



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Meeting Date: September 18, 2023

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

MINUTES

Room: Zoom
Time: 6:00PM

Barney Heath,
Director, Planning &
Development

This meeting was a virtual meeting on Zoom, by phone or by computer/iPad:
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Lara Kritzer
Director, Housing &
Community Development

Sharon Cullins
Planner
Community Development

Members

Eileen Sandberg, Co-Chair

Ima Jonsdottir, Co-Chair

Jane Brown, Treasurer

Lucie Chansky

Petr Chovanec

Lakshmi Kadambi

Nyree Kibarian

Anne Marie Killilea

Nancy Kritzman

Darby Leigh

Sandra Lingley

Barbara Lischinsky

Matt Volpi

Commission Members Present:

Ima Jonsdottir, Co-Chair, participating remotely

Eileen Sandberg, Co-Chair, participating remotely

Jane Brown, Treasurer, participating remotely

Lucie Chansky, participating remotely

Petr Chovanec, participating remotely

Nyree Kibarian, participating remotely

Nancy Kritzman, participating remotely

Sandra Lingley, participating remotely

Barbara Lischinsky, participating remotely

Matt Volpi, participating remotely

Commission Members Absent:

Lakshmi Kadambi

Anne Marie Killilea

Darby Leigh

City Staff Present:

Jini Fairley, ADA Coordinator

Sgt. Wade, Police

Barney Heath, Planning

Lara Kritzer, Planning

Nika Sandal, Planning

Sharon Cullins, Planning

Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Mayor's Office

Josh Ostroff, Planning

Guests:

Jack Lovett

Heather Wood

Lucia Dolan

Rob Caruso

Councilor Downs

Councilor Bowman

Christine Kerry

Liz Flanagan, Kittelson Assoc.

Megan Mello, Kittelson

Staff

Jini Fairley

ADA/Sec 504 Coordinator

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1. Introductions (6:00-6:05)

At the start of the meeting, a quorum was not reached, with only 6 members present, so Ima moved on to the CDBG report. Eileen called to say she would be late.

2. Approval of the July 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes (6:05-6:10)

After the CDBG Report and the CDBG FY25 access projects agenda items were discussed, Ima came back for the approval of the Draft Minutes of July's meeting since there was a quorum now. Lucie made a motion to accept the Draft Minutes as written and distributed. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 9-0.

3. CDBG Report (6:10-6:15)

Sharon Cullins gave the CDBG report, which can be viewed on page 7. The Langley/Warren/Chase project is almost complete, just waiting on the pushbuttons for the RRFB. Also the City Hall Curb Ramp project is almost complete, which is to construct 2 curb ramps, paint crosswalk crossing City Hall Drive, and should be done by next month's report. Barney gave an update on the McGrath accessible path project. Due to a larger project to reconfigure the fields at McGrath, the final design is almost complete and will go out to bid in the coming months. Barbara's comment to Barney was that she thought the project was past design and had already gone out to bid and should be underway, as the project for the accessible path preceded the multi field configuration and expansion larger project. Barney said that is all he had as an update from Commissioner Banks. To Barbara's question about a rumor that McGrath field(s) may be artificial turf, Lara added that is not her understanding, when this multi fields project came before CPC for funding, and that the timeline, as of last spring, for McGrath project would be next spring, 2024. Jini added that the CDBG project to construct an accessible path around the fields at McGrath is still part of this larger project but needs to wait until the DPW finish up the documents regarding irrigation (the Cheesecake Brook runs under McGrath Park) before the project goes out to bid.

At this point in the meeting, Eileen, Sandra, and Barbara joined the meeting.

4. FY25 CDBG-Funded Project Ideas (6:15-6:30)

Nika and Sharon reported that both Family Access and NHA has not gotten back to them, as these organizations both reached out about potential access projects. Sharon said she would try again to get more details, especially from Family Access. Ima asked if the Auburndale Library, to create an accessible restroom where the office is right now, was also being considered. Jini said that she hasn't heard back from Rafik since their summer site visit as to a concept design and whether both that Library and Public Buildings could take it on. She will reach out to Rafik, who has been very busy with the Gath Pool project. Also Jini will forward the curb ramp and sidewalk inventory she received at the end of the summer.

