

**Economic Development Subcommittee Meeting
Agenda & Meeting Packet**
April 13, 2022

Meeting will be held at the **Municipal Building**
3rd floor, Training Room
355 East Central Street
5:45 PM

A NOTE TO RESIDENTS: All citizens are welcome to attend public board and committee meetings in person. Additionally, in an effort to maximize citizen engagement opportunities, citizens will be able to continue to participate remotely via phone OR Zoom.

- **Link to access meeting:** April 13, 2022 EDC Meeting Link [HERE](#) -- Then click "Open Zoom"
 - Or copy and paste this URL into your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87825624489>
 - **Call-In Phone Number:** Call 1-929-205-6099 & enter Meeting ID: **878 2562 4489** then press #

Agenda:

1. Downtown traffic and parking improvements
 - a. West Street neighborhood follow-up
 - i. Town Administrator Memo
 - ii. Town Bylaw Parking Fines
 - b. Downtown Main Corridor Parking
 - i. Map Amendment proposal

This is a meeting of the Franklin Town Council Sub-Committee; under the Open Meeting Law, this subcommittee is a separate "public body" from the Town Council. Therefore, unless the Town Council has separately noticed and posted its own meeting, Councilors who are not members of this subcommittee will not be permitted to speak or otherwise actively participate @ this meeting, although they may attend and observe. This prohibition is necessary to avoid the potential for an Open Meeting Law Violation

Town of Franklin

355 East Central Street
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038-1352



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OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Memorandum

April 8, 2022

To: Economic Development Committee (EDC)
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Allecia Alleyne, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Re: Parking Remedies

The following proposals are amendments to town code and downtown parking regulations in order to fix some problems that have been voiced over the past several months (or years in the case of West Street).

West Street

As decided by the Town Council earlier this year, the EDC will review some steps the Town will take to improve the parking violations on West Street. In working with the Police Department and the DPW, the town will take the following steps:

1. Amend current Town Code to reflect an increase in the parking violations. Staff have prepared a bylaw amendment to increase the overtime parking violation from \$15 to \$50 and the all-night parking, when restricted from \$25 to \$50. The bylaw amendment is being drafted and will be handed out at the meeting. This violation amount is across the board throughout town and will affect the entire community. The PD is also looking at the entire bylaw on traffic violations to make any other updated recommendations as the section of parking violations has not been updated in twenty years, since 2002. A detailed track-changes version will be presented next week as the PD are putting the final proposal together.
2. The DPW will put striping down at two key intersections where cars are clearly being illegally parked - namely the corners of West Street and Church Street and Walnut Street/Nason Street. The most noted areas of where folks park are spaces between a lined space and the curb. Signage is present, but with a \$15 fine (if caught) as the only deterrent, most people take the risk. Some additional striping to alert folks they are not legal spaces will hopefully illuminate these are not legal parking spaces. See the attached pictures as reference to those corners.

Downtown Business Corridor

Many folks have commented to staff recently about the overnight parking and the appetite for a more restrictive bylaw for the main commercial stretch on Main Street and East Central Street. Many have commented that the parking restrictions do not encourage greater rotation of cars in the afternoon and evening, in addition to overnight parking in front of the businesses for extended periods of time, including overnight. These occupied spaces prevent more customers from coming into those restaurants or businesses.

The staff have provided a revised map of downtown parking with minor tweaks to those areas. Staff suggest adding a new zone that is in yellow which includes a 8AM to 10PM zone with a no overnight parking clause. A modest tweak to the bylaw map is doable at this point to fix a concentrated problem, much like West Street.

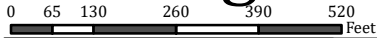
For downtown merchants, it is worth noting the Town does have permanent merchant parking at quarterly rates. Please contact the Franklin Police Department for a [merchant parking pass](#) in Downtown by emailing Kristin Gutauskas at kgutauskas@franklinma.gov

Long Term plan

Separately, the Franklin Police Department is currently evaluating municipal parking systems for all of downtown parking. Staff felt it best to (1) let the Franklin For All process conclude and (2) see if commuting increases at all over the next several months as the adaptation process to the pandemic reaches a new phase.

The Franklin PD will look at pay by phone options, town code, rates for parking and other areas to recommend a new system for the future. The pandemic has virtually killed commuter parking demand and some new solutions for the future will need to be looked at.

