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

To: Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
From: Lesley Ellis School Working Group
Subject: Anticipated Traffic and Parking Changes with the Relocation of Lesley Ellis School
Date: 12 April 2017

In late 2016, TAC was asked to review potential traffic and parking issues that might arise from the relocation of the Lesley Ellis School from the Gibbs School site (between Foster and Tufts Streets) to the Dearborn Academy site (between Oxford and Winter Streets). The Dearborn Academy will be relocating to Newton this summer. This report summarizes the working group's findings.

CONDITIONS



Both sites are located between pairs of one-way streets in East Arlington, running between Massachusetts Avenue and Broadway. The current Gibbs School site is located between Foster and Tufts Streets. Foster Street runs southwest towards Mass Ave and Tufts Street runs northeast towards Broadway. The current Dearborn Academy site is located between Oxford and Winter Streets. Oxford Street runs towards Mass Ave and Winter Street runs towards Broadway. Parking conditions on each street are as follows:

- Foster Street has a curb-to-curb width of 25 feet (typical for local streets in East Arlington). Parking is allowed on both sides, and most of the street is posted as Resident Only parking, with a no-parking zone adjacent to the school
- Tufts Street has a curb-to-curb width of approximately 30 feet. Parking is allowed on both sides, and most of the street is posted as Resident Only parking, with a 15-minute parking zone adjacent to the school
- Oxford Street has a curb-to-curb width of approximately 25 feet. Near the school, parking is permitted on the northwest side of the street (right side), not on the left side adjacent to the school. Closer to Mass Ave., parking is permitted only on the southeast side while closer to Broadway parking is permitted on both sides.
- Winter Street has a curb-to-curb width of approximately 24 feet (slightly narrower than other streets in East Arlington). Parking is allowed only on the southeast (right side) between Mass Ave. and the end of the school property and on both sides north of the school.

Transportation Advisory Committee Members:
Wayne Chouinard, Seth Federspiel, Charles Giroux, Michael Gordon, Pamela Heidell, Brian Kmetz, Melissa Laube, Jeff Maxtutis, Marjorie Moores, Howard Muise, Officer Corey Rateau, Scott Smith, and Laura Wiener
Web site; www.arlingtonma.gov/tac

OBSERVED DROP-OFF/PARKING ACTIVITY AT LESLEY ELLIS

Working group members observed conditions at the current school location in early December 2016. Overall, it appeared less hectic that what is typically seen at a public elementary school. Drivers parking for short term drop-off / pickup tended to ignore the resident permit and no-parking signs and parked adjacent to the school on both streets. The school gathered data about morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up that was consistent with the working group's observations:

Traffic Flow
Monday, December 12, 2016
Lesley Ellis School Families at the Gibbs School Building

School day is as follows:

Early Childhood Program
Preschool, Prekindergarten, Transitional Kindergarten: 8:30* - 3:15
Some students go home at 12:30
Elementary Program
Grades K-4: 8:15*-3:15
Middle School Program
Grades 5-8: 8:15*-3:15

*There is an 8:00 drop off option for all students.

The following data collected on cars parking (averaging approximately 5-10 minutes), and dropping off and picking up students were provided by the school.

8:00-8:15

Early Childhood:	9 cars park
Elementary:	18 cars park
Middle School:	9 cars park/11 cars drop off

8:15-8:30

Early Childhood:	11 cars park
Elementary:	12 cars park
Middle School:	1 car parks/1 car drops off

8:30-8:45

Early Childhood:	17 cars park
Elementary:	5 cars park
Middle School:	0 cars

8:45-9:00

Early Childhood:	9 cars park
Elementary	0 cars
Middle School:	0 cars

12:25-12:40 pm

Early Childhood: 21 cars park

3:00-3:30 pm

Early Childhood: 10 cars park
Elementary: 30 cars park
Middle School: 9 cars park

The busiest period for traffic in the morning at the Lesley Ellis School is between 8:00 and 8:15 when 36 cars parked and another 11 dropped-off students for a total of 47 vehicles. Between 3:00 and 3:30 almost 50 vehicles arrive for pick-up with almost all parking for a short period of time. Parents park on both sides of both Foster and Tufts Streets for drop-off and pick-up.

COMPARISON WITH DEARBORN ACADEMY

To assess the potential for changes in traffic and parking conditions on Winter Street and Oxford Street, it is useful to compare traffic and parking demands for the existing Dearborn Academy and Lesley Ellis School. The following is based on information provided by Schools for Children, the organization that runs both schools:

Dearborn Academy
1. Current enrollment **90**
2. Number of staff **83**
3. Number of vans dropping off and picking up students on an average day **45**
4. Number of students who arrive by private vehicle **1 or 2**
5. Number of staff who drive **55**

Leslie Ellis
1. Current and next years projected enrollment **172**
2. Estimated number of students who walk, ride a bicycle or use MBTA **12-15**
3. Number of students who arrive by school bus or van, if any **none**
4. Number of students who carpool **72**
5. Current and projected number of staff **35**
6. Number of staff who drive **31**
7. Number of staff who carpool **2**

Based on this information, parking demand for staff at the Dearborn Academy site will decline from about 55 to 31. The capacity of the existing parking lot at Dearborn Academy is about 23 spaces (an exact count of spaces is not possible because the existing markings are worn off). Also, Dearborn Academy has space where they park several vans on-site overnight. On-street parking during the day by staff is expected to decline from about 30 vehicles to less than 5 vehicles. Total traffic for students arriving will increase from about 45 vehicles (almost all vans) to about 100 vehicles in the morning peak hour. The Dearborn Academy site includes a circular driveway off Winter Street where some drop-off and pick-up activity can occur off street.

RECOMMENDATIONS

With the change in uses of the current Dearborn Academy site, traffic and parking conditions will change. There will be less demand for staff parking and no van activity, but more private vehicle pickup and drop-off. Based on the increase in drop-of and pick-up activity at the Dearborn Academy site and the narrow street widths, the following measures should be considered by the school:

- If feasible, provide a travel way between the circular driveway on the Winter Street side of the building and the parking lot driveway on Oxford Street. This could allow for some drop-off and pick-up activity to take place on the school property, especially for early childhood education and elementary school children.
- Remind parents who drop-off and pick-up students that no parking is permitted adjacent to the school property.
- Monitor traffic and parking after the move occurs.

In addition, the Town should:

- Restripe the Crosby Field parking lot to replace the obliterated parking space markings.
- Repave and repaint the crosswalk at the intersection of Oxford and Raleigh Streets.



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- Improve the grade on the Oxford Street parking lot driveway where some vehicles bottom out when entering or exiting.



Respectfully submitted,

Scott Smith – Working Group Lead
Howard Muise - Chair