

Title: No Parking School Days Zones – East Davie Street
Meeting Date:
Meeting Type: City Council Meeting - First Tuesday - Afternoon & Evening Sessions
Department: Transportation
Sponsor: Charles Howard

Agenda Content:

It is recommended that two (2) No Parking School Days Zones be established along East Davie Street between the intersections of Tarboro Road and Chavis Way.

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In late 2024, staff received a request from a property owner in the 600 block of East Davie Street to remove an existing No Parking Anytime zone in front of their property and replace it with unrestricted parking. The property owner noted that the south side of the remaining corridor allows parking and argued that the existing restriction no longer reflected the current needs of residents. They also expressed concerns that the restriction led to frequent citations during Hunter Elementary’s carpool periods. They further explained that the existing restriction dates back to the early 1990s and was implemented at the request of residents to address parking spillover from nearby businesses—most of which are no longer present.

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In response, Transportation staff conducted multiple site visits during school drop-off and pickup hours to evaluate the potential impact of modifying the existing restrictions. Staff observed that on nearby blocks where parking is currently unrestricted, vehicles parked during carpool hours often create operational challenges by forcing parents/guardians in the carpool line to navigate around these parked vehicles. These conditions reduce visibility, contribute to congestion, and increase safety risks for students and other roadway users.

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Staff met with the principal and several representatives from Hunter Elementary to better understand the school’s operational needs. School officials confirmed that parked vehicles during carpool hours are a consistent concern and that they regularly rely on Raleigh Police Department to enforce existing regulations in support of student safety.

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Following these discussions, staff conducted a comprehensive review of existing parking regulations between the school entrance and Chavis Way. The objective was to identify a solution that improves the flow of carpool traffic, enhances safety, and addresses the needs of the surrounding community. This review revealed several No Parking Anytime zones that are not codified in the City's Traffic Schedule, as well as outdated conditions no longer justified.

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As a result, staff recommends implementing time-limited no parking restrictions which will prohibit parking on school days from 8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. only. These restrictions would apply only during carpool operating hours and only days when school in session; outside of those times, parking would be permitted.

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This recommendation balances the operational needs of the school with the parking needs of the surrounding community, improving safety during peak hours while maintaining curbside access during off-peak times.

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All affected property owners were duly notified of the proposed changes and provided two weeks to respond with any concerns, and one response was received. The respondent requested that staff extend their review to South State Street and indicated existing parking spill over often creates similar hazards for residents of the block. Staff explained that a review would need to be completed of State Street to confirm an issue exists, and that in order to ensure the proposed restrictions were in place prior to the start of the school year that staff needed to move forward on the existing request rather than hold to bring the this together as one item. Once a review has been completed and if a need is determined staff will follow up with an additional request to Council at the appropriate time.

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Upon approval, the Traffic Schedule should be amended effective seven days after Council action.

Recommended Action: Authorize the changes in the Traffic Schedule included with the agenda materials.