



CITY OF CONCORD
New Hampshire's Main Street™
Community Development Department
General Services Department

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

From: Timothy J. Thompson, AICP, Assistant Director of Community Development
Jeffrey K. Hoadley, General Services Director

Date: April 13, 2026

Subject: **Consideration of 3-Hour parking restrictions, parking signage locations, and adding sidewalk snow plowing along the portion of Washington Street between North State Street and North Main Street (City Council Referral to Parking Committee and General Services Department)**

Recommendation:

Accept this report.

Background:

On February 1, 2026, Mr. Dick Lemieux sent an e-mail to Councilors Davie and Todd, who then forwarded the email to the City Clerk requesting the Council refer to the Parking Committee requests to:

1. Rescind the 3-Hour parking time limits along the above referenced section of Washington Street; and
2. Removal of the signage stating the time restrictions in order to “add this block of Washington Street to the regular sidewalk-plowing schedule.”

The City Council referred the request to the Parking Committee and General Services Department at the February 12, 2026 meeting.

The Parking Committee discussed the referral at their February 23, 2026 meeting. The below summary of the Committee’s discussion and recommendation is provided for the City Council’s consideration.

Discussion:

Parking Committee Review: The Parking Committee deliberated Mr. Lemieux's requests, stating that there was limited right-of-way available for moving signs, and that enforcement, or lack thereof, was not an appropriate rationale for removing ordinance restrictions. Additionally, the committee agreed to that the General Service Department would address the sidewalk plowing questions separately as part of their report on the referral.

In conclusion, *by a unanimous vote, the Parking Committee recommends that the City Council take no ordinance action at this time.*

Please see the attached staff report to the Parking Committee for further reference.

General Services Department Review: Mr. Lemieux's request suggested that a single parking sign on the south side of the street is preventing sidewalk tractors from clearing that sidewalk. Staff conducted a site visit and determined that the parking sign is not the limiting factor.

On the north side of Washington Street from North State Street to North Main Street, a site visit confirmed that multiple utility poles are located in the sidewalk. In several locations, the clearance between poles and adjacent obstructions is approximately four feet. The City's sidewalk tractors range in width from approximately four feet four inches to over five feet, depending on the snow removal attachment installed. Because the available clearance is less than the equipment's width in any operating configuration, the sidewalk tractor cannot safely pass through these areas. The controlling constraint on the north side is the spacing and placement of the utility poles. The south side of Washington Street presents similar physical constraints. The sidewalk corridor is narrow and contains obstructions that limit equipment passage. In several sections, the effective plowing width is insufficient to accommodate the City's sidewalk tractors. Although a single parking sign has been identified as a potential obstruction, removing it would not resolve the issue. The overall built environment, including width limitations and other fixed obstructions, restricts the safe and effective operation of equipment.

Both sides of Washington Street also lack suitable snow storage areas. Fences have been constructed directly at or near the property line in many locations, leaving little to no buffer strip between the sidewalk and private improvements. As a result, there is limited space to push snow away from the roadway. In many instances, pushing snow off the sidewalk would place it directly against private fences or structures, creating a significant risk of property damage and potential liability. Even where equipment can pass, the lack of adequate snow storage makes it operationally impractical to maintain the sidewalk to City standards without encroaching on private property.

The inability to plow Washington Street is not due to a single parking sign. Both the north and south sides of the street have width restrictions that prevent safe passage of City sidewalk tractors. In addition, both sides lack adequate snow storage space because of fences and private improvements at or near the property line, creating a substantial risk of property damage if snow is pushed from the sidewalk. Absent infrastructure changes or additional resources, the current sidewalk plowing plan remains operationally appropriate and consistent with systemwide service standards.