



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Agenda

City of Newton **In City Council**

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

7:00 PM

The Public Safety & Transportation Committee will hold this meeting as a virtual meeting on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link <https://newtonma.gov.zoom.us/j/82047868635> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: **820 4786 8635**

Items Scheduled for Discussion:

- #307-23** **Increase temporarily the number of sworn firefighters from 193 FTEs to 197 FTEs**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to increase temporarily the number of sworn firefighters beginning October 1, 2023 through August 1, 2024 from the FY2024 authorized amount of 193 FTEs (Full-Time Equivalents) to 197 FTEs.

Referred to Zoning & Planning, Public Facilities and Public Safety & Transportation Committees

- #72-22** **Discussion with Police, DPW and Inspectional Services on sidewalk obstructions**
COUNCILORS DOWNS, BOWMAN, MALAKIE, HUMPHREY, WRIGHT, RYAN, GREENBERG, DANBERG, GROSSMAN, AND LUCAS requesting a discussion with Police, Public Works and Inspectional Services regarding sidewalk obstruction, enforcement, regulation, and operating procedures during construction used to ensure safety for nonmotorized road users.
Public Facilities No Action Necessary 7-0 on 06/08/22
Public Safety & Transportation Held 7-0 on 06/08/22

The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.

Chair's Note: *The Public Facilities Committee will join the Committee to discuss #69-22.*

Referred to Public Facilities and Public Safety & Transportation Committees

#69-22 **Requesting a discussion regarding snow clearing, operations and enforcement**
COUNCILORS DOWNS, BOWMAN, MARKIEWICZ, GROSSMAN, MALAKIE,
WRIGHT, KELLEY AND NOEL requesting a discussion with the Department of
Public Works and the Police Department regarding residential and commercial
sidewalk snow clearing, operations and enforcement.

Public Facilities Held 7-0 on 06/08/22

Public Safety & Transportation Held 7-0 on 06/08/22

Referred to Public Facilities and Public Safety & Transportation Committees

#78-22 **Discussion on transportation priorities and public works**
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE, PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE, AND COUNCILORS LEARY AND BOWMAN requesting a discussion
with the administration and school officials on transportation priorities and
public works/streets/sidewalks etc.

Public Facilities voted No Action Necessary 5-0 on 10/19/22

**Public Safety & Transportation Held 5-0 on 02/22/23 (Councilor Lipof not
voting)**

Respectfully submitted,

Andreae Downs, Chair



RUTHANNE FULLER
MAYOR

City of Newton, Massachusetts

Office of the Mayor

#307-23

Telephone
(617) 796-1100

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(617) 796-1113

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(617) 796-1089

E-mail
rfuller@newtonma.gov

August 29, 2023

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

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting the authorization to increase temporarily the number of sworn firefighters beginning October 1, 2023 through August 1, 2024 from the FY2024 authorized amount of 193 FTEs (Full-Time Equivalent) to 197 FTEs.

You will see in the attached request from Fire Chief Gentile that the Department has identified nine firefighter candidates that they would like to place in upcoming fire academies. Currently five vacancies exist, and it is the Chief's expectation that several retirements will take place in the next several months. This increase will enable the Department to be ready with trained firefighters when those vacancies occur.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA. 02459

2023 AUG 29 PM 12:58

RECEIVED



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
1164 Centre Street, Newton Center, MA 02459-1584
Chief: (617) 796-2210 Fire Prevention: (617) 796-2230
FAX: (617) 796-2211 EMERGENCY: 911



Gregory J. Gentile
Chief

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

August 29, 2023

Mayor Fuller,

I respectfully request to docket a temporary increase of four (4) full time firefighter positions through August 1, 2024. These positions will be used to hire new firefighters, train them, and have them available early in 2024. During the months of January, February and March, our minimum staffing increases by six employees to help with winter conditions. By being proactive in our hiring process and temporarily increasing the number of full time firefighters, we can use these employees to reduce our overtime costs and reduce the number of forced overtimes within the Department.

I am confident that these temporary additional positions will be able to become part of our usual number of permanent positions because of expected retirements before the proposed end date of August 1, 2024. We currently foresee up to six vacancies in 2024, and although none of them are a guarantee, I am confident that we will have at least four vacancies by August 1, 2024.