5. Accessible Fines Reports (6:30-6:35)

Sgt. Wade gave the Accessible Fines Report, which can be found on page 8. He explained that the city is switching to a new system for keeping track of tickets issued, which happened in August, so there is only the July activities report which doubles for the first month of the 2024 fiscal year. He also reminded the Co-Chairs and members to

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consider Operation Access as an agenda item next month. At this point, Nyree joined the meeting.

6. Bike/Ped Network Plan Draft Presentation (6:35-7:05)

Before Josh Ostroff, Director of Transportation Planning, introduced the consulting partners he is working with, Liz Flanagan and Megan Mello, from Kittelson, he said that this plan has been in the works for years and it will be the foundation for future walkability and cycling improvements around Newton for people of all abilities. Josh's cover memo and their presentation can be viewed on pages 9 through 15. More information about this plan and the existing conditions report can be found on the project webpage: newtonma.gov/bikepedplan. After the presentation, Josh said that this is one of several stakeholder meetings and he and the consultants are very interested in COD members questions and comments. Barbara pointed out that from where she lives she cannot walk to 2 villages, Lower Falls since there are no crosswalks over the Route 95 interchange and West Newton, as there is no safe way to cross Route 90 on and off ramps. Lucie commented that there is a great increase in bike lanes, and bike lanes are her enemy as they take away parking which she needs to get around as she can't walk any distances now. Barbara commented that she is putting in a plug for more funding for sidewalk improvements as a person with a disability who cannot drive a vehicle or a bike, walking is her means of getting around and she has seen the condition of the city's sidewalks get worse not better. Matt brought up the issue of overgrown vegetation as a barrier to getting around on sidewalks, that more enforcement should be addressed. Jini explained that there is a new ordinance that has a fine attached to it if a property owner doesn't comply with trimming the vegetation back so that the sidewalk is clear of these branches/bushes, but it is complaint driven, using 311. Even though the 311 mobile app is not working anymore, residents can call customer service at 617-796-1000 and give the address of where the overgrowth exists, and whether it is on the berm or on private property. Also on the city website, you can click on 311 and type in your complaint. Snow clearing of curb ramps and sidewalks was brought up by Ima. Again, a complaint can be entered in the same ways and if it is the curb ramp or sidewalk of a resident, they get a warning first, and then fined if they don't comply. In commercial areas, the merchants are also fined, and again, this is complaint driven. Ima said that the blocked curb ramps almost always happen in residential areas, and often the street snow plows pushed the snow into the ramps and often too much for a homeowner to continue to clear. Jini said to still report every address and let her know if it is an accessibility issue for a resident with a disability and she will also follow up. Ima asked if the consultants could use 'rolling' in the description of mobility modes, as in 'biking, walking and rolling'. Josh and the consultants agreed to do that. Jini commented on the challenges residents with certain disabilities have with protected bike lanes, in particular when an accessible van cannot park along the curb, the ramp deployed on the passenger side will land in the bike lane, or when someone who is blind or has low vision, step off a bus or out of a car, right into a bike lane and they don't see or hear the bike approaching. Josh reiterated that he is available to meet with members or public regarding this plan or any other issues brought up tonight. Ima and Eileen thanked Josh, Liz, and Megan for their presentation and hearing the comments.

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7. Barbara's Site Visits to Waban & Newton Highlands (7:05-7:15)

Barbara reported on her visit to Waban Commons, where she advocated to have companion spaces, not on grass, next to the benches in this small green space flanked by Beacon, Waban, and Collins streets. PRC and Jini followed up and each set of benches have a concrete space at the end for someone using a wheelchair to sit next to others on the bench. Now she said a monument has been erected to dedicate this green space, but placed the monument in the grass, not on an accessible route with words no one could read from the sidewalk as it is too far away. . Jini offered to follow up with PRC on what Barbara described. Jini said that PRC and the Friends of Waban Common (a non-profit) work collaboratively for the plantings and amenities there. Jini was unaware of the dedication and erection of the monument, and she'd be happy to look into this with PRC and Barbara. Jini mentioned that she did work with PRC to provide an accessible path to the game/chess table installed off of one corner of the Common, either as stone dust path or the use of GrassMats, where the grass can grow through but still provides a firm surface to roll from the sidewalk to the table. Barbara observed that in Waban Square, where Chestnut intersects with Beacon and a couple of other streets, that the curb ramps are apex, and she fears for her safety crossing there. Instead she walks up to the Hawk signal on Beacon to cross over to the other side of Beacon and the Square.

