

# Comprehensive Capital Project Update

## May 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



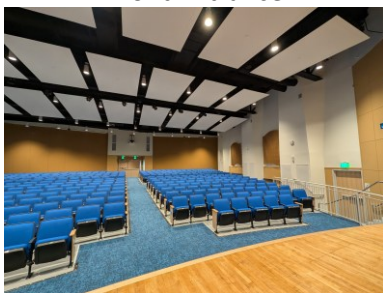
Front Entrance



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 Victor Imparato, NPBD

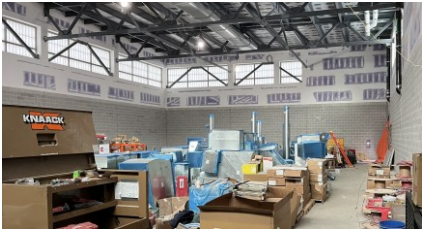
Construction of the Countryside Elementary School continues to make great progress. Installation of the geothermal system is close to completion. Exterior masonry work and windows are near completion. Interior framing, mechanical systems installation, drywall, and painting are all in progress.



Geothermal Vault



Mockup Classroom & Admin.  
Lobby



Gymnasium & Library

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 neighbors. We deeply appreciate Countryside Principal Herlihy and her incredible staff for being flexible and accommodating throughout construction, and as we prepare to install the new playground this summer for the 2026/2027 school year.



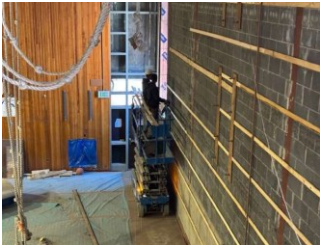
The Countryside School Project is on track to move the students into the new school in the winter of 2027, demolish the existing school and create new play fields completing the project in the summer of 2027.

# 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 continues to make progress. Site work is coming together quickly with construction of exterior gathering plaza and basketball court. Preparations are being made for construction of the playground. The progress on the addition includes windows and masonry which are almost complete. Drywall, wall tile, painting and interior casework are well under way,



Prep for Gym Wall finishes for New Windows



Classroom Casework



Drywall Finishing Cafetorium Stage



Installing Library Millwork

The new breakout areas are substantially complete, the support spaces throughout the building have been created, and installation of millwork is under way in the library. 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 [here](#) Courtesy of Josh Morse, Chief Operating Officer

The Franklin Elementary School project is moving right along. The geothermal system distribution system has been completed and installation of storm water infiltration systems has started, as well as exterior building insulation, masonry and windows.



Main Entry Lobby



Cafetorium



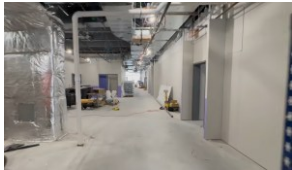
Gymnasium



Main Stair



Library



Upper Floor Classroom

Interior framing, mechanical systems installation, and drywall are all in progress. The team appreciates the patience from our neighbors, we will continue to monitor the situation, step up communications and try 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.