



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™
Community Development Department

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

From: Timothy J. Thompson, AICP, Assistant Director of Community Development
Date: July 14, 2025
Subject: Parking Ordinance Amendments (School Street between Pine and Liberty Streets)

Recommendation:

Set the attached ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-7.1, Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours and Months in Designated Places, Schedule IX for public hearing on August 11, 2025.

Background:

This item was referred to the Parking Committee, at the request of Councilor Brown, by the City Council on March 10, 2025. Parking along this stretch of School Street has been contentious ever since the removal of 2-hour parking restrictions by the City Council in 2020. With the continued issues surrounding the parking during the school day by Concord High School (CHS) students, the referral sought to amend the parking ordinance to address the issue of student parking particularly during inclement weather.

The parking issues impacting this section of School Street have been brought before the Parking Committee and City Council on multiple occasions over recent years, as summarized below:

- **January 2020:** request to remove the 2-hour (Monday-Friday) parking restrictions to this section of School Street. The Parking Committee recommended the change at the request of resident Michelle Radie Coffin.
- **May 2020:** City Council adopts amendments to the parking ordinance, removing the 2-hour (Monday-Friday) parking restrictions on School Street from Liberty Street to Pine Street, on a 13-2 vote. The opposing votes (Councilors Fennessy and Keach) expressed their concern that the area would become popular for CHS students to park, impacting the residents of the area.
- **June 2023:** Parking Committee hears testimony from both Mr. Bob Maccini and Ms. Radie Coffin. Committee does not revisit previous recommendation, but asks for additional information regarding the CHS parking situation with the school district.

- **September 2023:** Parking Committee reviewed 2004 CHS Parking Study, and heard testimony from Mr. Maccini, requested further information from staff.
- **October 2023:** Parking Committee reviewed staff report reviewing post CHS Parking study ordinance restrictions vs. those in place at that date (*attached*). Consensus was to invite school district staff for future discussions. Staff did make contact at one point with school district staff and invited them to a meeting, but did not receive any further follow up.
- **March 2025:** Parking Committee heard from the Maccinis on March 3 about the challenges associated with winter conditions and CHS student parking on School Street, highlighting blocked driveways and other winter maintenance issues caused by the parking along the street. City Council on March 10 formally referred the request to the Parking Committee.
- **June 2025:** Parking Committee reviews and makes recommendations on the referral from the City Council (See Discussion).

For 16 years following the 2004 CHS Parking Study, this area of School Street was subject to 2-Hour time limits, enforced Monday through Friday during parking enforcement times. The 2020 ordinance change from the time limited requirement to no parking restrictions has significantly increased the parking usage of this stretch of roadway during the school year (September through June).

As researched and presented to the Parking Committee in October 2023, this is the only location in the immediate vicinity of CHS that allows for unrestricted parking. Additionally, since 2004, the number of CHS students that drive to school and park (instead of being either bussed or dropped off), has increased significantly as societal changes have seen a rise in the number of student aged drivers with their own vehicles to use.

Given these changing conditions, and the impacts particularly during the winter months, residents of the area expressed a desire to see the City revisit the parking requirements in this area.

Discussion:

The Parking Committee discussed the referral on June 30, 2025, hearing testimony both supporting a return to restricted parking and a desire to keep parking unrestricted or alternatives to a return to the 2-hour restrictions. Ultimately, following discussion and examining alternatives, the Committee recommends that the north side of School Street between Liberty and Pine be restricted to no parking between the hours of 7am and 3pm, Monday through Friday during the months of September through June.