



Public Facilities Committee Agenda

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

The Public Facilities Committee will hold this meeting as a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 7:00 PM in Room 204. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: <https://newtonma-gov.zoom.us/j/82479225576> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 824 7922 5576

Item Scheduled for Discussion:

Public Hearing

#210-24 Eversource petition for Grant of Location for 160 Charlemont Street
EVERSOURCE ENERGY petitioning for a grant of location to install and maintain approximately 1174 feet of conduit in an easterly direction from manhole MH31725, at the intersection of Needham Street and Charlemont Street and to install and maintain two new manholes: MH31903 and MH31904 (Ward 8)
[160 Charlemont Street: Back-up materials](#)

Public Hearing

#211-24 Eversource petition for Grant of Location for 50 Tower Road
EVERSOURCE ENERGY petitioning for a grant of location to install and maintain approximately 1170 feet of conduit in an easterly direction from manhole MH31754 and install and maintain three new manholes: MH31754, MH31902, MH31755. (Ward 5)
[50 Tower Road: Back-up materials](#)

Public Hearing

#213-24 Eversource petition for Grant of Location for 156 Oak Street
EVERSOURCE ENERGY petitioning for a grant of location to install and maintain approximately 2644 feet of conduit in a southeasterly thence easterly direction from pole 322/11, approximately 240 feet northwest of Sweet Street and install and maintain three new manholes; MH31744, MH31901 and MH31743 (Ward 5)
[156 Oak Street: Back-up materials](#)

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.

Public Hearing

#212-24 Eversource petition for Grant of Location for 90 Christina Street

EVERSOURCE ENERGY petitioning for a grant of location to install and maintain approximately 1164 feet of conduit in a southeasterly direction from manhole MH31722 at the intersection of Needham Street and Christina Street and install and maintain two new manholes: MH31742 and MH31756 (Ward 8)

[90 Christina Street: Back-up materials](#)

#220-24 Approval of the installation of two raised intersections

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting approval of the installation of two raised intersection, in accordance with City Ordinance Section 26-51, at the intersections of Waverley Avenue at Franklin Street, and Brookline Street at Hartman Road.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#216-24 Transfer funds to for the City’s Accelerated Roads Program

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer funds from several DPW Accounts resulting from FY24 savings in various DPW accounts to Acct# 01C40112-553100 as a part of the City’s Accelerated Roads Program

DPW Streets- Full Time Wages (0140120-511002).....	\$500,000
DPW Snow & Ice- Overtime (0140123-513010).....	\$250,000
DPW Snow & Ice- Contractors (0140123-529100).....	\$200,000
Comptroller’s- Snow/Ice Reserve (0110498-579400).....	\$1,050,000

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#191-24 Authorization to appropriate and expend \$200,000 from the Stormwater Management Operating Reserve FY2024 Operating Budget

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend a total of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the Stormwater Management Operating Reserve FY2024 Operating Budget to fund the design and installation of a subsurface system that will manage stormwater from Myrtle Street and McGrath Park.

Chair’s Note: *Please note that the below item is not a public hearing but we will have an overflow room if there is not enough space in room 204. We will be streaming the meeting in room 211 at City Hall. The Chamber was not available for this meeting.*

#189-24 Approval of the 75% design of the Washington Street Pilot

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting the approval of the 75% design for the Washington Street Pilot.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Albright, Chair



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

220-24

Telephone
(617) 796-1100

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(617) 796-1089

Email

rfuller@newtonma.gov

April 29, 2024

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

Dear Councilors:

I respectfully submit this docket item to your Honorable Council requesting approval of the installation of two raised intersection, in accordance with City Ordinance Section 26-51, at the intersections of Waverley Avenue at Franklin Street, around the corner from the Bigelow Middle School and not far from the Underwood Elementary School, and Brookline Street at Hartman Road, near Memorial-Spaulding Elementary School.

The Department of Public Works is proposing raised table intersections at these locations in order to manage vehicle speeds and improve safety for all road users. We previously identified these locations as among our highest priorities for traffic calming through the Transportation Division's annual evaluation and prioritization process.

