

Comprehensive Capital Project Update

March 2025 Edition

Josh Morse – Public Buildings Commissioner

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We're making huge strides on school and municipal projects throughout Newton, and I've got some exciting updates to share on the following projects:

1. Lincoln-Eliot School Project
2. Cooper Center Project
3. Countryside School Project
4. Horace Mann School Project
5. Franklin School Project

Lincoln-Eliot Project

ARROWSTREET
ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN



Public Buildings Department

NEWTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Equity & Excellence



CTA Construction Managers



LINCOLN-ELIOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
City of Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

QUESTIONS:
Tom Rooney - City of Newton Project Manager
(617) 796-1600 / trooney@newtonma.gov

FOR PROJECT UPDATES, PLEASE VISIT:
<https://www.newtonma.gov/Lincoln-eliot>

I stopped by the Lincoln-Eliot Project this morning and recorded a video tour of the project which can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

The project is on schedule and on budget. We're tracking to wrap construction up by the end middle of June. The site teams are pouring concrete sidewalks around the perimeter of the playground today. Soon the landscapers will begin their work planting trees, shrubs, and laying out sod. The safety surfacing crew will be here soon which will complete the playground.

Inside the building there's activity everywhere you look. The gym has basketball hoops and lots of bright blue paint. The library is getting a coat of primer before they start injecting bright colors into the space. The academic wing is rapidly evolving, with the classrooms substantially complete, and crews working today to install corridor hallway floors. The art and music rooms are getting their built-in furniture and storage installed, and the cafeteria looks bright and beautiful. The auditorium stage and ceiling are painted black, and the walls are primed and ready for the final painting. Crews are starting to install new stairwell railings and we're ready for the muralist to come in and start his work to install the mural that he's been working on with the Lincoln-Eliot staff and students throughout the school year.

Over this summer we'll be moving the Lincoln-Eliot School from their current home at 191 Pearl Street, to their new home at 150 Jackson Road. We look forward to inviting staff, students, and the community into the new Lincoln-Eliot home.

Cooper Center Project



Cooper Center for Active Living
City of Newton
Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

*Opening in
2025!*

Information: <https://www.newcal.projects.nv5.com>
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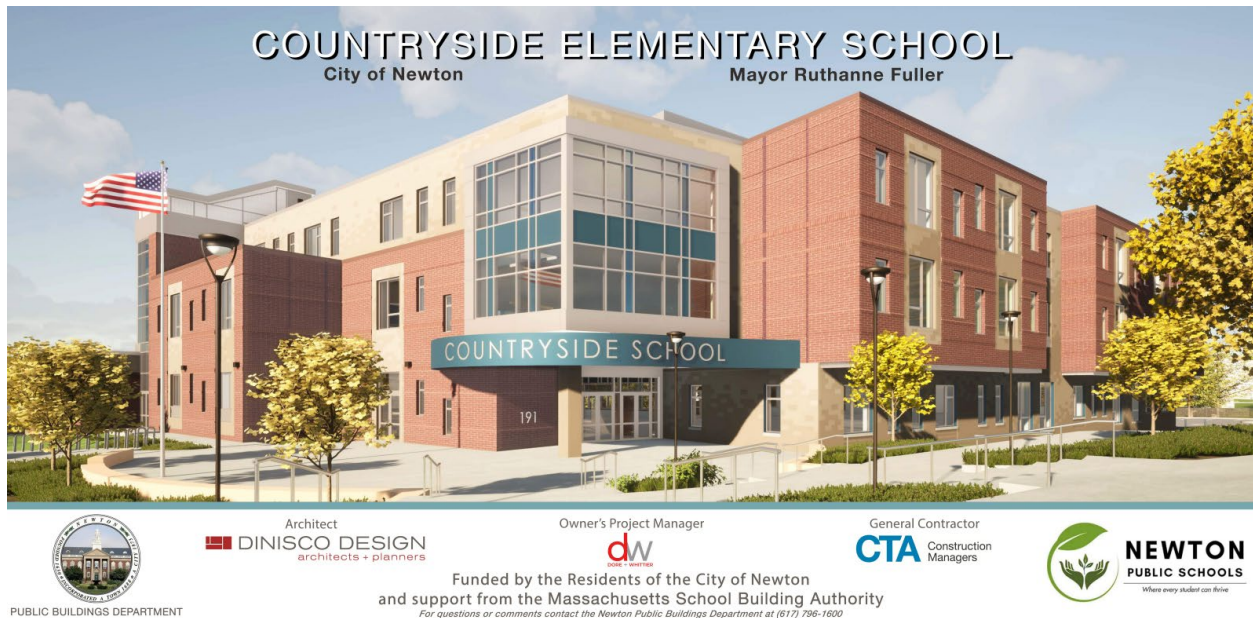
   

Public Buildings Department
J&J CONTRACTORS, INC.

