Welcome to the Newton Transportation Strategy Workshop #1
Agenda

» Introduction to the Newton Transportation Strategy
  – Study Process
  – Initial Explorations

» Hear from You – Workshop Open House
Project Overview

Newton-in-motion is a strategic process that will create a comprehensive guide towards a more equitable, economically and environmentally sustainable multimodal transportation system.

This plan will go hand-in-hand with other plans and strategies that carry Newton forward in a future of changing travel patterns and growing transportation options.

Take your part in sharing your vision for Newton's dynamic transportation future!

Newton-in-motion
A Transportation Strategy for Newton
NEWTON TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY PROJECT SCHEDULE

2015

- Kick off
- Project Branding
- Data Collection & Analysis

2016

- Visioning & Goals Development
- Network Plans
- Vet Initial Ideas
- Refine Initial Ideas
- Finalize Network Plans

- Visioning Workshop
- Initial Concepts Workshop
- Draft Plan Strategies Workshop
- Final Plan Presentation
Coordination with Other Efforts

City of Newton
Housing Strategy

Housing Policy Forum

When: Monday January 25, 2016
7:00 pm

Where: Newton South High School Lecture Hall

All are encouraged to attend and participate in the public forum of the Housing Strategy. This meeting will include a presentation on an assessment of City policies and a discussion of best practices to consider for Newton.

for more info visit www.newtonma.gov/housing
Questions: housingstrategy@newtonma.gov

FY2017 – FY2021
Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan
And
Long Range Projection

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Sett D. Warren, Mayor
October 5, 2015

Zoning Reform

Introduction

Homes and businesses, streets and parks, public and private spaces: these are the elements that define the physical character of a city. While the City of Newton already contains the elements of those policies, it is vital to maintain the zoning ordinance that the City has been updated and new development and new zoning is necessary to update the zoning ordinance. The City of Newton has released a report recommending changes to the zoning ordinance. The report describes a three-phase process with rules that focus on the viability and the flexibility of the existing ordinance.

If you have any questions or comments about the Zoning Reform Project, please contact James Press, Acting Director of Planning and Development, James PRESS@newtonma.gov

News and Updates

At the October 5, 2015 regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen, the Board adopted the updated Zoning Ordinance, which takes effect on November 3, 2015. The adoption of the updated ordinance amends Phase 1 of the City’s Zoning Reform project. The updated ordinance includes a number of changes to the City’s Zoning Ordinance. The updated ordinance includes a number of changes to the City’s Zoning Ordinance. The updated ordinance includes a number of changes to the City’s Zoning Ordinance. The updated ordinance includes a number of changes to the City’s Zoning Ordinance.

In accordance with state law (MG.L.c. 40A, §6), the new zoning ordinance shall apply to any building permit or special permit issued after the first date of adoption, which was September 2, 2015. The updated ordinance shall apply to any building permit or special permit issued prior to that date. For more detailed information, please contact the Planning Department.

Chapter 3.01: Zoning Ordinance

The Lattke Drafts provides a comprehensive and detailed explanation of the new zoning ordinance. For more information, please visit www.newtonma.gov/planning/zoning.

Meeting Notes, Handouts, and Resources

Use Table for Proposed Updates to zoning ordinance.

Zoning Reform Phase 2: Public Hearing Notice, 2011
Zoning Reform Report, 2011
Rezone Zoning Ordinance

Newton in motion
A Transportation Strategy for Newton
RECENT CORRIDOR & TRANSPORTATION PLANS

Corridor Plan Key:
1. Walnut Street - Newtonville Livable Community Workshop with MPO (2012)
3. Needham Street - “Envisioning Needham Street” Corridor Plan conducted by City (2010-2013)
4. Commonwealth Avenue - Northeastern University course workshop proposals, with Dr. Peter Furth (2009)

Proposed Infrastructure Improvements for the City of Newton:
- Capital Improvement Plan (FY 15-20)
- Individual Corridor Plans (See detail*)
- Bikeability Assessment (2015)
- Walk Assessment (2015)

DRAFT
Project Website

» www.newtonma.gov/transportationstrategy

» Project information

» Mailing list sign up

» Survey links for Workshop #1

» Contact transportationstrategy@newtonma.gov
Newton in motion
A Transportation Strategy for Newton
www.newtonma.gov/transportationstrategy

February 4th-6th 2016* Thurs-Sat

VISIONING WORKSHOP

*Snow date: Thursday Feb 25th to 27th

Location: 275 Needham Street, next to the CVS in Marshall’s Plaza

Thursday
FEBRUARY 4TH
10 AM - 7 PM
Open House
12 - 1 PM
Presentation

Friday
FEBRUARY 5TH
10 AM - 7 PM
Open House
6 - 7 PM
Reception and Presentation

Saturday
FEBRUARY 6th
9 AM - 12 PM
Open House
10 - 11 AM
Presentation

Kids welcome and encouraged to participate!