1. Brookline Street at Hartman Road and Spaulding Lane

This intersection will be reconstructed as a raised table intersection, a traffic calming measure that has proven to be highly effective at slowing down speeding traffic, reducing traffic crashes, and improving pedestrian safety. All four streets entering the intersection would have gradual 10 foot long transition ramps, elevating vehicles roughly 6 inches to travel through the intersection at the same level as the sidewalks, which would be protected with bollards. The existing pedestrian actuated flashing warning beacon at the crosswalk across Brookline Street will remain. The raised intersection design will closely follow the design of Newton's previously constructed raised table intersection at Beethoven Avenue / Puritan Road, which has produced a significant reduction in vehicles exceeding the speed limit.

2. Waverley Avenue at Franklin Street

This intersection will be reconstructed as a raised table intersection, a traffic calming measure that has proven to be highly effective at slowing down speeding traffic, reducing traffic crashes, and improving pedestrian safety. All four streets entering the intersection would have gradual 10 foot long transition ramps, elevating vehicles roughly 6 inches to travel through the intersection at the same level as the sidewalks, which would be protected with bollards. The Newton Fire Department (NFD) has a critical emergency response route through this intersection, traveling Franklin Street eastbound and turning right to head southerly down Waverley Avenue. A unique aspect of this intersection raised table design will be to move the two transition ramps farther back and extend the elevated area of the intersection to better accommodate fire truck turning maneuvers. The goal is to accommodate both front and back

wheel axles on the raised table intersection prior to conducting their turning maneuver, allowing for a smoother maneuvers and faster emergency response times. The proposed locations of the Franklin Street eastbound approach and Waverly Avenue northbound approach ramps accommodate this goal while maintain the overall traffic calming goal of this project. Fire Truck Turning Maneuvers are graphically presented as attachments to this docket request.

Similar to the first docket location, the sidewalk at this raised intersection will be protected with bollards. The existing pedestrian actuated flashing warning beacon at the crossing across Waverley Avenue will remain.

DPW Transportation Division staff has discussed this raised table design at both proposed locations with NFD and have their support of this project. NFD's letter of approval is attached. A color rendering is provided to illustrate proposed changes at these locations. The construction of the two raised table intersections will be funded through the Mayor's \$2-million ARPA allocation to citywide Traffic Calming. No additional funding need is anticipated at this time.

Attached is a memo from DPW Commissioner McGonagle on the request.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton
Ruthanne
Fuller

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449

April 2, 2024

To: Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer
Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer

From: James McGonagle, Commissioner

Subject: Request for Docket Item for Change in Traffic Flow on Brookline Street and Waverley Avenue

The Department of Public Works is proposing raised table intersections at the following two locations:

1. Brookline Street at Hartman Road and Spaulding Lane
2. Waverley Avenue at Franklin Street

These roadway sections of Brookline Street and Waverley Avenue have previously been identified as priority locations for traffic calming through DPW Transportation Division's annual evaluation and prioritization process.

1. Brookline Street at Hartman Road and Spaulding Lane

This intersection will be reconstructed as a raised table intersection, a traffic calming measure that has proven to be highly effective at slowing down speeding traffic, reducing traffic crashes, and improving pedestrian safety. All four streets entering the intersection would have gradual 10 foot long transition ramps, elevating vehicles roughly 6 inches to travel through the intersection at the same level as the sidewalks, which would be protected with bollards. The existing pedestrian actuated flashing warning beacon at the crosswalk across Brookline Street will remain. The raised intersection design will closely follow the design of Newton's previously constructed raised table intersection at Beethoven Avenue/Puritan Road, which has produced a significant reduction in vehicles exceeding the speed limit.

