Welcome to the Newton Transportation Strategy Workshop #3

www.newtonma.gov/transportationstrategy
Agenda

» Overview of the Newton Transportation Strategy

» What we’ve heard

» Draft strategies

» Workshop Activity
Project Overview
Newton-in-Motion
Process 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!

www.newtonma.gov/transportationstrategy
transportationstrategy@newtonma.gov
NEWTON TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY PROJECT SCHEDULE

2015

- Kick off
- Project Branding
- Data Collection & Analysis

2016

- Visioning & Goals Development

Visioning Workshop

Initial Concepts Workshop

Draft Plan Strategies Workshop

- Network Plans
- Vet Initial Ideas

Refine Initial Ideas
Finalize Network Plans

- Refine Initial Ideas
Finalize Network Plans

Final Plan Presentation

Develop Framework
Generate Ideas
Evaluate and Create Plan
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

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

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

Zoning Reform

Introduction
Communities, streets and parks, public and private spaces; these are the elements that define the physical character of a city. While the City of Newton directly controls the improvement of these public elements, it is through the zoning ordinance that the city has influence on the use and design of private property. The City of Newton undertook a significant review and update of its zoning ordinance in 2014. In November, 2014 the Zoning Reform Group released a report recommending changes to the Zoning Ordinance to be considered to enhance its usability and bring the regulations into compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. The report described a three-phase process with Phase I focusing on enhancing the usability of the existing ordinance.

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

News and Updates
At the October 3, 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 completes Phase I of the City’s Zoning Reform project. The updated ordinance represents the City’s first step to enhance the usability of these regulations by clarifying ambiguities and inconsistencies; improving legibility through the application of simple language; use of more illustrations and tables; the creation of use tables to better explain permitted uses and standards in each zoning district; using hyperlinked cross-references to increase functionality; and the utilization of a document format to improve legibility and transparency.

In accordance with state law (M.G.L. c. 40A, §8), the new zoning ordinance shall apply to any building permit or special permit issued after the first date of advertisement, which was September 2, 2015. Generally, the updated ordinance shall not apply to any building permit or special permit issued prior to that date. For more detailed information of applicability, please speak with a representative of the Planning Department or Inspections Services Department.

The City’s updated Zoning Ordinance can be viewed through the hyperlink below or can be purchased from the City Clerk.

Chapter 30: Zoning Ordinance

The links below are a cross-referencing tool to look up content from the previous version of the City’s Zoning Ordinance and see where it can be found in the City’s updated Zoning Ordinance.

Meeting Notes, Handouts, and Resources

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

Announcing New Complete Streets Funding Program

The new Complete Streets Funding Program, administered by the 2014 Transportation Bond Bill, offers Massachusetts municipalities incentives to adopt policies and practices that provide safe and accessible options for all travel modes — walking, biking, transit, and driving.

Online Porter MassDOT has launched an interactive on-line tool to assist municipalities through the policy development, pre-application, and project assessment phases of the application process. In addition, a Complete Streets Funding Program Guidance document, explaining the program requirements, model policy guidelines and scoring system, is available online.

Primary Requirements
To be eligible for up to $50,000 in technical assistance and up to $400,000 in construction funding, a municipality must meet the following requirements:

1. Attendance of a municipal employee at a Complete Streets training
2. Passage of a Complete Streets Policy that scores 80 or above out of a possible 100 points (Tier 1)
3. Development of a Complete Streets Implementation Plan (Tier 2)

MassDOT offers technical assistance to conduct a needs assessment, network gap analysis and project feasibility study to determine a targeted investment strategy for Complete Streets infrastructure. Upon completion of these requirements, a municipality is eligible for construction funds (Tier 3).

Community Compact Grade
Four points will be automatically added to the policy scores of all Community Compact Grade members, and any Community Compact member that has selected Complete Streets as one of its best practices will receive an additional four points.

For more information and to register to become a Complete Streets eligible municipality go to https://www.mass.gov/masscomplete/streets.
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
What We’ve Heard

Newton in motion
A Transportation Strategy for Newton
Newton-in-Motion Visioning reached hundreds of people through:

- 2.5 day Needham Street Workshop, “open house” style
- Gallery of Transportation Information showcase at City Hall
- Three presentations, including the Housing Strategy and MBTA Focus 40 project, televised on NewTV
- 10 mobile/pop-up workshops, including the Newton Senior Center, Newton Free Library, Albert Edgar Angier School, and several village centers
- Online workshop exercises and dynamic project website
We heard: The need for a safer, more walkable Newton

Sample of Input:
- “Need a crosswalk at Washington Street and Waverley”
- “Cedar Street - tree roots pulling up sidewalk”
- “Sidewalk missing on Washington Street in West Newton by Trader Joe’s”
- “Newton Centre is a horrible place to cross the street”
We heard: School access by school bus, public transit, walking and biking is a priority (as well as smart school siting)

» % that feel their child’s school encourages or strongly encourages walking and biking to school
   – 64% Elementary school
   – 15% Middle School
   – 10% High School

2014 City of Newton Planning Department Safe Routes to School Survey
We heard: A desire for a connected bike network

Though Newton has established plans for a desired bicycle route network, only about eight miles of lanes have been built and they do not form a connected network within the City. Furthermore, the intended bike network is planned to be on some of the most major, high volume through corridors which could pose stress for particular bike users, unless specific protected facilities are employed.
We heard: The need for more frequent, more reliable, ADA accessible transit
We heard: A desire to plan for the future, including supporting aging-in-place and planning for new technologies.

Eliminate 80% of Commercial Parking Demand?

Fixed-Route Transit vs. Door-to-door Demand Based Services?
We heard: The need for more streamlined decision-making, transportation policies that support City goals, and accountability.
We heard: An appeal for ACTION!
We heard: An appeal for ACTION!
Vision Statement

“Newton’s transportation programs, projects, and policies should support economic development, champion a sustainable City, and provide equitable access for all people.”
Goals

• Smart Growth
• Real Options
• Reducing Driving & Strengthening Alternatives
• Quality of Life
• Safety
• Balance
• Consistency
Activity Instructions
LEARN ABOUT THE POSSIBLE STRATEGIES AND POST YOUR USER REVIEWS!

Home Zipcode: ____________

Each page of this booklet contains a set of strategies that would help Newton meet its transportation goals. Bring the booklet with you to each station to learn more about these strategies to inform your reviews. Your reviews will help prioritize the final recommendations for Newton-in-Motion.

These voting sheets are also available online at www.newtonma.gov/transportationstrategy

How to use this booklet
For each strategy, mark the number of stars based on how much you’d like to see it in Newton:

- ★★★★★ I don't like this idea very much.
- ★★★★ I don't like this idea much.
- ★★★ I don't like this idea a little.
- ★★ I'm neutral about this idea.
- ★ I like this idea a lot.
- ★★★★★★★ I love this idea!

REDUCE DRIVING & STRENGTHEN ALTERNATIVES

Don’t Like
Like it a lot!

- ★★★★★ INCREASE BIKE PARKING IN VILLAGE CENTERS
- ★★★★★ WIDEN SIDEWALKS IN VILLAGE CENTERS
- ★★★★★ CREATE SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PRIORITY PROGRAM
- ★★★★★ INTRODUCE BIKESHARE
- ★★★★★ EXPAND CARSHARE
- ★★★★★ ENHANCE BUS STOP AND COMMUTER RAIL STATION AREAS
- ★★★★★ CREATE CENTRAL TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION WEBSITE
- ★★★★★ UPDATE AND EXPAND PARKING MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS IN HIGH DEMAND AREAS

Comments:

Page 2 of 8