Barbara's second site visit was to Newton Highlands village center. She reported there are still cobble stones which are very difficult for anyone with a mobility disability, using a wheelchair or walker or for herself who has braces on her legs to aid in her walking. They are also tripping hazards for many, especially those who are blind or have low vision. Jini asked where these cobblestones are, and it is the sidewalk along Lincoln St. below the elevated stores/plaza, corner of Walnut and Lincoln. They could be bricks that have raised. Barbara would like to see an RRFB signal at the mid-block crossing of Lincoln Street in order for pedestrians to cross safely to shop at stores on both sides of Lincoln. Jini said that much of her accessible issues should be remedied during the Newton Highlands Enhancements project. Jini encouraged Barbara and others to attend the next public meeting on the design of this project on October 12:30 at 6:30PM and she will be emailing a flyer about this meeting shortly. She commented that there wasn't an accessible route, if dropped off in the parking lot, to get to the ramp into Brigham House where the temporary Senior Center is located. She had to go into the street to access that ramp. Barbara also mentioned visiting the Suzuki School and wondered why the accessible entrance was around the back near the playground. The COD did not provide funds for their renovations but they did support variances the school sought over the past several years.

Ima encouraged Barbara to reach out to Josh for some of the plans in process, like Newton Highlands and also to possibly join the Bike/Ped Network Plan Advisory Committee, and Barbara said she would contact Josh.

8. Co-Chairs' Updates/Announcements (7:15-7:30)

Eileen and Ima reported on several meetings and announcements.

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August meeting with Supt. Dr. Nolin about several items. Plans and funding for accessible improvements at Williams School. Dr. Nolin was made aware of the efforts there and will look into other improvements as discussed last COD meeting. Eileen said that Dr. Nolin was very interested in collaboration, to have more parent involvement in playground design, for example. They also spoke to her about keeping UOD in NPS, but that doesn't seem to be Dr. Nolin's intention, she has begun 2 Anti-Ableist working groups, and subsequently Ima has been invited to participate as a COD representative. Ima continued to insist that disabled parents/teachers need to be represented on these groups. Field Trips were another topic, and Dr. Nolin asked for input, like a checklist for accessible field trips.

Another meeting Ima & Jini were involved was with the organizers of Indigenous Peoples Day in Newton which will be on October 9. They have thought of many accessible and inclusive activities and describe them on their webpage.

Ima announced the newest member of the COD, Jack Lovett, being voted in tonight by the City Council, will soon take the oath and sign the oath book, and be a voting member of the COD next month. Jack introduced himself, a resident of Newton since 2006, a person with 2 disabilities, he has Asperger's and Tinnitus, and has 2 disabled siblings. He mentioned that he hasn't adopted the framework or term of Neurodiversity or Neurodivergent for himself but heard the term a couple of years ago. Jack works for the city of Newton in DPW, but he is joining the COD as a resident not as a city employee. Jini wanted to thank Rabbi Darby for his 2 years of service to the city and the COD, and has decided not to renew for another term, due to professional and personal commitments.

9. Harvest Fair Plans (7:30-7:50)

The COD will have 2 tables at the Harvest Fair on Sunday, October 15, from 11-4, set up between 10-11, and breakdown at 4. Ima said we will need volunteers, for both tables, the second one with board games/activities, like Chess, Connect 4, etc. as an alternative to the many inaccessible rides at the Carnival. Jini will be checking with Cultural Development to provide a quiet area/sensory friendly area, for parents and children who may need to retreat for a bit from the hustle and bustle of the Fair activities. She will also ask for temporary accessible parking spaces close to the Fair location along the Newton Centre green. Eileen will look into possibly having one or more Therapy Dogs for children to pet as a calming activity. Matt will see if he and his daughter and her service dog could come for a while for that purpose. Sandra encouraged members to come, it is a lot of fun, sign up for a little while, get to see each other in person and to meet a lot of interesting community members, especially disabled residents who want to talk with the COD members.

