

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mayor's Newton Update

July 4th in Newton

Weather permitting, Newton's terrific fireworks will begin at approximately 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4th over Albemarle Field/Halloran Field (250 Albemarle Road) in Newtonville. (The weather forecast is a little iffy right now. Check the City website opening page at newtonma.gov for an update on the 4th.)



Start your Independence Day festivities with a Kids Morning from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Newton Centre “bowl” off Centre Street and Tyler Terrace. It's all free and primarily focused on kids ages 3 to 12. Dress in red, white and blue and join in the patriotic costume promenade, the decorated bicycle parade, or bring your loyal companion to the grand pet parade. We will also have music, crafts, a fire truck to explore, and free ice cream courtesy of Cabot's.

In the afternoon, head over to Albemarle Field/Halloran Field (250 Albemarle Road) where the festivities begin at 1:00 p.m. Enjoy carnival rides, live music, an open-air market with handmade and international crafts, Flying High Dogs catching frisbees, the Oscar Mayer Frank Mobile, food trucks and more.

The Bo & Bill Winiker Band will start playing at 6:30 p.m. and keep the party going until the fireworks begin.

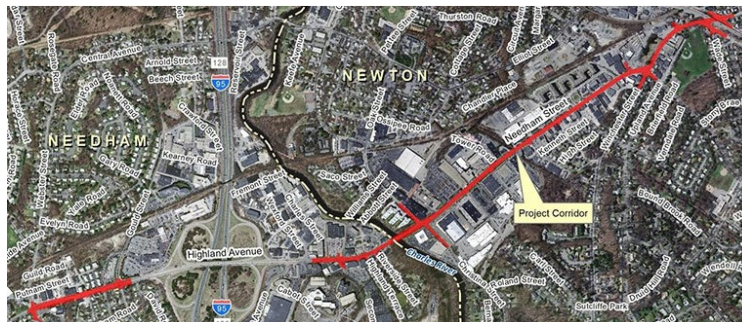
Thanks to Cabot's Ice Cream and the “Sparkler Sponsor,” Newton Community Pride, for their generosity.

Needham Street Reconstruction and Paving Starts July 9

The intensive full-depth roadway reconstruction and paving work on Needham Street is beginning a week from Sunday on July 9.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is warning us to expect inconveniences on Needham Street from Winchester Street to Tower Road – especially during the nighttime and early morning hours.

Detours will be in place while the work is done Sunday through Friday from 8:00 p.m. each night to 6:00 a.m. the next morning. The work is expected to go from July 9 through completion on Monday, July 31 (weather permitting).



The detours will be *removed* during the day so vehicles can access businesses and traffic can flow.

During the full-depth roadway reconstruction work, all southbound traffic from Winchester Street towards Needham will be detoured at night.

During the following roadway paving work, a full Needham Street detour will be required at night.

Police details will be present to facilitate this traffic pattern, and messaging boards and signage will be in place with the most up-to-date information. Driveways, pedestrian and bicycle access will be maintained throughout construction.

Customers and employees will always continue to have access to all the stores, restaurants and businesses and there will be no lane closures during peak travel hours.

In addition to the full-depth roadway reconstruction work on Needham Street, the project contractor will be moving a barrier currently on the east side of the bridge over the Charles River to the west side, which will result in a slight shift of the two travel lanes over the bridge. This lane shift will take place on Monday, July 10.

Learn more about the project at mass.gov/needhamstreet and sign up to get email updates about the project [here](#). For questions or to report issues related to construction, please contact needhamnewtoncorridor@dot.state.ma.us.

Sumner Tunnel Closing July 5 - Aug. 31

The Sumner Tunnel will be completely closed for eight weeks starting next week on Wednesday, July 5 through Thursday, Aug. 31.

For Newtonians driving home from Logan Airport, the closure is expected to make the drive longer and challenging. For everyone, officials say to expect tie-ups and traffic getting *in* and *out* of Boston while the tunnel is closed. (They expect backups in both directions.)



The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is encouraging us all to “Ditch the Drive” and use public transportation or private ride share options to help reduce the impact on traffic while the tunnel is closed.

