



Public Facilities Committee Budget Report

City of Newton In City Council

Thursday, May 4, 2023

Present: Councilors Leary (Chair), Crossley, Kelley Laredo and Kalis

Absent: Councilors Gentile, Danberg and Norton

Also Present: Councilors Downs, Albright, Ryan, Humphrey and Malakie

City staff present: Jim McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Works, Shawna Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works and Jonathan Yeo Chief Operating Officer

Department of Public Works Budget

Note: Jim McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Works presented the budget for the Department of Public Works, including the utility division. He presented the attached PowerPoint. It was noted that the Commissioner has recently given the Committee an update on the Transportation Network Improvement Plan and the Sustainable Materials Management division. The PowerPoint discussed the following topics:

- Streets and Sidewalks
- Transportation
- Sustainable Materials Management
- Transportation Network Improvement Plan
- Engineering
- Fleet Management
- Utilities-Stormwater
- Utilities-Water
- Utilities-Sewer

Commissioner McGonagle thanked his team for the work they have done for the City. He noted that there have been no additions to the team including a new Director of Streets, Bernie MacDonald. They are also actively recruiting to fill the additional open positions.

Q&A

Q: What will the department be doing about the increased cost to remove the sediment from the City Hall ponds?

A: Commissioner McGonagle that the biggest cost is the disposal of the sediment which they are now trying to do in house. They also need to find a location and test the sediment. The DEP will be notified because they are required to know where this sits. The plan is to do this in the Fall.

Q: When will the citizens monitoring of the water usage begin?

A: Commissioner McGonagle explained that this will be apart of the water meter replacement program which is expected to begin in the fall. The replacements need to get done first since there is a significant number of meters that aren't sending the City reads. There needs to be a new meter before the resident can start monitoring. The installation will take approximately 18 months.

Q: Who is the contractor for the water meter project?

A: Commissioner McGonagle explained that one company is providing the meters and the transponders. Bay State Winn will be installing the meters.

Q: When is the paving of Ward and Waverly going to be fully funded?

A: Commissioner McGonagle explained that there are 2 phases to this project. The Waverly portion is complete. They are working on the first portion of Ward now that will be paved this fall. The paving schedule is on the DPW's website.

Q: What are the 197 new water services?

A; Commissioner McGonagle explained that these include full replacements as well.

Q: Has the department found the reason for water loss at the Waban Hill Revisor?

A: There have been divers in there that have found leaks. But this is not a major source of water leakage in the City; this has more to do with the water meters.

Q: Can DPW look into ways to use less paving in the City to be able to reach the City's climate goals?

A: Commissioner McGonagle that they are trying to do this through the intersection projects in the city. This includes of getting rid of slip lanes.

Comments

Councilors raised concerns regarding the water meter system but were glad to see the meters are being replaced. They also expressed support of the citizens monitoring program.

A councilor expressed their support for the addition of bike lanes on Commonwealth Ave.

A concern was raised regarding the amount of salt that is being used on sidewalks.

The committee thanked Commissioner McGonagle and his team for their work.

The Committee took a straw vote to accept the Department of Public Work's proposed Budget of \$98,387,521, the Supplemental CIP and the CIP which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Leary, Chair



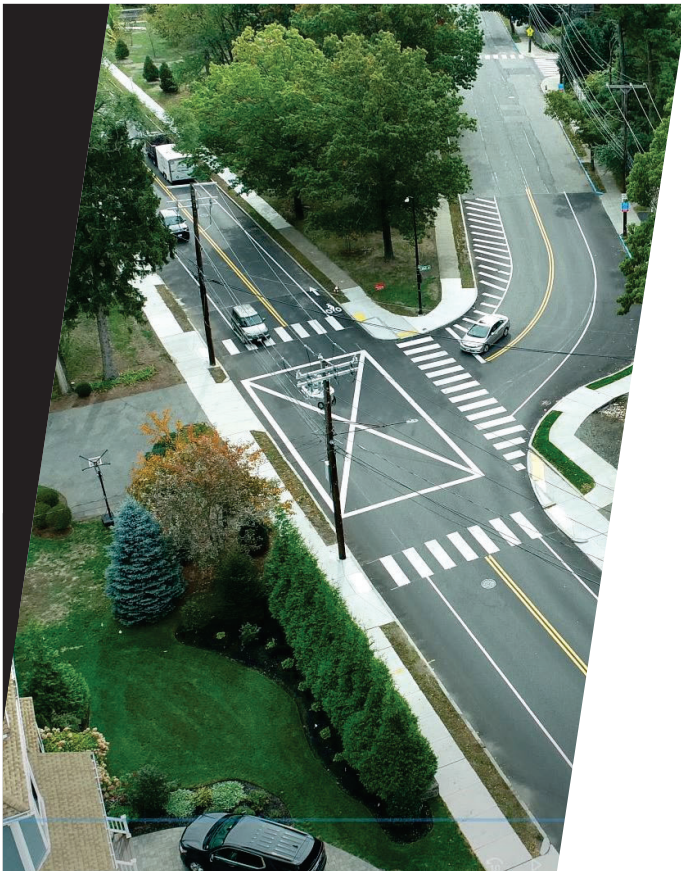
City of Newton
Department of Public Works
Budget Presentation
Thursday, May 4, 2023