10. NWH Subcommittee Report (7:50-8)

Due to the late hour, Sandra offered to table her report for next month, which was decided.

11. Treasurer's Report (8:00-8:05)

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Jane, COD Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's report for the past 2 months. This report can be viewed on page 16.

12. ADA Coordinator's Report (8:05-8:15))

Jini gave her ADA activities for the past 2 months. Her report can be found on page 17. She mentioned that she has joined 2 school projects, Countryside and Franklin Elementary Schools, which will be either renovated or newly built in the coming years. Countryside is moving along quickly and will be newly built, on a different part of their grounds, allowing for the school community to stay in their school until construction ends. It has not yet been decided as to whether Franklin will be an Addition/Renovation, or newly built, and also the possibility of building on another part of the grounds. Many of the design plans and presentations can be viewed at DRC meetings, open to the public, or the school project webpage. Jini announced that she applied for the MOD ADA Improvement Grant for the project to purchase and install a swing structure and expand the area next to the play structure where the swings will be installed. The grantor notifies the awardees in November/December.

13. Adjournment (8:15)

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

These Minutes were prepared and submitted by Jini Fairley.

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 16, 2023

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities requiring assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA/Sec.504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service, please dial 711 or call City Hall's TTY/TDD line at 617-796-1089.

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Reports & Supplemental Materials:

September CDBG report.pdf

Newton Commission on Disability

CDBG Access Projects Report

September 18, 2023

FY22 McGrath Park Perimeter Path Installation – (CD22-03A; Budget: \$91,300.00; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$91,300.00)

Constructing an accessible perimeter path around Richard McGrath Park.

The LAX practice wall was impacting the perimeter pathway construction. The League was given a deadline for the 3rd of April to fundraise for said wall

and has not responded in time. In lieu of the wall, the pathway will be able to run around the entire perimeter of the park with entry/exits on Washington

St and Myrtle St. Designer is re-assessing the parking lot side of the park as well as reconfiguring the irrigation system and redoing the fence around

the tennis courts to provide an accessible entry. Due to the rise in costs, the pathway cost is higher than expected, and Parks has requested the Community

Preservation Committee to cover the gap of \$48,000, which they agreed to. With the addition of playable fields, McGrath has become close to a million-dollar

project. The most up to date design of the park and perimeter was presented during the May meeting. DPW is moving forward with arranging all necessary

documentation for the Conservation Commission permit. As they were preparing the Notice of Intent for the Conservation Commission, it came to light that

the pathway exceeds the amount of impervious area allotted, which in turn triggers a necessary stormwater permit that must be completed by DPW. DPW is

now working to identify a funding source for the required drainage systems.

FY23 Langley/Warren/Chase Crossing – (CD23-03A; Budget: \$100,000.00; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$100,000.00)

Installation of accessible crossings at Langley Rd. and Warren St. This includes a bump out on the northeast corner of the intersection to create the space

needed to install a curb cut to cross Warren St.

DPW has completed the scope of work and concept design for this project. Project was presented at the December 2022 meeting. DPW posted the bid on the

City of Newton's website on January 5th. The bid opening date was January 19th. The contractor chosen was Antonellis Construction. The bid came in just

a little under \$150,000. Construction started on May 30th, 2023, and ended on June 16th. Although the bulk of the project has been completed, there is

a vendor back order. Antonellis Construction is waiting for the push button RRFB. It is expected

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NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

JULY 2023

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	33
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 6,600.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 2,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 1,400.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 3,200.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	27
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 5,400.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 2,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 1,000.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 2,400.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	6
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 1,200.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 400.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 800.00

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COD input cover memo 091423.pdf

To: Commission on Disability; ADA Coordinator Jini Fairley

From: Josh Ostroff, Director of Transportation Planning

Date: September 14, 2023

Re: Bicycle/Pedestrian Network Plan

Cc: Barney Heath, Director of Planning and Development

Thank you for making time on your September 18 agenda for a discussion of the draft Bicycle & Pedestrian Networks, which are a foundational piece of the upcoming City of Newton Bike and Pedestrian Network Plan. We have attached a draft presentation and welcome the opportunity to go through it, answer your questions, and incorporate your comments as we work towards a final plan later this fall.