Use [MassDOT 511](#) to see travel conditions before making a trip, and the MBTA’s [Trip Planner](#) to help find alternative ways into and out of Boston and Logan Airport. Click [here](#) for more information about the Sumner Tunnel project, and click [here](#) to sign up for weekly project email updates. Questions? Email the project team at Sumner100@dot.state.ma.us.

After nearly 100 years of service, MassDOT will be addressing tunnel safety, the roadway surface, the tunnel ceiling, lighting & security systems, and cell phone, GPS, and radio service inside the tunnel. They determined that full closure of the tunnel both this summer and next is needed to get the work done.

A Bicycle/Pedestrian Network Plan for Newton

We're underway on Newton's first Bicycle/Pedestrian Network Plan.

The plan will recommend investments over the next 5 years to improve walking and biking networks in Newton and ensure they are safe and accessible for all ages and all abilities, including:

- Address safety concerns for people walking and biking.
- Identify safety improvements along corridors with high pedestrian and bike crashes.
- Help ensure safe routes to schools, recreation centers, civic institutions, transit stops, village centers, and other high-traffic places.
- Identify a core network of protected bike lanes, shared-use paths, neighborways and bike lanes.
- Identify speed reduction projects to improve safety.
- Make streets and sidewalks accessible for all users, all ages and all abilities.
- Identify improvements to off-street trail segments for point-to-point pedestrian and bike transportation.

Director of Transportation Planning Josh Ostroff and the Planning Department staff are leading the effort working with the help of Kittelson & Associates and guided by a volunteer advisory committee.

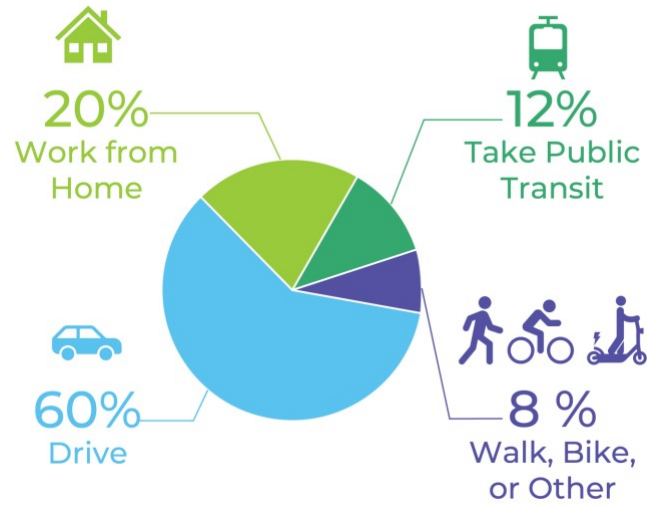
How do Newtonians commute currently? Cars account for 60% of commuter modes.

Commuter Modes in Newton

MODE CHOICE

10% of Newton households do not own a car and must rely on other means of transportation

The highest concentrations of households without a car or low-income are near the Newton Corner, Nonantum, and Thompsonville village centers.



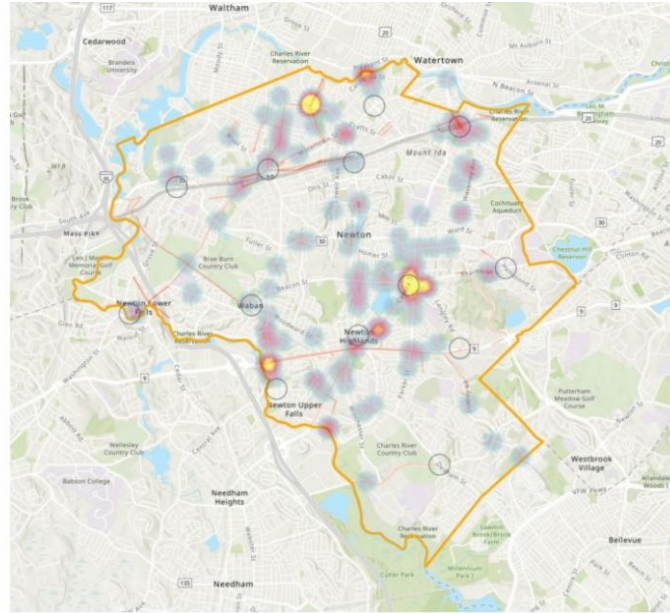
The data and public input collected so far have identified challenges Newton pedestrians face when walking through our neighborhoods and village centers as well as hotspots:

- Vehicle speeds
- Vehicle yielding at crossings
- Lack of painted crosswalks or infrequent crossings
- Condition or lack of pedestrian ramps or curb cuts
- Discontinuous sidewalks
- Sidewalk maintenance and overgrown vegetation
- Seasonality (snow and ice in winter, aqueducts when wet)
- Pedestrian signal timing

Hotspots for Walking Challenges

HOT SPOTS FOR WALKING CHALLENGES

- Hammond Street
- Washington Street
- Route 9
- Albemarle Road
- Waterton Street
- Auburndale Ave
- Comm Ave/Walnut
- Chestnut Street
- Needham Street/Centre Street
- Beacon Street
- Newton Centre
- Newton Corner
- Nonantum



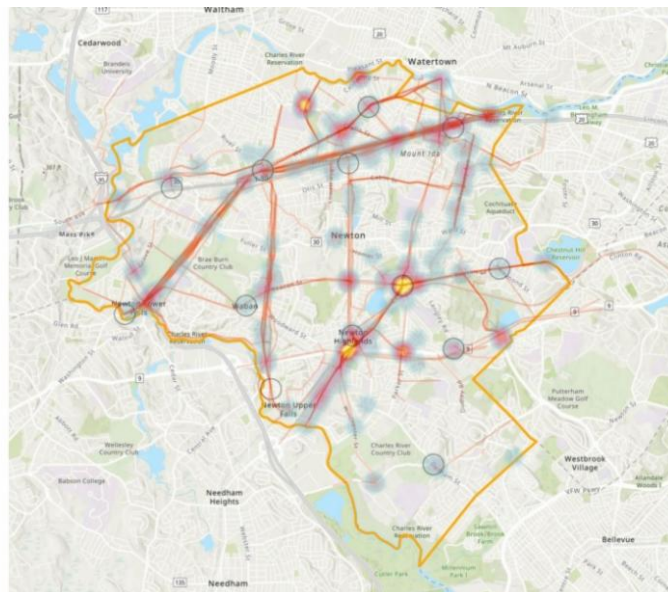
We also heard from cyclists who face:

- Rough pavement
- Vehicle speeds
- Access across I-90 and Route 9
- Conflicts with turning vehicles at intersections
- Bike lanes abruptly ending in some locations
- Lack of wayfinding for bicycle-friendly routes

Hotspots for Biking Challenges

HOT SPOTS FOR BIKING CHALLENGES

- Washington Street
- Chestnut Street
- Needham Street/Centre Street
- Walnut Street
- Watertown Street
- Beacon Street
- Albemarle Road
- Hammond Pond Parkway between Beacon Street and Route 9
- Route 9
- West Newton
- Newton Highlands
- Newton Centre



Read through the [June 13 presentation](#) to learn more, including an analysis of existing conditions for walking and biking in Newton. See newtonma.gov/bikepedplan for a [meeting video](#), and a [public survey](#).

In the coming months, we'll be developing a citywide network plan to start addressing these challenges and more will be shared at a public meeting in the fall.

Trauma

We gathered on Wednesday night for a community meeting in the aftermath of a senseless, violent tragedy in our community that took the lives of Jill and Bruno D'Amore and Jill's mother, Lucia Arpino.

We gathered so that family, friends, neighbors and fellow parishioners of these three good people, and those of us who didn't know them but nonetheless feel shaken by this nightmare, could learn ways to cope with the grief and a shattered sense of security and normalcy.

The trauma runs deep, and I am especially grateful to the first responders, the experienced and capable police officers led by Chief John Carmichael and Superintendent George McMains, the detectives led by Captain Jeff Boudreau, our social workers led by Meghan Kennedy, the Newton firefighters and medics, the State Troopers, and to District Attorney Marian Ryan and the forensic evidence team, attorneys and staff from her office. The work they did to make an arrest within 33 hours was exceptional. It was a difficult job, and they did it well.

This tragedy is complicated in so many ways. I'm guessing that I am not the only one thinking about the family and friends of another Newtonian, Christopher Ferguson, who was arrested and charged in connection with these murders. So, in addition to shock, loss, and grief, we also may be feeling angry, frustrated, and insecure because, by so many accounts, our medical and mental health system failed.