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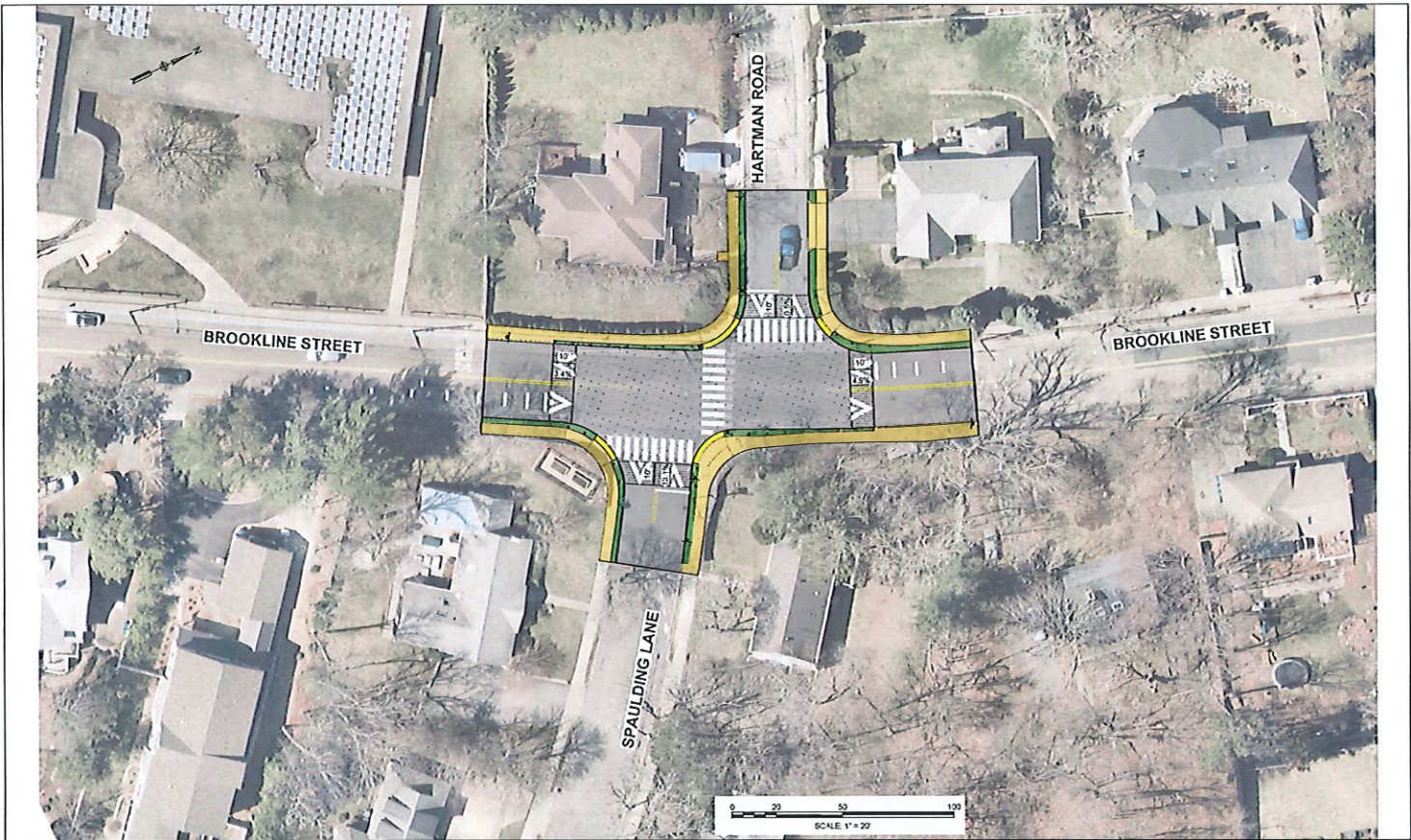
A color rendering is provided to illustrate proposed changes at these locations. The construction of the two raised table intersections will be funded through the Mayor's \$2-million ARPA allocation to citywide Traffic Calming. No additional funding need is anticipated at this time.

In accordance with City Ordinance Section 26-51, please docket this request with the Honorable City Council for their consideration.

Sincerely,

James McGonagle
Commissioner Public Works

cc: Shawna Sullivan, DPW Deputy Commissioner
Louis M. Taverna, P.E., City Engineer
Ned Codd, P.E., Director of Transportation Operations



ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS
— An Apex Company —

MARK	DATE	DESCRIPTION

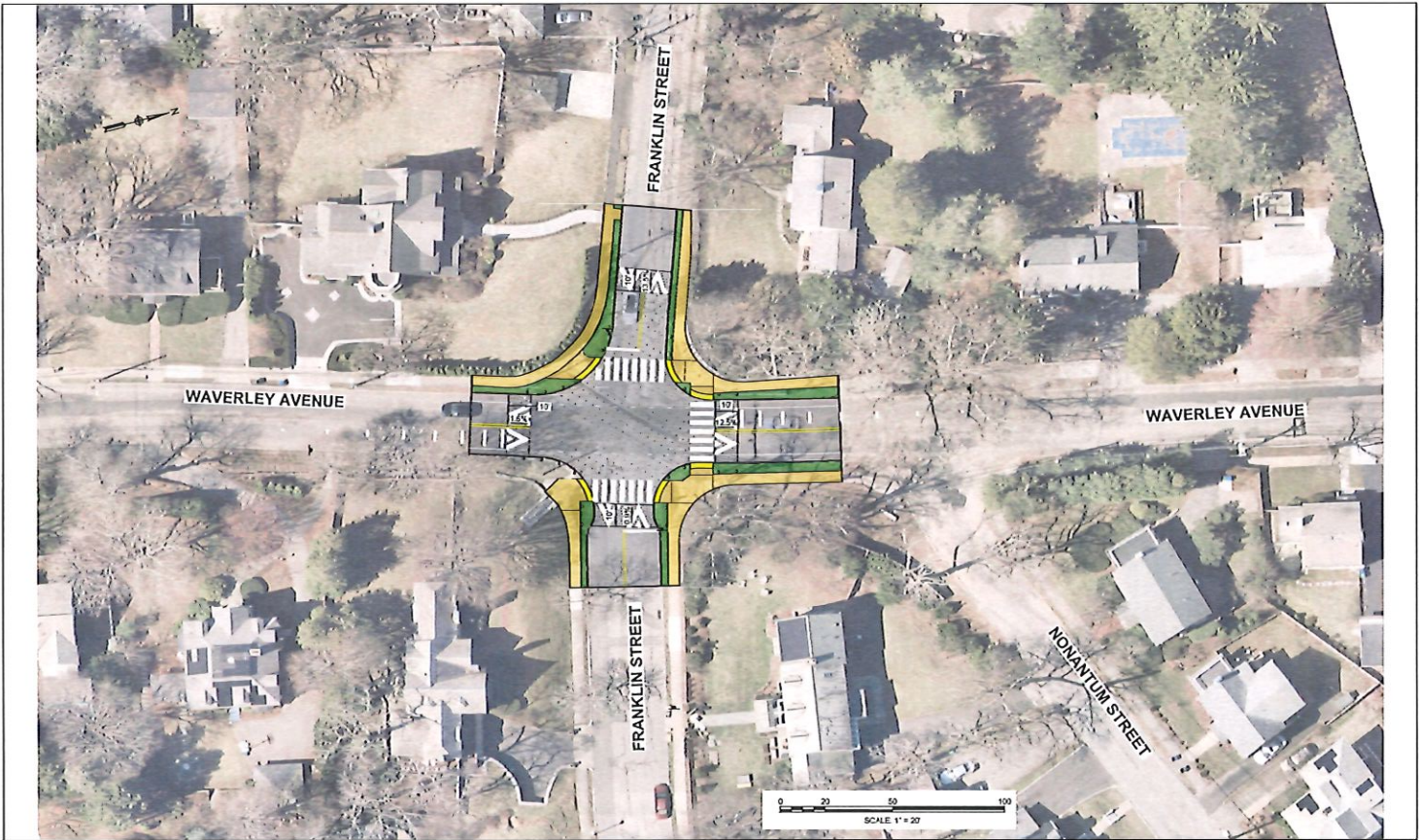
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Drawn by	—
Checked by	—
Approved by	—

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS FOR TRAFFIC CALMING
2 LOCATIONS
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

COLOR RENDERING
BROOKLINE STREET AT SPAULDING LANE/HARTMAN ROAD

SUBMITAL
Sheet No.
01

Drawing No. 23024118-01.dwg
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 Date: 03/20/24 10:11 AM
 User: JACOBSON, JACOBSON



ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS
— An Apex Company —

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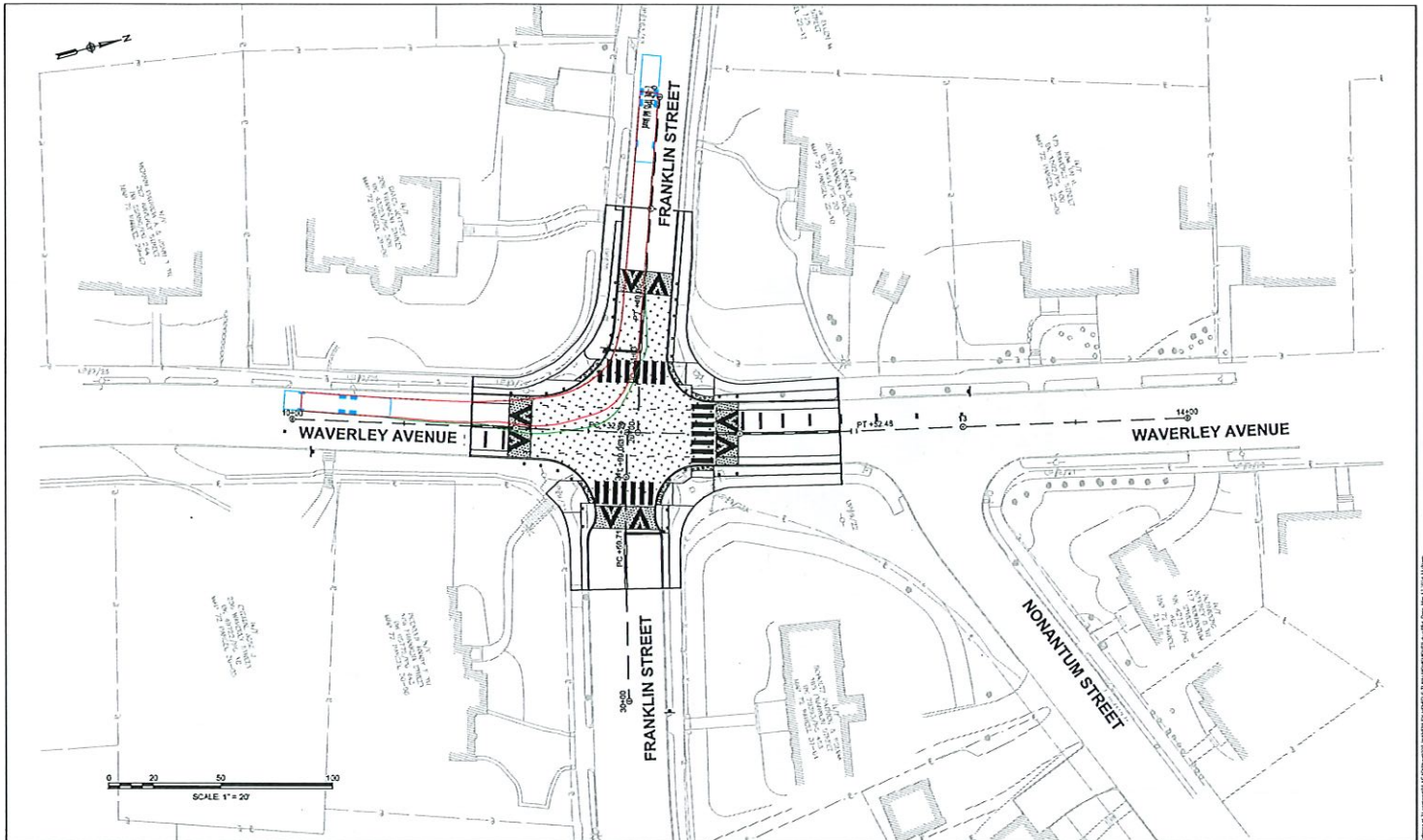
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INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS FOR TRAFFIC CALMING
2 LOCATIONS
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

COLOR RENDERING
WAVERLEY AVENUE AT FRANKLIN STREET

SUBMITTAL
Sheet
02

Environmental Partners, Inc. 1000 North Main Street, Suite 100, Newton, MA 02459
 Phone: 617.552.1100 Fax: 617.552.1101
 www.environmentalpartners.com



Side	AS NOTED
Date	MONTH YEAR
Job No.	132216
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Checked by	-
Approved by	-