Our consulting partner Kittelson & Associates has been working on this plan since last winter.

The goals of the plan are as follows:

list of 8 items

- Create an implementation-focused Bike and Pedestrian Network Plan that will strategically recommend 5-year investments to ensure safe, accessible all ages and abilities bicycling and walking in Newton. Project recommendations will aim to:

- Help ensure streets and sidewalks are accessible for users of all ages and abilities

- Address safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists

- Support implementation of safety improvements along corridors with high levels of bicycle and pedestrian crashes

- Help ensure safe routes to schools, recreation facilities, civic institutions, transit stops, village centers and other high-traffic destinations

- Support building a core network of protected bike lanes, shared use paths, Neighborways and bike lanes

- Support implementation of speed reduction projects to improve safety

- Help improve off-road trail segments that can be utilized for point-to-point bicycle and pedestrian transportation

list end

Following a series of stakeholder meetings, we will continue refining the plan and present the full draft plan at a public meeting in October or November on a date to be announced.

The plan is intended to incorporate the needs and concerns of people with disabilities, for whom we realize that mobility can be a significant challenge. Your input is welcome and valued. As you review the plan prior to and at our meeting, please make note of the specific ways in which it can best promote walking and cycling for people of all abilities in Newton.

Please note that the plan itself will not result in the design and programming of specific projects. Rather, it will help us understand the issues that need to be addressed, present a vision for Newton's walking and biking networks, and identify priority project opportunities.

If you have questions in the meantime, please reach out to me at

jostroff@newtonma.gov

or

617-796-1481.

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NewtonBPNP_COD_09182023.pdf
NEWTON BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN
NETWORK PLAN COMMISSION ON DISABILITY SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

AGENDA

table with 2 columns and 5 rows

3

Project Overview

16

Review Draft Networks

23

Additional Preliminary Recommendations

29

Next Steps

30

Q&A

PROJECT

OVERVIEW

A photograph of a guardian and child crossing a street.

SCHEDULE

Spring 2023 Existing Conditions Assessment

Summer 2023 Network Identification

Fall 2023 Prioritization and Capital Improvement Recommendations

Winter 2023-2024 Plan Development and Documentation

PLAN PURPOSE

Develop 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.

Support the City's vision for a transportation system that is safe, smart, accessible, livable and sustainable.

Image

Image showing bike share in front of City Hall.

TODAY

Share the process and findings from the Network Identification

Discuss how to make this plan most actionable for this group

Image

Photo of a pedestrian crossing a street at a crossing with a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB).

Address safety concerns for people walking and biking

GOALS

Ensure streets and sidewalks are accessible for users of all ages and abilities

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

Identify improvements to off-street trail segments for point-to-point pedestrian and bike transportation

Timeline of project development process. The Newton BPNP addresses the earliest two stages: Needs assessment and network planning. Future projects will address project engineering, design, programming, and construction.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

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EXISTING CONDITIONS OVERVIEW

You can access the full Existing Conditions report on the project website at:
newtonma.gov/bikepedplan

Bicycle and pedestrian crash history (2020-2022)

VULNERABLE ROADWAY USERS

From 2020-2022:

list of 4 items

- 153 non-motorist crashes
- 54% involved someone walking
- 46% involved someone biking
- Of these, 20% resulted in suspected serious injury

list end

Chart of bicycle and pedestrian crash history (2020-2022). Summary is included in slide text.