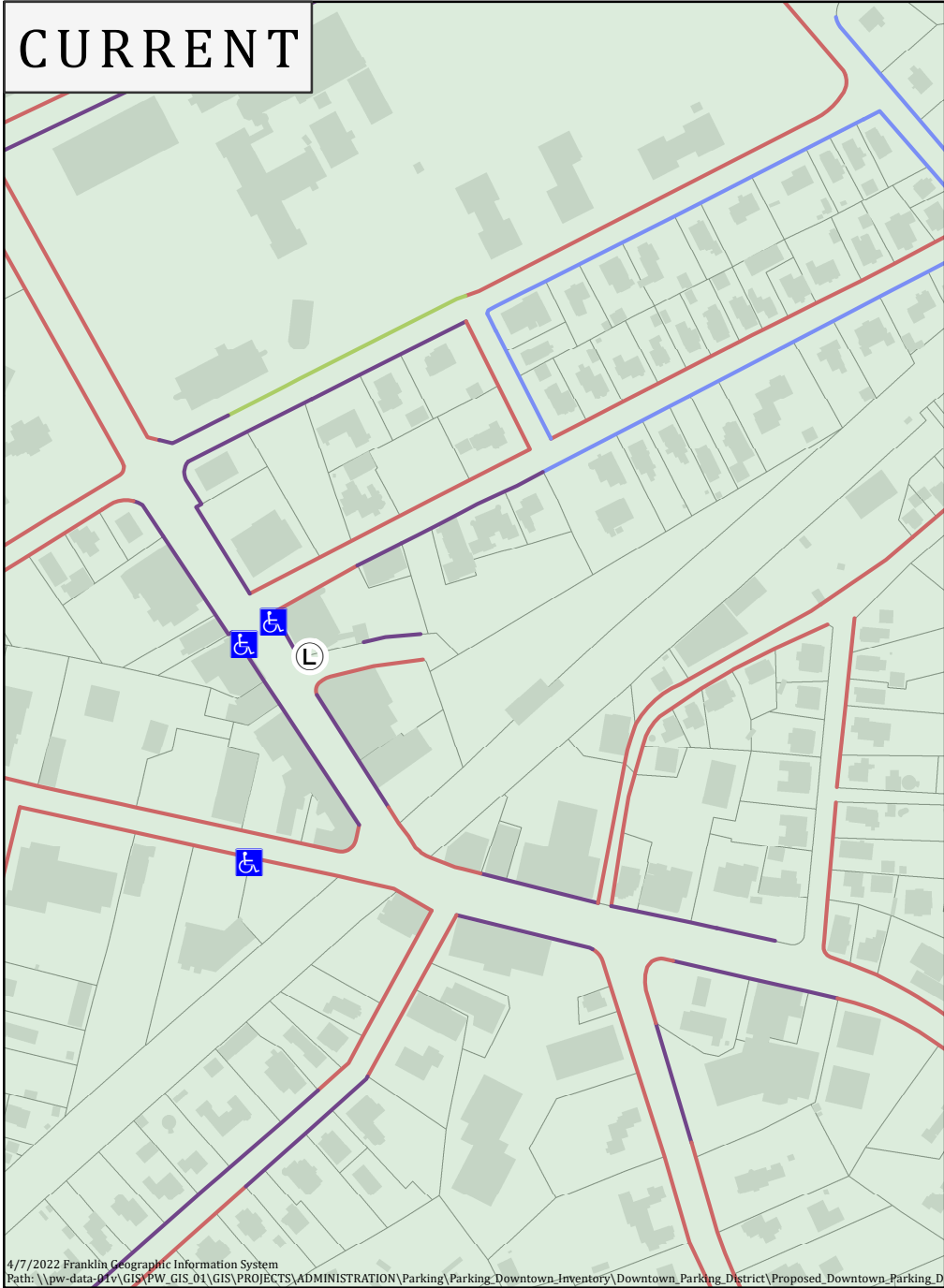
Proposed Downtown Parking District Changes