After I wrapped up at the Lincoln-Eliot job site, I visited the Cooper Center Project and recorded a video tour that can be seen by clicking [here](#).

It was crowded in the Cooper Center building this morning with dozens of contractors from tons of trades working everywhere. The masons are starting on the exterior. Plumbers, Sprinkler Fitters, Electricians, and Pipe Fitters are all working to wrap up the rough-in work. Teams are working on the insulation and drywall, and the windows are starting to get installed in the gym. Things look great! We are on track to complete the project this fall. We'll be scheduling an event soon for the placing of the cupola. Between that and the masonry, the exterior of the building will become very impressive. Our Fixtures, Furniture, and Equipment package is out for public bid right now, so we'll have the building fully furnished and well-equipped before we open.

Countryside School Project



After many years of hard work, we are excited to begin construction on the Countryside School Project. The project is on schedule and on budget.

While the fact that we're beginning work shortly may seem like a surprise to some, this schedule is actually slightly later in the spring than we previously presented. The plans we've shown over the last few years have not changed in any way at all.

The general contractor is CTA Construction, which is the same firm completing the Lincoln-Eliot School Project right now. We just got them under contract for the Countryside School Project last week, and they got schedule commitments from their subcontractors lined up

I deeply appreciate the Countryside Principal Herlihy and her incredible staff for being flexible and accommodating as we begin the process of creating an incredible new home for the staff and students.

There will be some inconveniences along the way, but we will do our best to communicate these as early as possible. With the staff parking lot being taken over for construction on 3/19, the neighborhood will experience an increase in on-street parking. Many people from the project team will be monitoring the parking situation and we will make adjustments as needed to ensure that we are minimizing the impact to our neighbors. Attached to this email is the approved parking management pilot plan. This is a pilot because this approach allows us to be nimble and adjust as needed to try and minimize the impacts to the neighborhood.

Contractor parking will be pretty minimal for the spring, with very few vehicles parking off the site.

As we do with all our projects, we will have monthly community construction update meetings. The first meeting will be on Tuesday, March 25th at 6:00pm. Once the meeting starts you can join by clicking [here](#).

In the meantime, if you have any questions at all please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Horace Mann Project



There were a few minor changes to the design not reflected in the above rendering.

The Horace Mann School Project has reached an exciting milestone!

Over the last several months, we have been working incredibly hard to market the project to hundreds of trade and general contractors throughout New England. This required thousands of calls and emails from our dedicated team. We had a strong response from well over a hundred contractors who wanted to work with us on the project.

This culminated in the opening of the general contractor bids yesterday. The winning bid was submitted by [M. O'Connor Contracting, Inc.](#) MOCC, as they are commonly referred to, is the same team that completed the renovation and addition of the Newton Early Childhood, NECP, Project at 687 Watertown Street a few years ago. They are a pleasure to work with and take great pride in their projects.

It will take about a month to get the contract processed and permits completed. During that time, +we will be working with MOCC to develop a milestone schedule for the work anticipated to be completed before school gets out at the end of June. Once that schedule is available, I will share this with the Horace Mann staff and community, and we'll then set a date for our first community construction update meeting.

The bid came in within our budget, and the project will include replacing the flooring throughout the existing building corridors, which was an optional item we included if the bids came in favorable. There was also a lot of discussion with the parent community about having enough money for FF&E, fixtures, furniture, and equipment, as well as technology. I am now confident that we will have the funds needed to cover the expenses in these areas.

This summer, professional movers will be moving Horace Mann from 225 Nevada Street to 191 Pearl Street, (the former Lincoln-Eliot School). Horace Mann will stay there for the 2025/2026 school year while we complete the project. In the summer of 2026, we will move Horace Mann back to 225 Nevada Street in time for the start of the 2026/2027 school year.

Franklin School Project



The Franklin School Project is on schedule and within budget. We are currently in the final phase of design, with the efforts now focused on the design details and specifications to convert our collective vision into something that contractors can build.

Speaking of contractors, on Wednesday, March 19th we will be advertising the project and asking interested contractors to submit their qualification packages for consideration. This is a very lengthy process, but one that ensures that only qualified capable contractors are eligible to submit bids to construct the new school.

We've only got about two months of design left before starting the process to publicly bid the project. The next meeting of the Design Review Committee will be on Wednesday, April 16th at 6:00pm. You can join the meeting once it starts by clicking [here](#).

Bids are slated to be opened at the end of July, and we expect the contractor to be onboard later in August.

Once we have the general contractor onboard, we will provide a milestone project schedule and set up our first monthly community construction update meeting.