If approved by the City Council, we have four slots reserved in a ten-week Fire Academy starting in November 2023. This has the four firefighters graduating and working as City of Newton firefighters in the first half of January.

We anticipate these four temporary positions becoming part of our permanent positions between November 2023 and the end of July 2024.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Gentile".

Greg Gentile
Chief of Department



MEMO

TO: James McGonagle, DPW Commissioner, John Lojek, Inspectional Services Commissioner, Chief John Carmichael

CC: Jonathan Yeo, COO

DATE: June 21, 2022

FROM: Andreae Downs, Chair, PS&T, Alison Leary, Chair Public Facilities

RE: Sidewalk Obstruction & Sidewalk Parking Ordinance Follow up (#72-22 discussion of June 8)

Dear Commissioners McGonagle and Lojek; Chief Carmichael

Thank you for your participation in our discussion of the item referenced above. The members of the Public Safety & Transportation and Public Facilities committees appreciate the level of inter-departmental coordination needed to ensure that our sidewalks and bikeways remain passable especially for children and people with disabilities at all times, even during construction.

It was heartening to hear that there is new training for inspectors and new policies in place when permits are pulled, also that ISD speaks with contractors about access at the time of a new permit being issued. We also appreciate the issuance of MUCTD detour guidelines for sites where sidewalks and bikeways might be obstructed.

We left the discussion feeling that the way forward on this issue is not so much legislative as operational, and to that end have a number of requests (made at the meeting and reiterated here) as well as a suggestion. We hope these will be useful in your establishment of new procedures and policies and that we can discuss these again when Public Safety takes up this docket item later in the term.

Requests--Please provide the Council with:

- A copy of the new contractor check list referenced at the meeting.
- A copy of what ISD gives to contractors and utilities about sidewalk obstructions and parking

Suggestion:

As mentioned in the meeting, we feel it would help residents and contractors to have the rules available **on site** in the form of a sign noting the ordinances and which numbers to call in case of violations. Councilor Bowman has designed the attached, which we suggest could be easily printed & laminated for mounting with zip ties on any fenced site or nearby sign post.

Thank you, and please reach out to me on behalf of the two committees if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Andreae Downs
Chair
Public Safety & Transportation Committee

Pedestrian Considerations in the Field

Construction/Maintenance/Utility

- Public notices for construction projects include information about pedestrian closures and detours with specific outreach to organizations representing people with disabilities.
- Construction phasing considers continuous access through or around the impacted area. For example, removing curb ramps at all four corners of an intersection simultaneously will reduce access.
- TPARs are readily accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities, to the maximum extent feasible, and infeasible items are documented.
- The path is maintained and clear of debris and other items that may obstruct pedestrian access. Temporary routes and ramps are stable with non-slip surfaces.
- At intersections, pedestrian access is controlled, and traffic control devices provide advance notification of sidewalk closures and guidance to safe crossing locations including audible messages.
- The pedestrian signal head is clear of visual obstructions such as fencing and/or equipment.
- Additional signing/markings are installed, and transit stops are added or relocated, as necessary.
- Physical barriers separate pedestrians from vehicular traffic, and protective features are installed as needed.
Pedestrians are protected from the work space with barricades detectable by cane, and barricades are continuous, stable, and non-flexible.

Field Device Criteria: Consider barricades with a solid toe rail covering an area 1.5 to 6 inches above the ground. The top of the barricade should be 36" to 42" in height with diagonal strips having at least 70% contrast. Also see MUTCD references listed above for additional detail.

- Signs are adequately placed so that pedestrians are not confronted with mid-block obstacles on or above the TPAR. Signs and other devices mounted lower than 7 feet above the TPAR do not project more than 4 inches into the accessible path. Information on signs is communicated to pedestrians with visual or other disabilities.
- Temporary traffic signals are modified or installed, including pedestrian signals and push buttons, as necessary. Ensure pedestrian clearance times adequately account for walking speeds and travel distances. Ensure that push buttons are accessible to pedestrians with disabilities.
- Inspections include pedestrian accommodations during construction, and an appropriate timeline for inspection is being followed.
- Traffic control devices and the pedestrian area are in well-maintained and safe condition and are accessible, clean, sturdy, firm, smooth, continuous, detectable, and do not pose tripping hazards.



