Walsh, Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services,
& Special Projects

DATE: January 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Narrow Streets Parking Study
Zone 4 (Old North Cemetery Neighborhood)
Proposed Parking Ordinance Amendments

Recommendation:

- Accept the following report; and,
- Set the attached ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-6, Parking Prohibited at All Times in Designated Places, Schedule I, for public hearing on March 9, 2020.
- Set the attached ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-7.1(a), Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours and Months in Designated Places, Schedule IX, for public hearing on March 9, 2020.
- Set the attached ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 17, Vehicles and Traffic, Article 17-4, Operation of Motor Vehicles, Section 17-4-3, One Way Streets, Schedule VI (One Way Streets) for public hearing on March 9, 2020.

Background:

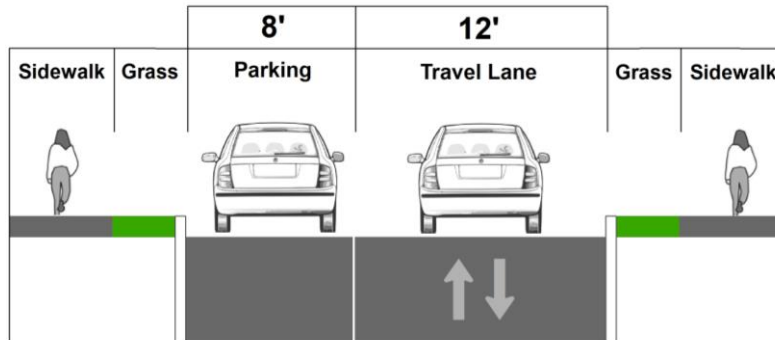
In January 2017, the Parking Committee initiated a comprehensive review of narrow streets located in Wards 4, 5, and 6. The study area was predominately focused on the neighborhoods located to the south, west, and north of the Downtown Central Business District.

This effort was initiated in response to growing resident complaints and concerns regarding a variety of parking issues. These included: difficulty accessing / egressing driveways, safe travel on narrow streets when snow banks are present and vehicles are parked, the City's ability to effectively and efficiently clear snow from certain narrow streets, as well as the ability for

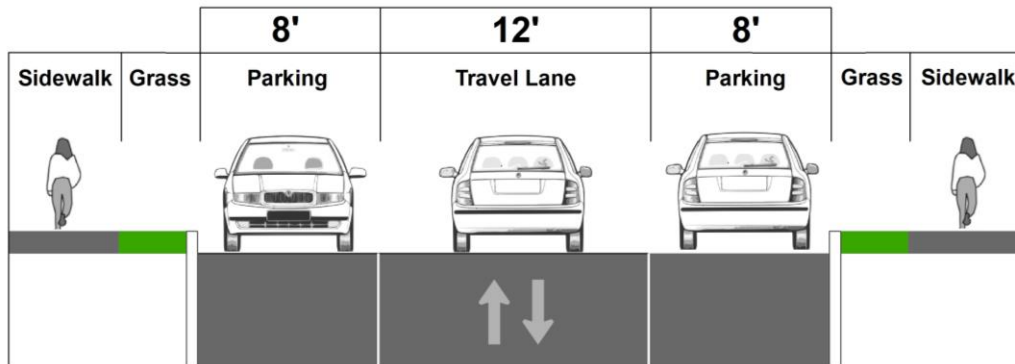
emergency service vehicles to safely and efficiently navigate narrow streets when vehicles are parked.

To be considered a “narrow street” a road must have less than 12’ of travel way for vehicular travel whenever vehicles are parked on the roadway. This concept is articulated in Section 18-1-1 and Section 18-1-4 of the City’s Codes of Ordinances. The graphics below explain minimum pavement widths in order to comply with these Ordinances.

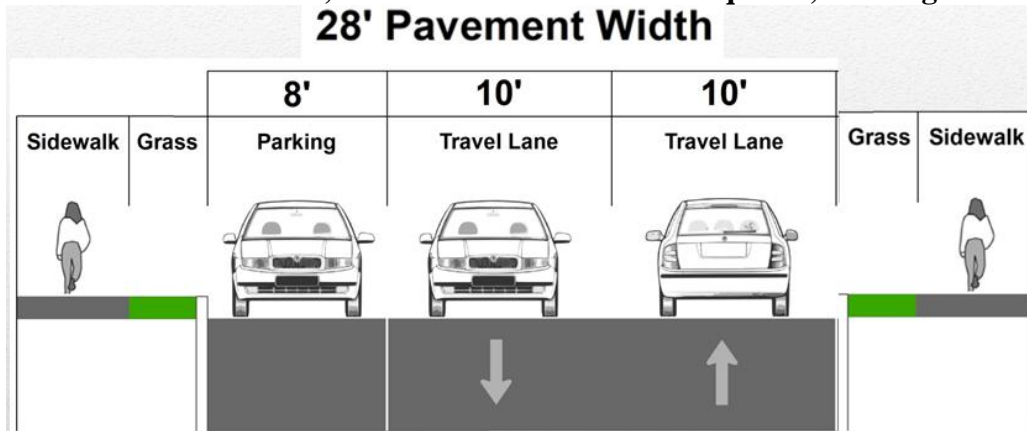
**Figure 1: 20’ Minimum Pavement Width
(Low Traffic Volume Streets; Room to Pass 2 Vehicles is Not Critical; Parking 1 Side Only)
20’ Pavement Width**



