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9/10/2021

Newton ARPA Investment Citywide Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan - \$80,000

We have made real progress on improving our streets and sidewalks for people who walk and bike. Groups including Safe Routes to School, Bike Newton, the Council on Aging, the Commission on Disability, and the Transportation Advisory Group have worked closely with staff in our Planning and Public Works Departments (with special thanks to Nicole Freedman, our Director of Transportation Planning and Jini Fairley, our ADA/Disability Coordinator) to help us design and build better.

It's time to take the next significant step forward by developing a comprehensive, long-term bicycle and pedestrian master plan. Providing a high-quality bicycle and pedestrian network will enhance the quality of life for our residents and visitors of all ages, help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase public health, and support community and economic development.

I have approved \$80,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to develop this master plan over a nine-month period starting this winter. The goal is a transportation system that is safe, smart, accessible, livable and sustainable. The plan will be developed with a lot of participation from our residents and the business community, with our transportation-focused groups, our City Councilors, and the relevant departments, boards and commissions. The Commission on Disability will be an important partner. We will support our staff with an experienced consultant as we create it.

The network plan will include a number of key elements:

- The plan will identify locations on roads, corridors, intersections, and at spot locations that collectively comprise the network. The network plan will ensure safe and accessible all ages bicycling and walking for people of all ability levels to both neighborhood and citywide destinations.
- The plan will identify infrastructure improvements for projects, including facility type, dimensions, limits, sidewalk improvements, crossing enhancements, and more.
- The plan will prioritize projects for implementation based on criteria such as benefit, feasibility, demand, connectivity, road repaving schedule, cost, and City and utility projects. It will include a sequence, timeline and costs for implementation in the Capital Improvement Plan and the Operating Budget, in both the short-term and long-term.

