



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

#85-23

Telephone
(617) 796-1100

Fax
(617) 796-1113

TDD/TTY
(617) 796-1089

Email
rfuller@newtonma.gov

February 27, 2023

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Honorable City Councilors:

I respectfully submit this docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to accept and expend \$712,459 in grant funding from MassDOT's Community Connections Program FY23-25 for the Newton in Motion (NewMo) microtransit program.

The City is contracted with Via to provide this service. The grant supplements City funding, development mitigation funds, and other grants used to support the program.

Attached is a memo from Planning & Development Director Barney Heath requesting the docket item.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

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CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA. 02459



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Department of Planning and Development
1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Telephone
(617) 796-1120
Telefax
(617) 796-1142
TDD/TTY
(617) 796-1089
www.newtonma.gov

Barney S. Heath
Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 17, 2023
To: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer
Jonathan Yeo, Chief of Operations
From: Barney Heath, Director – Planning & Development
Nicole Freedman, Planning Consultant
Subject: Request to Docket Item to Accept MassDOT Community Connections Grant
FY23-25 through 12/31/25

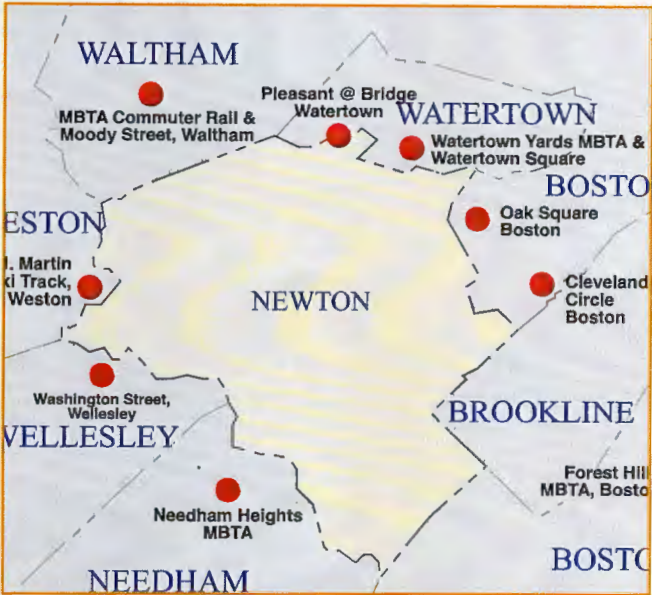
We request approval to accept and expend \$712,549 in grant funding from MassDOT’s Community Connections Program FY23-25 for the following project:

Microtransit Service in Newton (L-7001)

The City is contracted with Via to provide this service. The above amount includes the 20% match which is being provided by existing City funding allocated to support the NewMo senior service and/or by 3rd party partner funding.

Newton: NewMo Microtransit Service Expansion

Proponent: Newton
ID Number: S12694
Project Type: Community Connections
Cost: \$890,574
Funding Source: Regional Target Funds



Scoring Summary

Category	Conn	Coord	Plan	TE	MS/DP	FS	Total
Score	18 out of 18	14 out of 15	12 out of 15	9 out of 18	24 out of 24	10 out of 10	87 out of 100

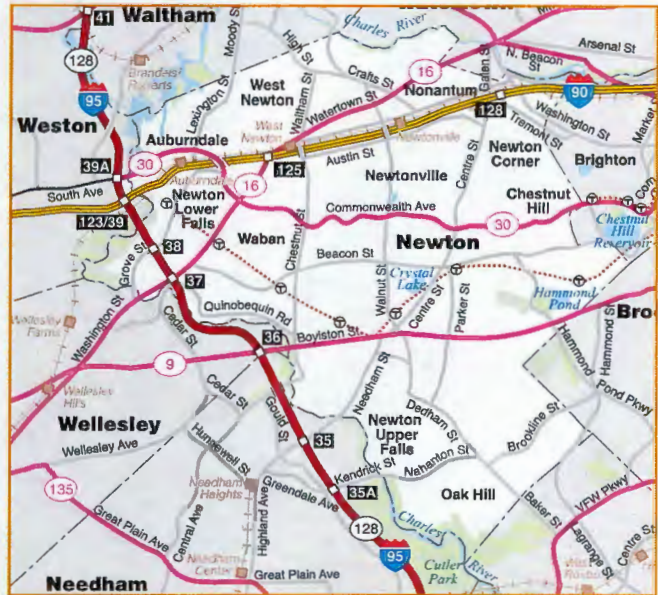
Project Description

This project will expand Newton’s existing city-wide microtransit service to include stops in Watertown, Waltham, Weston, Wellesley, Needham, and Boston, with the goal of connecting riders to an expanded network of employment centers, activity hubs, and public transportation options. NewMo is Newton’s on-demand rideshare system, operated by Via. The system uses state-of-the-art technology to cost-effectively deliver dynamically routed, shared rides using microtransit technology. The system is on track to provide 50,000 trips in its first year and sees significant ridership by low-income individuals, commuters, seniors, and students. The Boston Region MPO contributed funding to NewMo’s initial launch, with \$727,000 allocated to the project’s first phase in FFYs 2021–23. This second phase is funded through the third round of grants available through the MPO’s Community Connections Program.

Source	(FFY) 2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Federal Funds	\$330,132	\$214,597	\$167,730	–	–	\$712,459
Non-Federal Funds	\$82,533	\$53,649	\$41,933	–	–	\$178,115
Total Funds	\$412,665	\$268,246	\$209,663	---	---	\$890,574

Newton: Newton MicroTransit Service

Proponent: Newton
ID Number: S12125
Project Type: Community Connections
Cost: \$727,000
Funding Source: Regional Target Funds



Scoring Summary

This project received a total score of 53 points when evaluated using the criteria for the pilot round of the MPO’s Community Connections Program. These criteria are listed in table A-11.

Project Description

This project funds a new technology-enabled transportation service that will serve all residents, students and employees in Newton. The system will provide shared, first- and last-mile rides between three MBTA rail lines and the Wells Avenue Business District before expanding citywide. The City will deliver the service using on-demand, dynamically routed microtransit technology. This system will build on Newton’s NewMo microtransit system, operated by Via, which will provide 25,000 rides to Newton seniors in its first year. This project is funded over three years (FFYs 2021-23) through the MPO’s Community Connections Program.

Source	(FFY) 2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Federal Funds	\$121,600	—	—	—	—	\$121,600
Non-Federal Funds	\$30,400	—	—	—	—	\$30,400
Total Funds	\$152,000	---	---	---	---	\$152,000