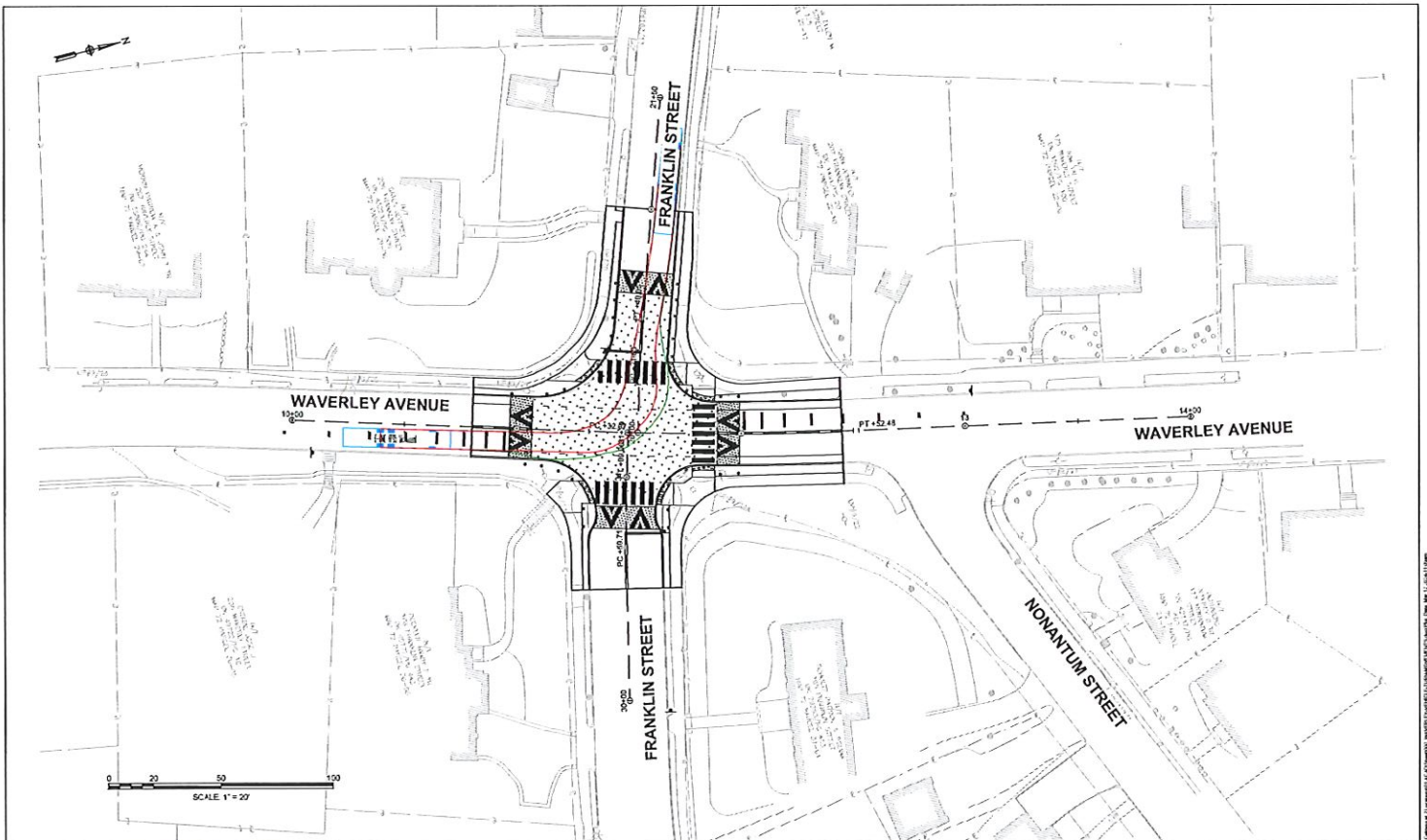
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INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS FOR TRAFFIC CALMING
TWO LOCATIONS
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

FIRETRUCK - FRANKLIN STREET TO WAVERLEY AVENUE - RIGHT TURN

SUBMITTAL
Sheet No.
04

Drawing No. 1132216-01-04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100



ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS
— An Apex Company —

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Date	MONTHS YEAR
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Checked by	—
Approved by	—

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**INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS FOR TRAFFIC CALMING
TWO LOCATIONS
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

FIRETRUCK - WAVERLEY AVENUE TO FRANKLIN STREET - LEFT TURN

04A



Gregory J. Gentile
Chief

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

220-24



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

This letter is to address the proposed traffic calming project at Brookline/Hartman St. and Waverley/Franklin St. The Fire Department believes in traffic calming measures and is always looking for ways to improve safe travel while limiting the impact on emergency responses.