ADA approved pedestrian barrier



Temp. Asphalt ramp & temp cross walk painted



Pedestrian bypass with jersey barriers in roadway next to work zone



Temporary accessible sidewalk during construction



Sign for pedestrians to cross to opposite side of the street due to sidewalk closure



Temporary pedestrian traffic controls at limit of work where sidewalk is closed

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

An illustration of a hand holding a megaphone, symbolizing communication or announcement. The hand is wearing an orange sleeve with a white cuff. The megaphone is orange and black.

THE CITY OF NEWTON REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICIES:

insert information on no parking on sidewalks or berm, keeping sidewalks clear and passable (unless permit from DPW is posted), site is kept clear of trash and vermin, other?

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS SITE ARE:

insert allowed construction hours, any additional conditions specific to this site

ISSUES?

Parking issues: Newton Police 617-796-2123

All other issues: Inspectional Services 617-796-1060

Bicycle/Pedestrian Network Plan

Public Safety and Transportation Committee

February 22, 2023

Josh Ostroff, Director of Transportation Planning



Plan Objectives

The Bike/Ped Network Plan will provide an action-oriented road map to make Newton more safe, enjoyable, and accessible for everyone to get around on two feet, two wheels, or using any mobility device.

- Implementation-focused: elevate projects we can deliver
- Address safety concerns of pedestrians, cyclists, and people with disabilities
- Support Safe routes to schools, recreation facilities, civic institutions, transit stops, village centers and other high-traffic destinations
- Core network of protected bike lanes, shared use paths, Neighborways and bike lanes
- Implement speed reduction projects to improve safety
- Ensure streets + sidewalks are accessible for users of all ages / abilities
- Improve off-road trail segments for bicycle/pedestrian transportation



Acknowledgements

Years of engagement by councilors, advocates and city staff.

Complements our transportation, climate, equity and economic development efforts.

Supported by ARPA funding (\$80,000).

Guided by a diverse stakeholder group through an Advisory Committee:

Mayor's Office

Planning

Public Works

Police Dept

Newton Public Schools

ADA Coordinator

Commission on Disability

City Council

Council on Aging

Transportation Advisory
Group

Bike Newton

Newton Youth Commission

Business Community

Safe Routes to Schools

Parks, Recreation and
Culture



Advisory Committee role

The advisory committee will include local advocates and community leaders who will advance the project by...

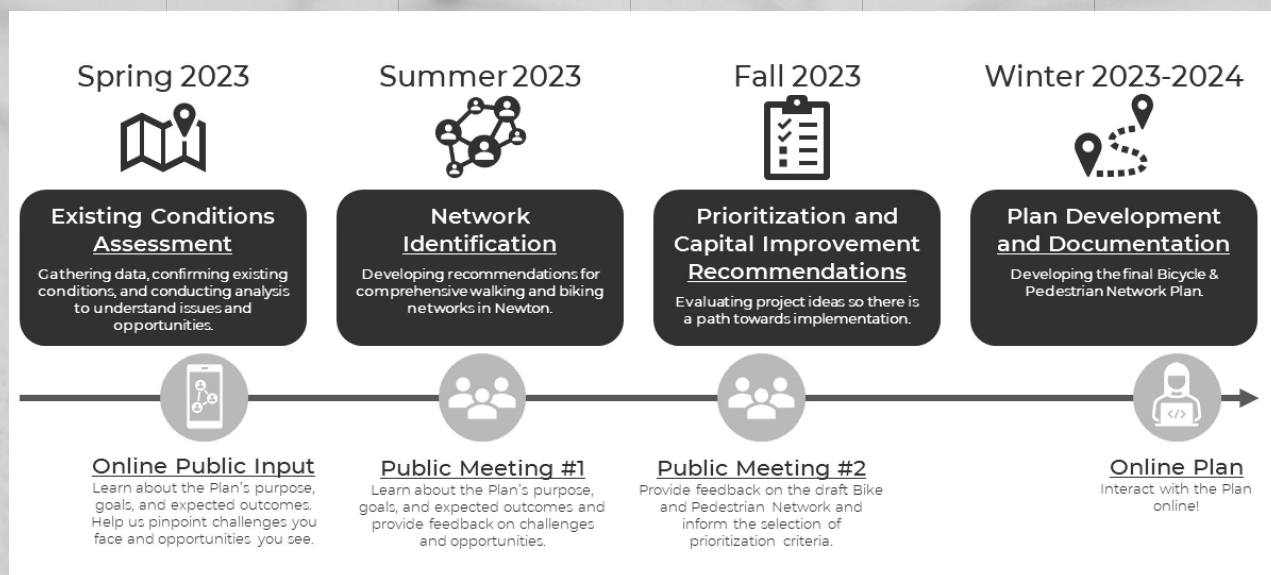
- Spreading awareness of the project and engagement opportunities
- Leverage local knowledge by providing input, highlighting issues, sharing opportunities
- Review draft plan and project prioritization criteria.