It is a lot to process.

Trauma Clinician Lisa Maccario from Riverside Trauma Center provided a variety of suggestions on how to take care of ourselves physically in the aftermath of this tragedy – drink plenty of water and try to get plenty of sleep (call your healthcare provider if you're having difficulty falling or staying asleep), eat nutritious food, do things that have helped in the past such as taking a walk, exercising, talking to clergy, or listening to music.

Most importantly, don't carry the burden alone. Reach out to a friend. Ask for help. Call Newton's Health and Human Services Department at 617-796-1420 and ask for the social services division; we'll link you to resources.

Know that if you or a loved one needs immediate support in crisis, the following resources are available:

- Riverside Emergency Services **800-529-5077** (available 24/7)
- Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line **833-773-2445** (available 24/7 by phone or text)
- **988** Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (available 24/7 by phone or text)

Find more resources [here](#). The Riverside Trauma Center also provided excellent information on how to move through the aftermath of tragedy. Find the Riverside information [here](#) and find information from Newton Health and Human Services Department [here](#).

In addition, the Newton Public Schools recommends the following resources to help children and families talk about violence and support each other in grief:

- [Talking to Children About Violence](#)
- [Tips for Parents and Educators: Talking About Violence](#)
- [National Association of School Psychologists: Addressing Grief](#)

Over the past five days, I have seen a community committed to one another, taking care of one another, and showing deep love and support for one another. Even in the midst of unfathomable tragedy when we were filled with grief and worry, so many looked beyond themselves to help others with kindness and generosity.

As the healing slowly begins, let's continue to summon that kindness and generosity for one another as we move through the next five days, the next five weeks, the next five months and beyond.

Warmly,

Ruthanne



P.S. *Find your Voice* is the **Newton Free Library's Summer Reading** theme for kids, tweens and teens. Youngsters can participate in great programs, discover new books, complete adventures, and win

prizes. The program runs through Friday, Sept. 1. Register on [Beanstack](#), our online summer reading platform, to:

- Keep track of your time spent reading alone or with a parent, siblings or friends;
- Share book reviews; and,
- Complete special adventure challenges.

Participants will be entered in a weekly drawing for prizes. Click [here](#) for information on registration, programs and book suggestions.

Adults can also get in on the reading fun with the Library's **2023 Adult Summer Reading Challenge**. Our Librarians are encouraging adults to read 5 books this summer across 5 different "challenge" categories for a chance to win a gift card to a variety of local restaurants. The Library has suggested titles for each category or *Find Your Voice* and read anything you like that fits the category. Complete the challenge card and return it to the library by September 5 to be entered to win. Find more information [here](#).

P.P.S. Enjoy lunch from Newton restaurants beneath a tent on the patio of the Allen Center in West Newton on Thursdays through July at the one-stop lunch, shopping and entertainment **Summer Lunch Pop-up Series**. The pop-ups are held from noon to 3:00 p.m. with an eclectic mix of Newton restaurants on the menu. The schedule for each week including menus and ordering instructions is posted at [All Over Newton](#). (Diners are asked to order meals in advance to help restaurants gauge demand.) The Allen Center is located at 35 Webster Street and parking is available in the lot on the corner of Webster and Cherry Streets.

P.P.P.S. The **88th Annual St. Mary of Carmen Society Festival, a.k.a. Festa**, starts on Wednesday, July 12 and runs through Sunday July 16.

Come to Pellegrini Park, 11 Hawthorn Street in Nonantum (5 -11 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday

and 4-11 p.m. on Sunday). Enjoy live music every night, plenty of food, amusement rides and games, and a procession through the streets of Nonantum with the North End Marching Band on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. and the



candlelight procession to Our Lady's Church Sunday night at 10:00 p.m. Find information [here](#).

P.P.P.S. A reminder that the current red **Senior Parking stickers** expire at midnight. New purple stickers allowing residents age 65 and over to park for free in the City's municipal parking lots (with some restrictions) are available for purchase at \$6 per vehicle through our Department of Senior Services. Click [here](#) for instructions, and call Senior Services at (617) 796-1675 if you have any questions. The new stickers are valid for two years through June 30, 2025.



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