Source: MassDOT

SIDEWALK AND CURB RAMP INVENTORY

An inventory of the presence and condition of sidewalks and curb ramps in Newton was recently completed (Summer 2023).

list of 3 items

- 373 miles of fair, good, or excellent sidewalk
- 39 poor or repair/replace
- 75 miles missing

list end

Map showing the location of sidewalks that are missing, poor, or in need of repair or replacement in Newton.

mc-ref

Source: Sidewalk and curb ramp inventory completed by Environmental Partners, 2023

Map showing the location of sidewalks that are missing, poor, or in need of repair or replacement in Newton.

SIDEWALK AND CURB RAMP INVENTORY

An inventory of the presence and condition of sidewalks and curb ramps in Newton was recently completed (Summer 2023).

list of 3 items

- 6,486 existing or missing ramp locations
- 1087 missing curb ramps
- 3,990 ramps flagged for replacement

list end

Map showing the locations of fair or poor pedestrian ramps in Newton.

mc-ref

Source: Sidewalk and curb ramp inventory completed by Environmental Partners, 2023

Map showing the locations of fair or poor pedestrian ramps in Newton.

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

538 walking and

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677 biking destination comments
367 comments describing walking challenges
613 comments describing biking challenges
Cycling with solid fill
Neighborhood outline
Cycling with solid fill
Neighborhood outline
Walk with solid fill

3

CHALLENGES FOR WALKING

list of 8 items

- 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

WALKING AND

BIKING

NETWORK

IDENTIFICATION

Photo of a bus stop and bike lane in Newton.

NETWORK IDENTIFICATION

STEP 1: CONNECTIONS

Which connections are important for getting people where they need and want to go?

Community Context

Key Destinations

Connections within village centers and School Zones

Connections between village centers, transit, and School Zones

= WALKING AND BIKING NETWORKS

NETWORK IDENTIFICATION

STEP 1: CONNECTIONS

STEP 2: NETWORK NEEDS

What are the gaps and deficiencies in the current walking and biking networks City-wide?

Along corridors

At crossings

CORRIDOR NEEDS

Pedestrian Network

list of 4 items

-
- Sidewalk condition

-
- Crash history

-
- MassDOT Safety Risk

-
- Public Input Challenges

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list end

Pedestrian Network

list of 4 items

-

Pedestrian crash history

-

Public Input Challenges

-

Multiple Missing Curb Ramps

-

Crossing Guard stationed (Newton Public Schools)

INTERSECTION NEEDS

STEP 2: PEDESTRIAN

NETWORK NEEDS

*Key Needs reflect corridors with multiple overlapping needs.

Highlighting these segments does not negate that there are sidewalk gaps and maintenance needs elsewhere on the network.

Needs Needs - Ped

Needs

Key Need Key Need

Key Need

NETWORK IDENTIFICATION

STEP 3: FACILITIES

What facility types or design strategies are best suited to the context, in line with nation best practices and Newton's Street Design Guide?

Create separation

Slow vehicles

Increase visibility

STEP 1: CONNECTIONS

STEP 2: GAPS

WHAT ELSE

WILL THE PLAN

INCLUDE?

Photo of a bus stop and bike lane in Newton.

DECISION-MAKING GUIDANCE THAT PRIORITIZES SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

list of 2 items

-

Adapt national roadway cross section reallocation guidance for Newton's needs.

-

Dictate that safety and accessibility are considered first in every project.

list end

list of 1 items

-

Guidance that prioritizes pedestrian needs.

list end

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Resources to help decision-makers weigh trade-offs and considerations when there are engineering, right-of-way, or other constraints.