Network Plan Consulting Partner

Kittelson & Associates engaged following an RFQ process (June-August 2022)

- National firm with offices in 25 cities
- Transportation research, policy, planning, design, and operations services to government sectors and private organizations
- Biweekly staff meetings to guide the plan
- See Kittelson.com for more information



Existing Conditions: data

- Schools and Safe Routes to Schools maps - walking and bus routes
- RRFB Prioritization list
- ADA Transition Plan
- Sidewalk Condition inventory
- Curb Ramp Inventory
- Complete Streets Policy (2016)
- Transportation Strategy (2017), including Active Transportation Map.
- Newton's Street Design Guide (2018)
- Climate Action Plan (2019)
- Washington Street Vision Plan (2109)
- Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
- Riverside Vision Plan (2019)
- Road Paving List (2022/2023)
- Open Space and Recreation Plan (2020)
- Traffic Calming Prioritization List (2021)
- DPW Construction Schedule and maps
- Sidewalk snow clearance routes
- MAPC Trail Network Maps (Landline)
- MassDOT Crash Portal

Existing Conditions: site visit and public input

- Consulting team will be on site with Advisory Committee April 2023 to review representative trouble spots and successes
- We will design and launch a public input process to invite ideas, concerns and examples

Network Plan communications

- See [Network Plan web page](#) on city web site
- Kittelson will develop a storymap to provide a visual tool for public communication
- We will seek input from a wide variety of stakeholders with a range of communication methods
- We will deploy social media and other channels to promote engagement



Comments and questions



Washington Street Pilot

- Outcome of the Washington Street Vision Plan, a 2014 Boston MPO study, a Northeastern University student design project, and staff work over the last ten years
- Project area: Chestnut Street to Lowell Avenue
- Help support a future larger-scale Washington Street MassDOT project



Washington Street Pilot

- Key route to NNHS
- Design and construct a right-sized roadway to provide a safe, welcoming and enjoyable travel corridor
- Project supported with HCA and ARPA funding
- Data collection > Preliminary Design > Public input
- Consulting partner: Howard Stein Hudson
- Consultant check-in March 7



Washington Street Vision

Supportive Design Elements	Not Supportive Design Elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide sidewalks with trees, lights, and benches to enable people to enjoy the street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide roads that can't be crossed, contribute to speeding and are dangerous for pedestrians
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficiently managed street parking in village centers to facilitate thriving businesses and slow vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sea of parking lots that make uninteresting and unsafe walking environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrowed and/or reduced number of travel lanes, crosswalks, bumpouts and/or signal equipment to increase safety and enable safe street crossings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal trees and greenery, adds to the heat island effect and polluted air
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike, pedestrian and transit-friendly design to reduce vehicle trips 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic calming on residential side streets to discourage cut throughs and speeding 	



Albemarle Traffic Calming

- Key N-S greenway connecting Washington St to the Charles River bike path
- Serves multiple schools, after school programs, recreation destinations
- Subject of several studies, a master plan, extensive input
- Public process to develop the current project, with primarily surface treatments, signage, paint.
 - + Design anticipated late February
 - + Complete Streets Working Group review 3/16
 - + Public meeting estimated 3/27
 - + Advertise for construction by August/September
- Crafts intersection is a related, but distinct MassDOT project





Parker/Route 9 Safe Routes to Schools Grant

- Grant awarded February 1
- Road Safety Audit and MassDOT design process pending
- Construction anticipated Spring 2024
- Focus is Parker/9 with signalization and surface/signage improvements, and nearby road network
- Strong city and community support, including families at...
 - + Oak Hill and Brown Middle Schools
 - + Bowen Elementary
 - + Newton South High School

