

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
Agenda Request Form

(Form B-01-2012)

Organizations and individuals are asked to submit a request form and supporting documents to be placed on the agenda. You will be contacted by the City confirming the date of the meeting in which your request will be heard. Please make sure that your contact information is accurate in case we need to get in touch with you. The Board of Works meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall located at 70 E. Monroe Street.

Date Submitted:	06-25-19	Meeting Date:	07-01-19
Contact Information:			
Requested by:	ANITA SICKELS WARD		
On Behalf of Organization or Individual			
Telephone:	317-412-0688		
Email address:	anitasward64@gmail.com		
Mailing Address:	151 South Water Street, Franklin		
Describe Request			
I request that South Water Street between Wayne Street and Monroe Street be designated One Way heading NORTH, with marked parking on both sides of street.			
List Supporting Documentation Provided:			
Explanation of Request			
Correspondence between Mark St. John and me, Letter to former Mayor McGuinness			
Who will present the request?			
Name:	ANITA SICKELS WARD		Telephone:
		317-412-0688	

In order for an individual and/or agency to be considered for new business on the Board of Works agenda, this reservation form and supporting documents must be received in the Mayor's office no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before the meeting.

As you can see by correspondence between Mark St. John of our City's Engineering Department and me and from me to former Mayor McGuinness, I have been concerned about traffic safety and public parking on our block of South Water Street between Wayne and Monroe Streets for at least three years. That is why I am again proposing that South Water Street between Wayne and Monroe Streets be designated One Way with marked parking on both sides of the street. I also suggest that it be done after the B2S Labs has completed its renovations.

Why am I again beating on this drum? First, Safety. If one travels south on Water to enter Wayne Street, and if both sides of that intersection are lined with cars, a driver in a car cannot see vehicles driving on Wayne street until the car is in the middle of the street. (Check that statement by entering the intersection in a car, not a tall truck.) That is not a problem if the vehicle on Wayne Street is being driven by a responsible driver. It can be a very big problem if the vehicle on Wayne Street is being driven by a distracted or speeding driver.

The second reason is the future need for more parking on our block. If B2S Labs still intends to remove its parking lot and install green space, that will mean more people who will want to park on South Water. Some will be willing to park in the public parking lots, but the attractive temptation will be to park closer to work. There are eight parking spots on the East Side of Water Street, not including the space in front of our neighbor's driveway. There could be eight parking spaces on the West Side, if the B2S Lab's lot is converted to green space and the City installs a sidewalk.

Mr. St. John expressed the opinion that our block of South Water Street is wide enough for parking on both sides and two-way traffic. That may work if there are no big trucks parked on the street and if everyone parks within one foot of the curb. Walk around our Beautiful Downtown and see how many people are parked two or more feet away from the curb. There might be a temptation to provide more parking on our street by implementing angled parking. There are those of us on our street who would be very upset if our street was devastated as Wayne Street was by the removal of trees and the court strip, the green area between the sidewalk and the street, to accommodate parking.

Finally, if Wayne Street is made One Way, I would hope the City could work with The Wild Geese Bookshop so she could place temporary signage each day in the court strip near Wayne Street.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my request.

City of Franklin

From: Anita Ward [mailto:missanitainfranklin@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 2:00 PM
To: Mark St. John <mstjohn@franklin.in.gov>
Subject: South Water Street

Mr. St. John,

My husband and I are absolutely thrilled about the proposed plans for the Garment Factory. We live at 151 South Water Street. There are two concerns I have: The flow of traffic on South Water and parking for the residents of my block.

May I suggest that South Water Street between Wayne and Monroe be made one-way going north? People could easily then park on both sides of the street and traffic could flow unencumbered. The street is just too narrow to allow parking on both sides and traffic going both directions comfortably.

We can fit three, even four, vehicles on our parking pad if we plan ahead. However, many of our neighbors do not have that option. How frustrating for them it would be for them to come home with a week's worth of groceries and discover they had to schlep the groceries a block to get them in the house. Has any thought been given to that?

Respectfully,

Anita Sickels Ward

Subject: RE: South Water Street
From: Mark St. John (mstjohn@franklin.in.gov)
To: missanitainfranklin@yahoo.com;
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 4:20 PM

Ms. Ward,

We are glad you are as excited about this project as we are!

The resulting need for parking from the redevelopment of this building has been considered. While we are in the early stages of this project, the planned design includes a parking lot on the four parcels directly west of the Garment Factory that currently have residential homes on them. We also hope to add additional angled parking to Wayne Street similar to what is found along Madison Street (near the old post office) and Water Street (just north of Jefferson Street). It is my understanding that larger events hosted at the Garment Factory would utilize public parking lots at Monroe/Water Streets and Jackson/Monroe Streets.

To be candid, the current pavement width of your block of Water Street, approximately 30 feet, is actually the width we require in new subdivisions for two sided parking on a two way street. This width allows for two way travel with parking on both sides, while also slowing traffic down in a urban area creating safer and more friendly roadway for all types of users. Other than creating more parking, I do not think there would be any benefit to making this block of Water Street one way.

The need for parking in downtown Franklin is something that this Department has studied in the past. The City will continue to do this as development continues to grow downtown.

Hopefully I have answered your concerns. Please feel free to let me know if you have any other questions.

Sincerely,

Mark St. John

Dear Mayor McGuinness:

This has been a traumatic few weeks for Beautiful Downtown Franklin's south neighborhood. The neighbors have profited from getting to know each other better and developing dialogue.

I have a few ideas that may help solve the parking issues of the Old Garment Factory Event Center without causing further destruction in our neighborhood and, perhaps, make the Event Center an asset to our area and the greater Franklin community.

1. Make South Water Street One-Way going north between Wayne Street and Monroe Street. Stripe for parking on both sides of the street. I suggested that to the Engineer's office a few months ago and was dismissed, but believe that idea would have merit. Parking on both sides of Water Street as a two-way street will only create congestion. One-way going north would help provide a smoother flow of traffic from Wayne Street.
2. My neighbor, Sharon Cline, has done research that suggests valet parking could be an option for the lower, basement section of the Event Center.
3. There is an underutilized parking lot on South Main Street in front of the skate park. A charming pedestrian bridge could be built over the creek to either park land on the north side of the creek or to the Event Center. Landscaping could be done on both sides. On land owned by the Event Center, Bistro tables could be placed in the space that would not be used as access to the valet parking. Perhaps a few concrete tables that would not be washed away could be placed on park land.

Thank you for taking my ideas into consideration. If we, the South Downtown neighbors and our servant leaders, all work together, healing may begin to take place.

Respectfully, Anita Sickels Ward