

2024-2025



## Newton City Councilor Tarik Lucas

To: Shawna Sullivan & Barney Heath  
CC: Washington Street Pilot project team, Cassidy Flynn  
Date: July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Subject: Parking Stall Width

Hi Commissioner Sullivan & Director Heath,

There is a serious public safety issue with the Washington Street Pilot. The parking stalls along Washington Street in Newtonville are too narrow. City regulations state that parking stalls shall be at least 9 feet in width. I took measurements over the weekend to find out that the stall width is significantly less than 9 feet.

The parking stalls on the north side of Washington Street are approximately 6 feet 10 inches in width.



Additionally, the parking stalls on the south side of Washington Street in Newtonville are worse. Those measure approximately 6 feet 7 inches in width.



I went back and reexamined the materials that were presented to the Public Facilities committee on May 15th, 2024. None of the backup materials stated that the parking stalls were going to be this narrow in width. Having parking stalls at a minimum of 9 feet in width ensures motorists that they can safely open their respective car doors and maneuver within the parking stall.

The city should follow its own regulations at all times. It ensures the residents that we are not cutting corners to get desired outcomes. The parking stalls located within the Washington Street Pilot need to be adjusted to a minimum of 9 feet in width to ensure we are doing everything to protect motorists who travel on the road.

When I voted against the Washington Street Pilot at the June 3rd, 2024, meeting I stated that I want the Washington Pilot to succeed, but I felt it was being rushed. The fact that the parking stalls are less than 9 feet in width proves my point. It is time to right this wrong.

Sincerely,

Tarik Lucas  
City Councilor At-Large, Ward 2

1000 Commonwealth Avenue ▪ Newton, MA 02459  
617-796-1210 [www.newtonma.gov](http://www.newtonma.gov)