

## Media Release

To: All Media  
From: Philip E. Lemnios, Town Administrator  
Date: January 30, 2006  
Re: Middlesex Avenue Parking Garage  
Cnt: Philip E. Lemnios (508-647-6403)

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**Natick** – Town Administrator Philip E. Lemnios today provided additional information regarding the Town’s continued efforts to address the problems at the Middlesex Avenue Parking Garage. “Town staff has met numerous times since a section of the Garage buckled last week,” explained Mr. Lemnios. “We have been working with structural engineers, downtown residents and business owners and other people who are impacted. We have executed our emergency plans and continue to refine them as we transition from the immediate problem to the longer-term remedy.”

Craig Barnes Incorporated, the Town’s structural engineering contractor for the Middlesex Garage, has met with Town officials, conducted site work at the Garage and is preparing to do additional work. They are retaining the services of specialty sub-contractors to perform materials analysis that will help determine if the problem at the Garage is an isolated one or if it is more widespread. “The Garage is old and in difficult condition,” said Town Administrator Lemnios. “We know it needs to be replaced but we are hoping that we can re-open part of it in the next few weeks to help relieve some of the parking pressure.”

Town Administrator Lemnios also announced today the second phase of the Town’s alternative parking plan, which will become effective on Thursday, February 2nd. According to this plan, holders of brown “Downtown Parking” permits may park at bagged parking meters in the following locations:

- Pond Street Parking Lot (the western two rows)
- Common Street (southwest corner)
- Park Street (the Town Common side)
- Rt.27 north of Main Street Bridge
- South Avenue (to the rear of Fire & Police Headquarters)
- Middlesex Avenue (south side & west of Corrado’s Sub Shop)
- Southern approach to the Spring Street Bridge

They may also park in non-metered two-hour parking spaces in the following locations:

- Summer Street (south side)
- Washington Street (west side)
- Walnut Street (east side)

Bagged meters will remain open to all vehicles on weekends, legal holidays and after 5:00 PM on weekdays.

The Town was not required to implement part of its emergency parking plan – changing Middlesex Avenue to one-way and instituting angled parking there. This would have caused disruption to traffic patterns and would have negatively impacted residents, businesses and service organizations in the area. Instead, Middlesex Avenue will remain two-way, with the parking changes occurring as referenced above.

The Town has developed parking maps showing the location of each parking space that is included in this parking plan. This map will be placed on the windshield of each car that displays a downtown parking permit, will be given to each organization which holds a downtown parking permit and will be posted on the Town’s website at [www.natickma.org](http://www.natickma.org).

“Communication is critical,” said Town Administrator Lemnios. “It is important for people to know what is happening, and important for them to realize that downtown is still open for business. We will also be communicating with people who hold commuter parking passes so they know what is happening, as well as with the residents who may see cars parked in their neighborhoods. Our plans will adapt to changing situations, and we want to make sure that everyone knows what is going on, and that they can communicate their feedback to us.”

Mr. Lemnios meets regularly with police, parking, fire and public works officials to ensure the Town is anticipating the changing needs of the Town parking situation. “Our Town employees have done an exceptional job in responding to the problem at the Garage. From the initial response to the execution of emergency plans and the development of new parking patterns for downtown, our Town employees have acted swiftly and have worked hard to minimize the difficulty for our community.”

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