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Accelerated Traffic Calming Top Priorities - \$2,300,000

Beginning with our first budget in FY2019, the Fuller Administration included a first-ever budget line for traffic calming projects, initially at \$150,000. While that budget allocation has since more than doubled to \$350,000, we continue to have quite a few traffic calming needs across the 300+ miles of roads and 2,500 intersections in the City.

Newton's Department of Public Works has developed a multi-factor prioritization system to evaluate the hundreds of traffic calming requests that come in from residents and City Councilors concerned about traffic volumes, speeds and safety. This data-driven evaluation process prioritizes the traffic calming requests and is updated annually.

In September 2022 I designated \$2 million in ARPA funding to accelerate the City's efforts to address the next set of high priority traffic calming projects identified by DPW's prioritization system. The investments include:

- Chestnut Street, between Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street: Intersection traffic calming at Chestnut Street and Fuller Street.
- Webster Street, between Cherry Street and Rowe Street: New crosswalks and Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) to meet pedestrian needs.
- Brookline Street, between Dudley Road and Oak Hill Street: Construction of a raised table intersection at the Brookline Street/Spaulding Lane/Hartman Road intersection near the Memorial-Spaulding Elementary School.
- Lexington Street, between River Street and Auburndale Avenue: Sidewalk bump-outs at the two existing crosswalk locations with RRFBs.
- Waverley Avenue, between Kenrick Street and Church Street: Construction of a raised table intersection at Waverley Avenue and Franklin Street.
- Installation of an additional 15 Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons at 15 existing crosswalk locations based on the RRFB prioritization evaluation. RRFBs allow people using a crosswalk to press a button which turns on solar powered flashing yellow lights to help drivers see people in the crosswalks sooner, thereby making crossing streets safer.

DPW continues to move forward with additional traffic calming projects. These traffic calming projects use a variety of techniques, including intersection improvements, flex posts, pavement markings, signage, speed feedback displays, increased enforcement, , and RRFB installations at crosswalks.

In October 2024 I am adding \$500,000 to move additional traffic calming projects forward using the latest prioritization list of projects that are ready for construction.