The Fire Department met with DPW to discuss the potential impacts these areas would have on our emergency vehicles. We were particularly concerned with the Waverley/Franklin St intersection because that area is frequently traveled by our emergency vehicles when responding to Boston College and the surrounding areas. After meeting with DPW and listening to input from everyone, adjustments were made to the design. With these adjustments, the current proposed design of both intersections Brookline/Hartman St. and Waverley/Franklin St. is supported by the Fire Department.

We enjoyed working with DPW in this process and have built a great relationship. We look forward to having similar conversations in the future to meet everyone's goals.

If you need any further information or have any questions please reach out to us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Bianchi".

Assistant Chief Michael Bianchi
Chief of Operations
Newton Fire Department



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

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Email
rfuller@newtonma.gov

April 29, 2024

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 authorization to transfer funds from several DPW accounts resulting from FY24 savings in various DPW accounts to support the City's Transportation and Paving Improvement Program. All funds should be transferred to Acct # 0140121-553300 DPW Admin Support – Paving Supplies Override.

<u>From Acct</u>	<u>Savings Resulting From:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
DPW Streets – Full time Wages	Salary savings from DPW Open Positions	\$ 500,000
DPW Snow & Ice – Overtime	Savings in Staff Overtime – Mild Winter	\$ 250,000
DPW Snow & Ice – Contractors	Savings in Contractors – Mild Winter	\$ 200,000
Comptroller's – Snow/Ice Reserve	Savings Comptroller Reserve – Mild Winter	\$1,050,000

Throughout the course of Fiscal Year 2024, the Department of Public Works had several vacant positions which have generated a substantial amount of savings from attrition. The use of these funds, combined with savings resulting from the mild winter, will allow us to contribute to our target spending of \$9.5 million for Fiscal Year 2025, with the goal of continuing to improve the city's roadways, sidewalks, and ramps.

Under the leadership of DPW Commissioner Jim McGonagle and Deputy Commissioner Shawna Sullivan, our paving condition index has improved as we pave miles and miles of roads each year, but we have a lot of work still in front of us. This work makes our streets safer and smoother for those walking, riding, or rolling.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor
James McGonagle
Commissioner of Public Works

Telephone (617) 796-1000
Facsimile (617) 796-1050
E-mail: jmcgonagle@newtonma.gov

To: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer; Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer,

From: James McGonagle, Commissioner

Date: April 29, 2024

Subject: Request for Transfers to Transportation Network Improvements Accounts

I respectfully request that the Mayor docket a request to transfer \$2 million in FY24 attrition savings and FY 24 snow and ice account savings to the Transportation Network Improvements Accounts.

The Department of Public Works will use this funding to support our planned paving projects during FY25 with the goal of continuing to improve the city's roadways, sidewalks, and ramps.

<u>From Acct</u>	<u>Savings Resulting From:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
DPW Streets – Full time Wages	Salary savings from DPW Open Positions	\$ 500,000
DPW Snow & Ice – Overtime	Savings in Staff Overtime – Mild Winter	\$ 250,000
DPW Snow & Ice – Contractors	Savings in Contractors – Mild Winter	\$ 200,000
Comptroller's – Snow/Ice Reserve	Savings Comptroller Reserve – Mild Winter	\$1,050,000

Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Shawna Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner
Coleman Flaherty, DPW Finance and Administration Director



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

191-24

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(617) 796-1089
Email
rfuller@newtonma.gov

April 8, 2024

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 authorization to appropriate and expend a total of \$200,000 from the Stormwater Management Operating Reserve FY2024 Operating Budget to fund the design and installation of a subsurface system that will manage stormwater from Myrtle Street and McGrath Park.

As you know, the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department is in the process of a major renovation project at McGrath Park including field reconfiguration and improvement, tennis court resurfacing, installation of a lacrosse practice wall, and development of an accessible path.

The stormwater improvements will complement the exciting improvements to McGrath Park and will be done in coordination with that project.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

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

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www.newtonma.gov

Barney Heath
Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Ruthanne Fuller
Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer

From: Barney Heath, Director of Planning & Development
Jennifer Caira, Deputy Director of Planning & Development

Date: March 28, 2024

Subject: Docket Request for 75% Design Approval for Washington Street

CC: Jim McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Works
Shawna Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works
Ned Codd, Director of Transportation Public Works

As you are aware, back in February the City Council gave conceptual design approval for the Washington Street Pilot. At this time, the project consultants, Howard Stein Hudson, have developed 75% design plans, which represents the last step before developing full design and bid documents suitable for bidding.