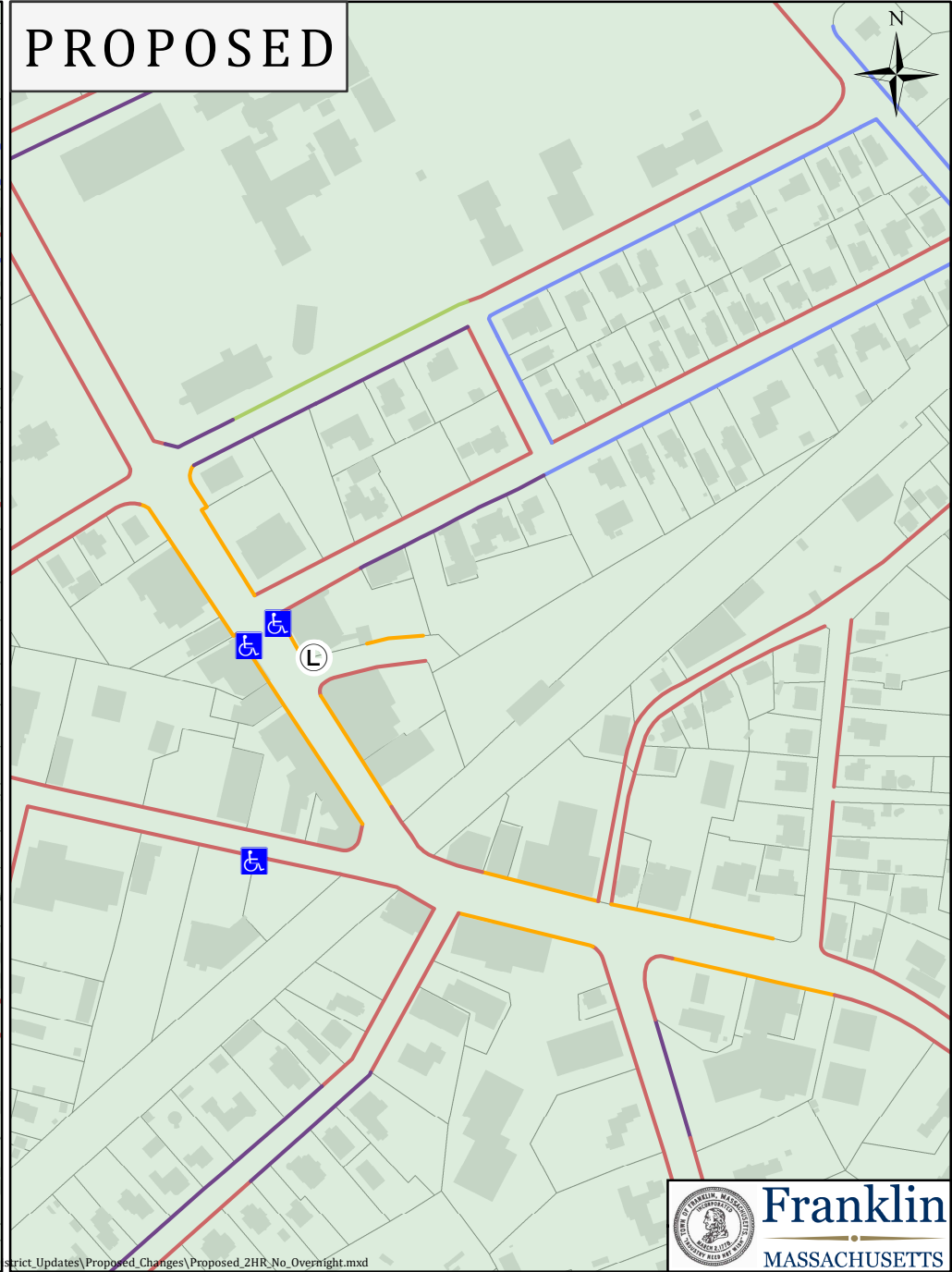
- Merchant Permit 6am-2pm, M-F
- 2 HR 6am-10am, M-F
- 2 HR 8am-2pm, M-F
- 2 HR 8am-10pm, M-F No Overnight
- No Parking

- Downtown Parking District
- Building
- Parcel

CURRENT



PROPOSED



37 West St

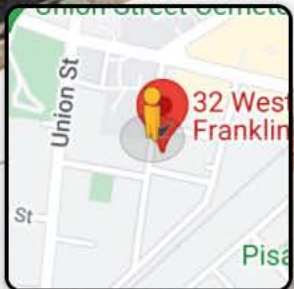
Franklin, Massachusetts



Google



Street View - Oct 2019



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33 West St

Franklin, Massachusetts



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Street View - Oct 2019



Union Street Cemetery

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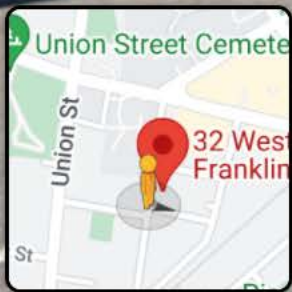
Franklin, Massachusetts



Google



Street View - Oct 2019



Google