ABOUT THE VISIONING WORKSHOP

Help set the vision and goals for how Newton’s transportation system is shaped in the future. At the visioning workshop, you can:
• Explore initial findings about transportation
• Share your transportation experience
• Document your transportation values and priorities

SAVE THE DATE FOR FUTURE WORKSHOPS: Week of April 4th, 2016 and Week of June 13th, 2016

Newton in motion is a strategic process

that will create a comprehensive guide
that will carry Newton forward
in a future
that will go hand-in-hand
that will generate
in a future
in a future
that will go hand-in-hand
in a future
in a future

Newton’s dynamic
Newton’s dynamic
Newton’s dynamic
Newton’s dynamic

Find more workshop details and participate online at:
www.newtonma.gov/transportationstrategy
Workshop #1 – Also Online!

Newton in motion
A Transportation Strategy for Newton

Newton Transportation Visioning Survey

Vote For Your Transportation Goal

In this activity, please choose three Transportation Goals that are the most important to you. In the second question, share how and what you think the City and community could do to achieve these goals. Feel free to comment on as many of the goals as you like, but you must vote for only three!

3. Rank your top three!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First choice</th>
<th>Second choice</th>
<th>Third choice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Real Options: Provide a variety of options for getting to destinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of Life: The experience of using the transportation system should reflect Newton’s high quality of life</td>
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<td>Reducing Driving and Strengthening Alternatives: Focus on reducing motor vehicle travel</td>
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<td>Safety: Policies, investments, and enforcement based on “safety first”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance: Address and improve performance across all modes of travel and balance needs of users</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smart Growth: Transportation, planning, and land use decisions to enable more walking, biking, and use of public transportation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consistency: Transportation investment and decision making will be consistent with plans and policies</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4. What do you recommend that the City and community do to achieve these goals? (optional)

Real Options

- Quality of Life
- Real Options
- Consistency
- Balance
- Smart Growth
- Safety
- Reducing Driving and Strengthening Alternatives

Wikimap

Newton in motion
A Transportation Strategy for Newton

Where would you improve transportation in Newton? Click ADD POINT to add to the map.

Add as many points as you like

- Bicycling
- Walking & ADA
- Bus, Train, Shuttle
- Parking
- Driving
- Information & Signage

Add Point

About & Help
Workshop #1 Overview

» Goals:
   – Hear from as many people as possible
   – Learn about vision, goals, and priorities
   – Understand transportation trends

» Elements:
   – 2.5 Days of Open House
   – 3 Presentations (+ Reception)
   – “Pop up”/Mobile Workshops
   – Priority exercises
   – Kids transportation games/activities
Stakeholder Interviews

- 128 Business Council
- Boston College
- City Staff
- Councilor Roundtable
- Green Newton
- Lasell College
- Newton-Needham Chamber
- Safe Routes to School
- School Committee
- Traffic Council
- Transportation Advisory Group
- ... and more
NEWTON TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY PROJECT SCHEDULE

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- Visioning & Goals Development

NOV. DEC. JAN. FEB. MAR.

APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

- Network Plans
- Vet Initial Ideas

AUG. SEPT. OCT. NOV. DEC.