MIDBLOCK AND INTERSECTION DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Design for accessibility

Reduce speeds

Provide visibility

Establish clear right-of-way priority

Provide separation in time and space

Provide continuity

Minimize inconvenience

ADDITIONAL ACCESSIBILITY GUIDANCE FOR PROTECTED BIKE LANES

list of 4 items

-

Seniors and people with disabilities want to bike, trike, or use other mobility devices for short trips and want separation for vehicles

-

Riding on the sidewalk is common but there is crowding, which can lead to conflicts

-

Emerging modes such as e-scooters can result in more people riding on the sidewalk

-

Many major roads will need physical separation to be viable network links for all ages and abilities

list end

list of 2 items

-

Protected bike lanes are an important part of both the biking and walking networks

-

However, bike facilities can introduce new challenges for seniors and people with disabilities, whether at sidewalk level or alongside the curb

UNIVERSAL DESIGN- PROTECTED BIKE LANES-

list of 3 items

-

Provide accessible parking in the space closest to the crosswalk

-

Ensure sidewalk-level separated bicycle lanes feature a continuous and highly detectable buffer between the bicycle lane and pedestrian access route

-

Implement design features that reduce conflicts between users on shared use paths

list end

Example Strategies and Actions for Newton

Photo of sidewalk-level bike lane next to streetscaping zone and pedestrian zone on Walnut Street approaching Washington Street.

list of 3 items

-

Audible Pedestrian Push Buttons

-

Detectable Warnings at Driveways

-

On-Street Parking Space Dimensions

list end

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The final ruling for the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) was issued in August 2023.
Photograph of three people crossing the street in Newton.
A photograph of a guardian and child crossing a street.
PROWAG FINAL RULING HIGHLIGHTS

NEXT STEPS

4

Stakeholder conversations

list of 1 items

-

Throughout September/October

list end

Draft Plan Published for Comment and Public Meeting 2

list of 1 items

-

Aiming for late October or early November

list end

Please send feedback to

bikepedplan@newtonma.gov

Q&A

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For more information, visit the project website at: newtonma.gov/bikepedplan

Or email the project team at:

bikepedplan@newtonma.gov

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Treasurer's Report

Given by Jane Brown, Treasurer of the Newton Commission On Disability (COD)

Presented at the September 18, 2023 Newton COD Meeting

As of September 1, 2023, the balances of the COD accounts are as follows:

Account # 5500-335518 H-P. Fines-Disability Commission

Type: Receipts Reserved for Appropriation (These funds have to go before the City Council to be appropriated before being used)

Balance: \$ 76,889.60

Account # 0110320-571600 Set up to pay fee for May 7, 2023 Me2/ Concert

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$0.00

Account # 01C10802-513010 Operation Access – Disability Commission

Set up to pay for targeted enforcement of accessible HP Fines violations by the Police

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$3415.38

Account # 01C40128 Set up to pay for RRFB at Langley/Warren/Chase intersection

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$18,000.00

Account # 01C60211 Set up to purchase accessible equipment for Burr School playground.

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$1,537.00

Account#C401083-586005 Set up to purchase and install Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) units at the Waverly/Tremont intersection

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: **\$50.50** (8 APS units installed in December 2018)

Account # 5064D103 Set up in Fall 2015 to receive Community Access Monitor Program fees and pay expenses)

Type: Revolving Account

Balance: \$29**0.00**

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Given by Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator

Presented at the September 18, 2023 Newton Commission On Disability meeting, for activities during the months of July and August 2023.

Site Visits:

- Campus of NWH with Sandra and NWH Facilities Director

Trainings:

- Webinar: Fair Housing First-Reasonable Accommodations/Modifications in Housing/FHAA
- Webinar- Invisible Disabilities and the ADA in the Workplace
- Webinar-Ask an ADA Pro- Lodging
- Webinar-IHCD – Inclusive Fashion- excellent
- Webinar-Designing for Children- excellent

Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- Newtonville Commuter Rail with Mayor, Rep. Jake Auchincloss-photo op- ADA Day
- DRT, DRC & SBC meetings-proposed plans for Countryside School
- Countryside School Working Group meetings
- DRC & SBC Franklin School Concept Plans
- Franklin School Working Group meetings
- Traffic Council -No Parking/Bike Lane on Columbia Avenue
- NWH Subcommittee quarterly meeting
- CIP meetings
- Bike/Ped Network Plan Committee meeting
- FHC Subcommittee on lottery & lease-up of affordable units
- Fair Housing Committee (FHC)- attend monthly meetings
- Complete Streets Committee & Road Paving- attend bi-weekly meetings
- CODs Alliance monthly meeting