- ▶ James McGonagle, Commissioner
- ▶ Bernie McDonald, Director of Streets
- ▶ Waneta Trabert, Director of Sustainable Materials Management
- ▶ Travis Mosca, Director of Fleet
- ▶ Garrett Ross, Customer Service Manager
- ▶ Shawna Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner
- ▶ Tom Fitzgerald, Director of Utilities
- ▶ Kelley Cadman, Director of Finance
- ▶ Jason Sobel, Director of Transportation
- ▶ Lou Taverna, City Engineer

Public Works Department's Team

Streets and Sidewalks

- ▶ Paved 11.5 miles of roadway
- ▶ Added/repairs 879 feet of granite or asphalt curbing
- ▶ Installed/repairs 2.9 miles of asphalt and concrete sidewalk
- ▶ Met target of streets cleared within 8 hours of end of each storm
- ▶ Continued developing sustainable approaches to construction and winter operations
- ▶ Over 16,000 potholes patched



Transportation

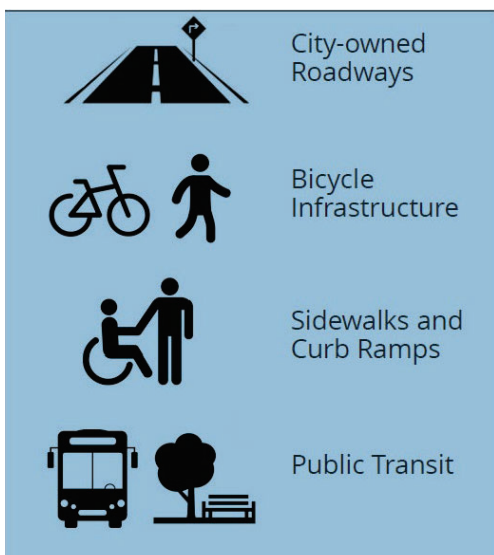
- ▶ Implemented school-zone flashers and speed feedback signs for Williams Elementary School
- ▶ Implemented two-way biking on Commonwealth Avenue Carriage Lane - approximately 4.5 miles
- ▶ Completed design and bid traffic calming project at Lowell Avenue and Austin Street/Lowell Avenue and Hull Street
- ▶ Installed Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons (RRFB's) at six locations, adding additional 18 locations by end of FY23
- ▶ Added 1.5 miles of bike accommodations

Sustainable Materials Management

- ▶ Continued a successful in-house yard waste collection program
- ▶ Continued year-round sweeping program
- ▶ Maintained a 9% contamination rate in curbside recycling program
- ▶ Collected over 16 tons of food waste from the drop-off collection program
- ▶ Performed a curbside cart education program and added educational decal to 6,500 carts
- ▶ Increased subscriptions with curbside organic composting preferred vendor by approximately 300 households
- ▶ Ran 18 household hazardous waste collection events by appointment
- ▶ Continued Collaboration with the Sustainable Materials Management Commission



Transportation Network Improvement Program Funding



\$9.5 million in FY 24 funding for:

- ▶ Paving & rehabilitation
- ▶ Pavement maintenance
- ▶ Sidewalks
- ▶ Pavement markings
- ▶ Traffic calming
- ▶ Intersection improvements
- ▶ Parking lots
- ▶ Engineering services

Engineering

- ▶ Completed construction of the Newton Free Library parking lot
- ▶ Continued with design of the Bullough's Pond Dam rehabilitation project
- ▶ Completed and implemented the improved stormwater ordinance and stormwater rules and regulations
- ▶ Continued to implement the NewGov application and permitting software
- ▶ Completed design of eight intersection improvement projects



Fleet Management



Grew electric and hybrid vehicle fleet to 32 EVs, 6 PHEVs, and 28 Hybrid vehicles



Focused on preventative repairs and maintenance program



Worked with vendors to achieve best pricing on parts and decrease time on deliverables



Continued refinement of the city's vehicle replacement program including research and demos of alternative fuel vehicles and equipment

DPW - Stormwater

- Continued planning and permitting for dredging the City Hall Ponds
- Continued to monitor water quality conditions at Crystal Lake
- Continued developing NPDES phosphorus removal plan
- Cleaned 7,650 catch basins
- Repaired 179 manholes/catch basins



DPW - Water

- ▶ Selected new water meters and transponder and awarded installation contract
- ▶ Began replacement of the City's water meter system including a new customer portal
- ▶ Continuation of Phase 8 of the water line replacement, lining, and cleaning project
- ▶ Repaired 133 water leaks
- ▶ Installed 197 new water services and replaced 116 water services
- ▶ Continued rehabilitation of Waban Hill Covered Reservoir
- ▶ Maintaining compliance with revised EPA Lead and Copper Rule



DPW - Sewer

- ▶ Continue with the Inflow and Infiltration Program
 - ▶ Phase 8 construction in Upper Falls, Highlands, Thompsonville, and Oak Hill
 - ▶ Phase 9 design - Oak Hill, Waban and Upper Falls
- ▶ Continue pump station rehabilitation plan by replacing heating and ventilation equipment in 11 pump stations, replace gate valves at 2 pump stations and replace the Oldham Road pump station
- ▶ Continue with sewer Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program



Discussion