

Comprehensive Capital Project Update

April 2026 Edition

Alex Valcarce – Public Buildings Commissioner

You can also follow us on social media at

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070249892653>,
<https://www.instagram.com/newtonmapbd/>, or <https://twitter.com/NewtonMAPBD>.

We continue to make huge strides on school and municipal projects throughout Newton. Although we recently completed two major projects, Lincoln-Eliot School and Cooper Center we have plenty of exciting updates to share on the following projects:

1. Countryside School Project
2. Horace Mann School Project
3. Franklin School Project

Lincoln-Eliot Project



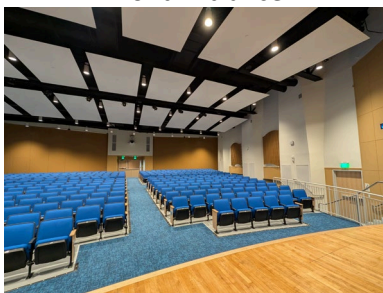
Front Entrance



Library



Gymnasium



Auditorium Community Stage



Cafeteria



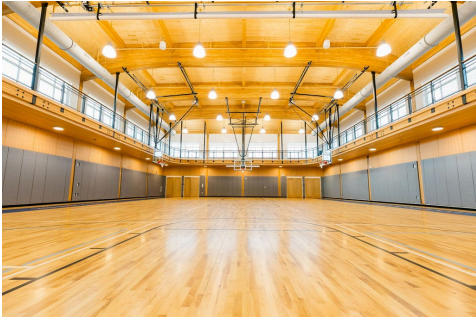
Classroom

The Lincoln Eliot Elementary School opened its doors in September of 2025 for the 2025/2026 school year. The renovation of the 150 Jackson Road property was made possible using \$51.9 million of taxpayer dollars. The new Lincoln-Eliot is fully accessible with 18 general education classrooms, 4 special education classrooms, along with breakout spaces, a new gymnasium and state-of-the-art library, modernized cafeteria and kitchen, and a terrific auditorium for use by the school and Newton Community Stage. Fully accessible playgrounds and fields replaced the existing asphalt parking lot. The project is in the close out phase and as the school and community settle in this year, we will continue to provide adjustments and refinements.

Cooper Center Project



The Cooper Center opened its doors on December 5, 2025 and has quickly become the place to be. The design of this beautiful facility has met the City of Newton’s goal, as an age friendly community to provide an appropriately sized, well-equipped, comfortable Center to meet the unique interests and needs of older adults. When spaces within this \$30.5 million facility are not programmed for older adults, it offers well managed, quality, and enriching community and multigenerational experiences for all residents of Newton, the Cooper Center for Active Living is a state-of-the-art facility which will serve Newton for generations to come.



Gymnasium



Multipurpose Room



Library



Deck

Countryside School Project

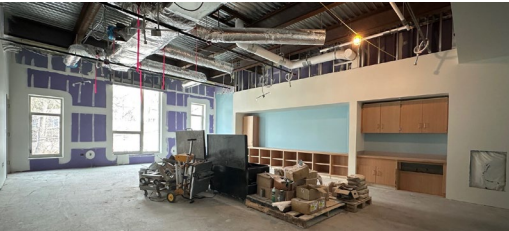


For the latest virtual tour click [here](#). Courtesy of Josh Morse, Chief Operating Office

Construction of the Countryside Elementary School broke ground in the spring of 2025 and construction is well underway. The project team has been working hard through the challenging winter and has completed drilling of the geothermal wells. Exterior masonry work and windows are near completion. Interior framing, mechanical systems installation, and drywall are all in progress.



Geothermal Well Drilling



Mockup Classroom







Gymnasium & Library

Horace Mann Project



For the latest virtual tour click [here](#). Courtesy of Josh Morse, Chief Operating Officer

The Addition/Renovation of the Horace-Mann School broke ground in the spring of 2025 and the project is in full swing. Despite the rough winter, the team is doing an incredible job at keeping things moving. The progress in the addition includes window and masonry installation which is almost complete. Roughing in the HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and fire protection systems and drywall are substantially complete, and painting has begun in the existing building and the addition as well.

 <p>Demolition at Gym for New Windows</p>	 <p>Classroom Painting and Ceilings</p>
 <p>Drywall Finishing at Ground Floor Addition</p>	 <p>Installing Underlayment at Library</p>

The classrooms are all built out, the restrooms are roughed in ready for fixtures and finishes. The new breakout areas are substantially complete, the support spaces throughout the building have been created, and much of the work to convert the old cafeteria into the library is wrapping up. We greatly appreciate the support and patience of our neighbors, and the Horace Mann Community during the construction of the project. We remain on schedule and on budget. 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



For the latest virtual tour see [this video](#). Courtesy of Josh Morse, Chief Operating Officer

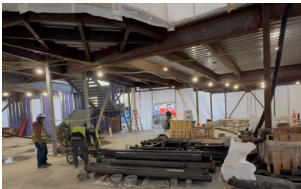
The Franklin Elementary School broke ground in September of 2025. The project team has been working hard through the challenging winter and has completed drilling of the geothermal wells. Building exterior air vapor barrier, roof membrane and temporary protection of openings are all in place to protect the interior of the building.



Geothermal Well Drilling



Upper Floor Classroom Wing



Main lobby



Library



Gymnasium

Exterior masonry work will be starting in April and window installation will follow. The concrete slab on grade for the cafetorium and adjacent spaces will be done at the beginning of April. Interior framing, mechanical systems installation, and drywall are all in progress. The team appreciates the patience and support from our neighbors, and we will continue to monitor the situation and adjust as needed to reduce the impact on our them. We deeply appreciate Franklin Principal Chitty and his incredible staff for being flexible and accommodating throughout the construction. The Franklin project remains on time and on budget and is on track to move the students into the new school in the winter of 2027, demolish the existing school and create new play fields completing the project in the summer of 2027.