



Yovani Baez-Rose
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

Camilo Espitia
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas A. Golden, Jr., City Manager 

FROM: Yovani Baez-Rose, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

CC: Elizabeth Oltman, PE, Transportation Engineer

SUBJECT: MOTION OF 6/13/2023 – Councilor Robinson - Request City Manager Have Proper Department Evaluate Turning Elmwood Avenue Into A One-Way

The Transportation Engineer evaluated Elmwood Avenue for the potential to change the roadway from two-way traffic flow to one-way traffic flow. Several factors were reviewed, including: roadway geometry, reported crash data, vehicle volumes, vehicle speeds, on-street parking demand, and potential future consequences of the change.

Elmwood Avenue is a local roadway that extends between Hampshire Street in the west and Bridge Street in the east. Elmwood Avenue is approximately 13 feet wide and on-street parking is prohibited on both sides of the street for the entire length.

Vehicular traffic volumes and speeds were recorded by city staff on Elmwood Avenue between Monday, July 3 and Monday, July 10, 2023. The average weekday daily traffic volume was recorded as 23 vehicles, with 61% of the traffic over the day traveling westbound toward Hampshire Street. The 85th percentile speed (speed at which 85% of the vehicles are traveling at or below) was recorded as 16 mph, with the average speed recorded as 14 mph. Fewer than 2% of the vehicles were recorded traveling over 30 mph, the current statutory speed limit. There were no crashes recorded on the MassDOT IMPACT Portal between January 2016 and June 2023.

Due to the width of the road, the low traffic volumes and crash history, and the potential conflict between two vehicles attempting to navigate the roadway traveling in opposite directions, it is appropriate to change Elmwood Avenue to create one-way traffic flow. In order to reduce the number of conflict points along Bridge Street for vehicles turning onto Bridge Street from side streets, the Transportation Engineer recommends that Elmwood Avenue be changed to one-way traffic flow in the westbound direction, from Bridge Street to Hampshire Street. The proposed ordinance to enact this change is included in the 60 Day Trial memo under consideration at the July 25, 2023 Council meeting.

EMO