We respectfully request that you docket an item requesting 75% design approval of the Washington Street Pilot project, which will allow the City time to bid the project and engage a contractor in advance of the ARPA encumbrance deadline of December 31, 2024.



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

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

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Barney Heath
Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 9, 2024

TO: Susan Albright, Chair, Public Facilities Committee
Members of the Public Facilities Committee

FROM: Barney Heath, Director, Department of Planning and Development
Jennifer Caira, Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Development
Jenn Martin, Director of Transportation Planning

RE: **#189-24 Approval of the 75% design of the Washington Street Pilot**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting approval of the 75% design of the Washington Street.

MEETING: May 15, 2024

CC: City Council
Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer
James McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Works
Ned Codd, Director of Transportation Operations

Overview

At the May 15, 2024 Public Facilities meeting, City staff along with our consultants, Howard Stein Hudson (HSH) and Halvorson Tighe & Bond Studio, will present the 75% design for the Washington Street Pilot. The present design represents a collaboration between our consultants and city staff from Planning, the Department of Public Works, Parks, Recreation and Culture, Fire and Police.

The Washington Street Pilot project is a pilot project to improve the roadway design of Washington Street between Chestnut Street and Lowell Avenue to make Washington Street safer, more welcoming and enjoyable for all who live, work, operate businesses and travel through this unusually wide corridor. The pilot builds on the Washington Street Vision Plan, adopted by the City Council in 2019, which elicited strong support for a redesign of the roadway.

The Washington Street Vision Plan made a recommendation to “test before the City invests”. Permanently reconfiguring Washington Street would take years and require substantial investment. In line with the Vision Plan’s recommendations the Washington Street Pilot will test a new roadway

design on a ¾-mile section of Washington Street using mostly temporary materials. The Pilot does not move curbs or impact stormwater or utilities. The long-term pilot allows the City to make relatively quick improvements to the safety and mobility of this stretch of Washington Street while also providing the design team an opportunity to test details of the layout and the public to experience the design prior to longer term investments.

The proposed Pilot design includes one lane of traffic in each direction (except at the Chestnut Street and Lowell Avenue intersections), left turn pockets at key intersections, a two-way, protected, shared use path on the south side of Washington Street, and landscaping along the Pike. This section of Washington Street suffers from a lack of sidewalks on the south side, a lack of safe crossings for pedestrians, and vehicles traveling at high speeds. The proposed design will greatly improve the conditions along this stretch for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers by providing a continuous, protected, accessible shared use path for bikes and pedestrians along the south side, accessible bus platforms, new crosswalks, and clearer site lines from side streets, while maintaining parking near businesses and along the proposed new dog park.

Background

The Planning Department engaged Howard Stein Hudson (HSH) for design services in 2022 and in early 2023 convened an advisory group including city staff from DPW and Parks and Recreation and Culture, Councilor Albright, Councilor Wright, and two community representatives (Mike Halle and John Pelletier). Work in the first half of 2023 included an existing conditions analysis and data collection, review of the Washington Street Vision Plan, initial public and business engagement survey and development of concept alternatives.

During the fall of 2023 the team hosted a public meeting to present four potential concepts for the roadway redesign, collected feedback via a public survey, and worked with the advisory group to select a preferred concept. In January 2024 City staff presented the preferred concept to the Public Facilities Committee and the full City Council voted to support the concept so staff could advance the design.

In April 2024 the team presented the 75% design in a public meeting. Feedback from that meeting predominantly focused on ensuring sufficient baseline data had been collected and that appropriate metrics for measuring the success of the Pilot would be in place. There was also a lot of interest in maximizing the plantings along the Pike, and ensuring that the proposed landscaping would be successful, given the difficult conditions.

This feedback has been incorporated into the revised plans and the presentation. All materials, including existing conditions data, can be found here: www.newtonma.gov/washingtonstreet. The draft presentation is also available [here](#).

Next Steps

The Washington Street Pilot 75% Design is before the City Council for approval. If approved staff will refine the design and put the project out to bid in order to hire a contractor by the end of the year.

Implementation would occur in 2025 and staff plan to collect data at the one-, two-, and three-year post-implementation marks and will report to Council.