



TOWN OF WINTHROP

Town Hall, 1 Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA 02152 Telephone: 617-846-1077

Transportation Safety Advisory Committee Street Width Policy

May 19, 2021

In the past year, the Transportation Safety Advisory Committee had several items come before it regarding issues related to the width of roadways in the town. In every case, the discussion has come down to three basic issues. These issues have been safety (both of motorists and pedestrians), one-way traffic vs. two-way traffic, and convenience of access for the residents. Considering these issues and the volume of other similar issues that exist within the town, the committee has chosen to adopt the following policy so that all similar matters can be handled in a fair and consistent matter.

When reviewing any agenda item in which road width is a factor, the committee will look at the measured width of the roadway curb to curb, the flow of traffic allowed by ordinance (one-way or two-way), and where parking is allowed by ordinance (one side, both sides, or none).

The committee will make related recommendations in compliance with section 10.16.010, subsection E of the town ordinances which states: “No person shall stand or park and no person shall allow, permit or suffer any vehicle registered in his or her name to stand or park in any of the following places: E. Upon any roadway where the parking of a vehicle will not leave a clear and unobstructed lane at least ten (10) feet wide for passing traffic.”

Based on town ordinance and current best practices in roadway engineering, the committee will use the following roadway dimensions as minimums when making a determination for recommendations of whether a roadway should be a one-way or a two-way street, and on how many sides of the street parking should be allowed:

Direction	Parking	Minimum Travel Lane	Minimum Parking Lane	Total Minimum Width
One-Way	None	10 feet	0 feet	10 feet
One-Way	One Side	10 feet	8 feet	18 feet
One-Way	Both Sides	10 feet	16 feet	26 feet
Two-Way	None	20 feet	0 feet	20 feet
Two-Way	One Side	20 feet	8 feet	28 feet
Two-Way	Both Sides	20 feet	16 feet	36 feet

These dimensions comply with both the previously referenced town ordinance as well as state standards for vehicle dimensions related to roadway design as outlined in the Massachusetts Highway Department Project Development & Design Guide, 2006 edition, available from MassDOT. Their standards are:

**Exhibit 3-6
Design Vehicle Dimensions**

Vehicle	Vehicle Length	Vehicle Width	Operating Width¹
Passenger Cars and Light Trucks	19.0 feet	7.0 feet	9.0 ft
School Bus	36.0 feet	8.0 feet	10.0 ft
Transit Bus	40.0 feet	8.5 feet	10.5 ft
Single Unit Truck ²	30.0 feet	8.0 feet	10.0 ft
Tractor-Trailer	55.0 feet	8.5 feet	10.5 ft

Source: *A Policy on the Geometric Design of Streets and Highways*, AASHTO, 2004. Chapter 2 Design Controls and Criteria

1 Assuming one-foot clearance on both sides of vehicle

2 The SU-30 design vehicle is commonly used to model emergency response vehicle operations

While the committee’s goal with this policy is to establish a standard practice to use in these cases, the committee may, at its discretion deviate from these standards on a case-by-case basis when it is reasonable to do so. For example, if a roadway needs to be 26 feet wide to accommodate one-way traffic and parking on both sides, and it measures 25 feet, 9 inches, the committee may choose to override this policy. In these cases, the committee will look at the volume and type of traffic on the roadway, the design and geometry of the roadway, and any other factor they may deem necessary in justifying the relaxed standard and the standard of reasonableness to apply.

In no case will the committee make a recommendation related to traffic direction or allowable parking if the majority of its members believe it will be detrimental to public safety response or the safety of the general public.

This policy was adopted by a unanimous 5-0 vote of the Transportation Safety Advisory Committee on May 19, 2021.