



Town of Mansfield

6 Park Row, Mansfield, Massachusetts 02048

Board of Selectmen

Michael Trowbridge Sr., Chairman

John F. Stanbrook, Acting Town Manager

July 11, 2017

On June 26th, the MBTA began their 21 month construction project to replace the handicap access ramps to the Mansfield Train Station. During the length of the T's construction project, approximately 120 parking spaces will not be available to the public. In response, the Mansfield Board of Selectmen voted to temporarily allow two parking lot owners at the train station to park an additional 120 parking spaces in their lots to try to make up for the parking spaces lost due to the T's construction. The Board of Selectmen also voted to temporarily allow a parking lot owner to have an additional 30 parking spaces on North Main Street. The Town has also established a free parking lot on County Street that has a shuttle bus to the station run by GATRA. The Town had short notice of the T's intentions to go ahead with the construction project and has tried to mitigate the impact of their project as best as we can.

The owners of the parking lot at 75 Chauncy Street also own Allen Street. The parking lot owners have decided to close Allen Street to public traffic. The owners were not interested in granting the Town an easement to allow traffic to flow on Allen Street and closed the street with relatively short notice. In response, the Town has tried to alleviate the traffic in the area due to Allen Street's closure by making River Street a two-way street instead of a one-way street. Unfortunately, widening River Street has resulted in a loss of approximately 20 parking spaces. It is undetermined at this time whether the Town will be able to restore those parking spaces in the future.

The Town has tried to react to the MBTA's construction and the private landowner's actions in a way that maximizes public safety and minimizes inconvenience to the public. More parking spaces are available to the public now than were available before the T's construction and the private landowner's actions, although they may be in other areas and they may be in private landowner's lots instead of the Town's lots. We will continue to address traffic concerns and safety issues as soon as possible with the understanding that the Town's resources are limited and have to be strategically placed to benefit all of the Town and not just one area or focus on one issue. Also, the Police Chief has directed the Parking Enforcement Officer to ticket cars parked illegally and to also ticket non-residents parking in resident lots. The Board of Selectmen, the Acting Town Manager, the Police Chief, and the DPW Director remain committed to finding solutions to the problems at the Train Station and improving the situation that currently exists there. Thank you for your patience as we try to get through this construction period.

If you are a commuter that uses the Highland Avenue, Draper Avenue, River Street, Howe Street area, please **SLOW DOWN!** This is a residential area that has pedestrians, children, bicyclists, and pets using these streets. Leave a few minutes early in the morning so that you do not have to rush to the station to make the train. **DRIVE LIKE YOUR CHILDREN LIVE IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD!**

Thank you.