

February 16, 2024

Dear Boston Transportation Department,

This letter is in regards to the area of Poplar Street in Roslindale – particularly between Washington Street and Florence Street. We are very happy with the installation of speed humps which have made a marked difference in the speed of cars traveling down Poplar Street. Thank you for the work on making this street a slower and safer street. That said, some of the changes have led to confusion and some dangerous situations and we would like to request additional signage and traffic enforcement be added to help make these changes more obvious to travelers of the street. Areas of interest and requests for improvement are listed below:

- 63-65 & 67 Poplar Street (just at the intersection of Washington and Poplar): historically this has been a tow zone. Cars continue to park here. With the addition of the contraflow bike lane the area where the cars illegally park is now the driving lane. When cars are illegally parked here, it makes for a very dangerous situation for drivers entering onto Poplar as well as cyclists and pedestrians. **We request clearer tow zone signage and that there be increased traffic enforcement.**
- Parking in front of 74 Poplar St. and 2 Florence St. (on Poplar side): The final City of Boston plan for the changes to Poplar St. show that there should be 1 ADA parking space and 4 fifteen minute parking spaces. There is 1 ADA but the rest of the parking is not marked as short-term. If this parking were marked appropriately – it would alleviate some of the illegal parking on the opposite side of the street. **We request these 4 spaces be marked appropriately and at least one be additionally marked for “food pick-up” for the vendors in this area. (such areas exist on both sides of Corinth and on Poplar within the actual Square) We would also like to request consideration of an additional ADA spot due to the close proximity to both the Library and the Social Security Office on Washington St. and that there be increased traffic enforcement.**
- Contraflow bike lane ends at the Library: bollards were recently installed and now cars are illegally parking between the bollards and the curb, right in the middle of the bike lane. **We request clearer signage/markings indicating that this is a bike lane and there is no parking and that there be increased traffic enforcement.**
- Parking in front of 79 Poplar St.: Historically there has never been street parking at this location because the parking was not on this side of the street. Now that parking has changed, cars park here regularly. This address is directly in front of the turn from Florence onto Poplar. Cars parked there make it more difficult to turn at an already dangerous intersection. Given that there is a utility pole on the opposite side of Poplar (on side where the parking used to be) emergency vehicles have a very difficult time making the left turn from Florence onto Poplar. **We request that the area in front of the 79 Poplar be marked as “no parking/tow zone for emergency vehicle access” and that there be increased traffic enforcement.**

- Intersection of Poplar St and Florence St: with the addition of the contraflow bike lane on Poplar. Drivers turning left from Florence onto Poplar now need to check in both directions before turning. However there is no signage indicating that there is now a bike lane and cyclists coming from the opposite direction than the flow of automobile traffic. **We request that clear signage be placed in this area alerting drivers turning off Florence St to look both directions before turning.**

In addition to addressing the areas listed above we request information on the planned timeline for Phase 2 of the Poplar Street project - traffic calming from Sycamore Street to Canterbury Street.

If you and your team have questions, please do reach out. We would be happy to meet and walk this area with you if that would be helpful. And if these issues require involvement of other departments, please let us know this too.

Thank you for your help in making our neighborhood streets safe and accessible for all.

Sincerely,

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