- Refine Initial Ideas
- Finalize Network Plans

Final Plan Presentation

Develop Framework

Generate Ideas

Evaluate and Create Plan

Visioning Workshop

Initial Concepts Workshop

Draft Plan Strategies Workshop

Visioning Workshop
Proposed Goals – TAC 2011

- **Real Options:** Provide variety of options for getting to destinations
- **Quality of Life:** The experience of using the transportation system should reflect Newton’s high quality of life
- **Reducing Driving and Strengthening Alternatives:** Focus on reducing motor vehicle travel
- **Safety:** Policies, investments, and enforcement based on “safety first”
- **Balance:** Address and improve performance across all modes of travel and balance needs of users
- **Smart Growth:** Transportation, planning, and land use decisions to enable more walking, biking, and use of public transportation
- **Consistency:** Transportation investments and decision-making will be consistent with plans and policies
Citywide population density:
Mean 7.47 residents/acre
Median 8.29 residents/acre
22% of Newton residents are under 18
15% of Newton’s population is over 65

By 2030, 1 of 4 Newton residents is expected to be 65+

Source: Dukakis Center Report #2, 2014
93% of Newton households have access to a vehicle. There are an average of 1.7 vehicles per household.
73% of Newton residents drive to work.

Data by Census block group | Source: ACS 2013, 5-year estimates
4% of Newton residents walk to work. Chestnut Hill has the highest percentage of any Village.
About 1% of Newtonians bike to work; residents in Newton Corner bike more than others.
The areas of highest transit mode share are closest to the transit network, such as in Newton Centre and in Newtonville.
A high percentage of Newtonians drive to work, even higher than peer communities with similar transit access. Telecommuting is a growing trend in Newton and the city has the highest shared compared to peers.
Most Newton residents either commute eastward to Boston or travel to work within Newton.
Most Newton employees commute in from Metrowest.
Citywide job density:
Mean 4.06 jobs/acre
Median 3.01 jobs/acre
Transit service is most successful when it serves areas with significant population and employment density. Based on these factors, high frequency fixed route transit can be supported in most areas throughout Newton.
79% of Newton has walkable access to transit but the quality of that transit and transit access varies.
WHERE PEOPLE TAKE THE BUS

Bus activity is greatest within Newton’s village centers, with the largest activity at Newton Corner’s bus hub as well as near Newton Highlands and Newton Centre Green Line stations.

Source: MBTA
With higher intersection densities, shorter block distances and greater walking route options, Newton’s village centers are the most walkable areas of Newton.
Though Newton has established plans for a desired bicycle route network, only about eight miles of designated bicycle lanes have been built and they do not form a connected network within the City.
Newton is defined by neighborhood-based local streets but has many minor arterial corridors which allow cross-City travel. I-90 and Route 9 barriers create significant divisions between the areas North and South.
The highest aggregate crash counts are found at intersections around Newton Corner.

Source: MASSDOT, 2008-2013
Motor vehicle crashes are concentrated along Newton’s highways and village centers, including along the Pike, Route 128 and in Newton Center.
Crashes that involve pedestrians and cyclists concentrate in the village centers.

Source: MASSDOT, 2008-2013
2nd highest but declining

Highest but declining
NEWTON’S GREENHOUSE GAS FOOTPRINT

Newton Greenhouse Gas Footprint 2013 – 100 yr Time Horizon

- Residential Energy Use: 30%
- Commercial Energy Use: 8%
- Municipal Energy Use: 1%
- Transportation: 25%
- Natural Gas Leaks: 2%
- Waste: 0.66%

Source: City of Newton, Sustainability

Newton Greenhouse Gas Footprint 2013 – 20 yr Time Horizon

- Residential Energy Use: 26%
- Commercial Energy Use: 21.07%
- Municipal Energy Use: 29.17%
- Transportation: 21.05%
- Natural Gas Leaks: 2.28%
- Waste: 0.66%

Source: City of Newton, Sustainability

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Develop Framework → Newton Transportation Factbook
**NEWTON TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY PROJECT SCHEDULE**

**Generate Ideas**
- **2015**
  - NOV. - Visioning Workshop
  - DEC. - Initial Concepts Workshop
  - JAN. - Draft Plan Strategies Workshop
  - FEB. - Network Plans
  - MAR. - Vet Initial Ideas

**Evaluate and Create Plan**
- **2016**
  - APRIL - Refine Initial Ideas
  - MAY - Finalize Network Plans
  - JUNE -
  - JULY -
  - AUG. -
  - SEPT. -
  - OCT. -
  - NOV. - Final Plan Presentation
  - DEC. -
Project Outcomes

» Develop a vision for transportation in Newton

» Identify goals and metrics

» Recommend early action projects, policies, network plans, and future projects

» Tie it all together in Action and Implementation Plans
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