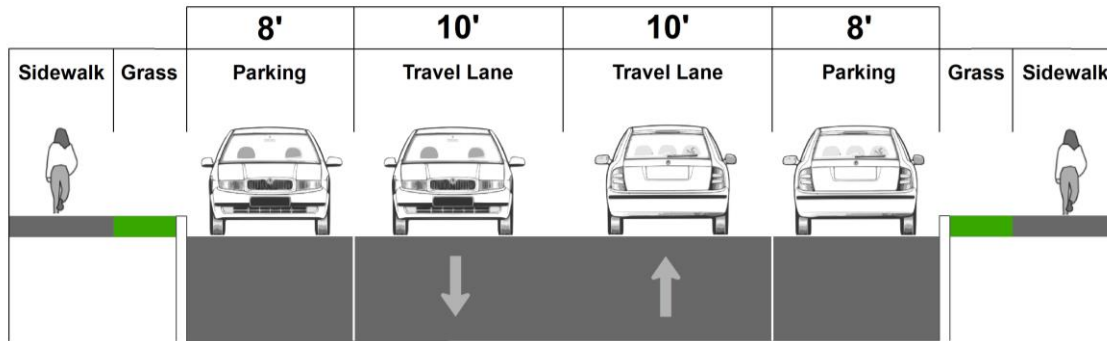
**Figure 2: 28’ Minimum Pavement Width
(Low Traffic Volume Streets; Room to Pass 2 Vehicles is Not Critical; Parking Both Sides)
28’ Pavement Width**



**Figure 3: 28’ Minimum Pavement Width
(Low Traffic Volume Streets; Room to Pass 2 Vehicles Required; Parking 1 Side Only)
28’ Pavement Width**



**Figure 4: 36' Minimum Pavement Width
(Low Traffic Volume Streets; Room to Pass 2 Vehicles Required; Parking Both Sides)
36' Pavement Width**



Working with City staff, the Parking Committee identified and studied approximately 143 narrow street segments within the study area. Of this total, approximately 84 were of potential concern. Please see Maps 1 and 2 attached to this report for more information.

In order to make review process manageable, the Parking Committee subdivided the study area into 4 separate zones. These zones are as follows, and are depicted on Map 2 attached to this report.

Zone #	General Description	North Boundary	South Boundary	East Boundary	West Boundary
1	Wall Street Neighborhood	Pleasant St.	West St.	Storrs St.	South Spring St.
2	City Hall Neighborhood	Centre St.	Pleasant St.	Storrs St.	Liberty St.
3	UNH School of Law / White Park	Beacon St.	Centre St.	North Main St.	Liberty St.
4	Old North Cemetery Neighborhood	Curtice Ave.	Beacon St.	Prospect St.	Liberty St.

Review of Zone 1 was completed in April 2019. Review of Zone 2 was completed in November 2019.

Discussion:

Zone 4 of the Narrow Streets Study Area included 24 street segments of concern. Please see Map 3 attached to this report for more information.

The Parking Committee employed a comprehensive process to review these streets, as well as secure neighborhood input related thereto, as follows:

1. *Community Forum #1*: An initial community forum was held on October 8, 2019 at the City Council Chambers to discuss issues surrounding narrow streets, as well as secure public input on the street segments of concern and potential recommendations associated therewith. All property owners in the Zone 4 neighborhood were notified. The forum was also advertised on the City’s website and social media.

2. Subcommittee Development of Draft Recommendations: The Parking Committee formed a work group to review potential recommendations presented at the initial community forum, and public feedback related thereto. This process included a tour of all 24 street segments. The work group then proposed draft recommendations, which were reviewed by the full Parking Committee on November 25, 2019.
3. Community Forum #2: The Parking Committee held a second community forum on December 5, 2019 to present the Committee's final recommendations. Like the initial forum, all property owners were notified, and the forum was promoted on social media and the City's website.
4. Parking Committee Final Review: The Parking Committee met on December 23, 2019 and voted to submit its recommendations to the City Council for public hearing.

Copies of the October 8th and December 5th presentations are attached to this report.

After completing this comprehensive process, the Parking Committee is recommending changes to all 24 street segments of concern, as follows:

- One-Way Street Conversion:
 - Perkins (One-Way East Bound)
- Eliminate All On-Street Parking:
 - Granite Avenue;
 - Lyndon Street (Tremont to Franklin); and,
 - Rumford Street (100' north and south of the Church Street intersection at the crest of the hill).
- Limit Parking to One Side of the Street:
 - Albin Street (North Side);
 - Bradley Street (East Side);
 - Curtice Avenue (South Side);
 - Franklin Street (North Main to North State) (South Side);
 - Highland Street (Rumford to Jackson) (South Side);
 - Jackson Street (Tremont to Highland) (East Side);
 - Lyndon Street (Franklin to Church) (West Side);
 - Martin Street (West Side);
 - Perkins (South Side);
 - Rumford (Franklin to Penacook) (West Side);
 - Tremont Street (Rumford to Crosby) (South Side); and,
 - Walker (Bouton to Bradley) (South Side).
- Winter Parking Ban (January 1 – March 15th):
 - Church Street (Bradley to Jackson);
 - Curtice Avenue;
 - Harrod Street;
 - Highland Street (Rumford to Jackson);
 - Jackson Street (Tremont to Highland);
 - Lyndon Street (Franklin to Church);
 - Martin Street;
 - Pearl Street;

- Rumford Street (Beacon to Franklin); and,
- Tremont Street (Crosby to North State).

The Parking Committee felt that these recommendations represented the least impact possible to the neighborhood, while simultaneously balancing the concerns relative to public safety, safe and efficient movement of traffic, safe access by emergency response vehicles, as well as safe and effective delivery of municipal services (such as snow removal).

It is important to note that public testimony received during the October 8th and December 5th neighborhood forums was very supportive of the proposed parking changes to address these concerns.

Please see the attached spreadsheet for complete details regarding these streets, as well as other reviewed in Zone 4 of the Narrow Streets Study Area.