



## Public Safety & Transportation Committee Agenda

### City of Newton In City Council

**Wednesday, November 29, 2017**

**7:00 PM**  
**Room 205**

#### **Items Scheduled for Discussion:**

*The Public Safety and Transportation Committee will meet jointly with the Public Facilities Committee on the following three items:*

#### **Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Public Facilities Committees**

- #378-17**      **Request for Approval of West Newton Square Enhancement Project**  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COUNCILORS COTE, HESS-MAHAN & BROUSAL-GLASER requesting approval pursuant to §26-51 for the West Newton Square Enhancements Project on Washington Street running approximately from Chestnut Street to Lucas Court, for construction of the West Newton Square Enhancements Project.

#### **Referred to Public Facilities and Public Safety & Transportation Committees**

- #281-17**      **Updates on the Washington Street Design**  
COUNCILORS CROSSLEY AND CICCONE, requesting updates from the Planning Department and DPW to the Public Facilities and Public Safety & Transportation Committees on the progress and design of the Washington Street corridor. [08/28/2017 @ 3:13 PM]

#### **Referred To Public Safety & Transportation and Public Facilities Committees**

- #338-16(2)**      **Request to extend trial program for removal of snow from sidewalk**  
COUNCILORS ALBRIGHT AND DANBERG requesting an amendment to City of Newton Ordinances Chapter 26 Section 8D **Trial program for removal of snow and ice from sidewalks**. by extending the expiration date of the trial from November 1, 2017 to November 1, 2019.

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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](mailto: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.

**Items Not Scheduled for Discussion at this meeting:**

**Item Recommended by the City Council to Public Safety & Transportation Committee on July 10, 2017**

**Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committees**

- #175-17**      **Appropriate \$150,000 from Cable Fees for video cameras for 30 traffic signals**  
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, requesting authorization to appropriate and expend eighty thousand four hundred seventy-seven dollars (\$80,477) from Cable TV Capital Franchise Fees and sixty-nine thousand five hundred twenty-three dollars (\$69,523) from Cable TV Operating Franchise Fees for the installation of video cameras on approximately 30 traffic signals in Newton. [05/30/17 @ 2:38 PM]
- #119-17**      **COUNCILORS NORTON, ALBRIGHT AND COTE**, requesting a discussion regarding the MBTA's plans to redesign the Auburndale commuter rail stop and concerns about resulting reduction in service. [04/24/17 @ 6:33 AM]

**Referred to Programs & Services and Public Safety & Transportation Committees**

- #46-17**      **Discussion regarding how community policing works**  
**COUNCILOR ALBRIGHT**, requesting a discussion with the Chief of Police and/or members of his department to explain to the City Council how "community policing" works in Newton, how it differs from traditional policing, how staffing differs from traditional departments, and how it benefits Newton. [02/20/17 @ 3:21 PM]

**Item referred by the City Council to the Programs & Services Committee on October 2, 2017**

**Item referred by the City Council to the PS&T and Finance Committees on September 18, 2017**

**Referred to Zoning and Planning Committee**

- #140-14 (2)**      **Amend ordinances to add licensing requirements and criteria for lodging houses**  
**ZONING & PLANNING COMMITTEE** requesting to amend Chapter 17, City of Newton Ordinances, to establish licensing requirements and criteria for lodging houses.  
**Programs & Services Held 5-0 on 10/18/17, Councilor Sangiolo not voting**  
**Public Safety & Transportation Held 6-0 on 10/18/17, Councilors Fuller and Norton not voting on 10/18/17**

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chair

City of Newton



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

Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

November 13, 2017

RECEIVED  
Newton City Clerk  
2017 NOV 13 PM 3:33  
David A. Olson, CMC  
Newton, MA 02459

To: Maureen Lemieux, Chief of Staff, and Chief Financial Officer  
From: James McGonagle, Commissioner  
Subject: Request for Docket Item for Construction  
West Newton Square Enhancements Project

Commissioner of Public Works requests the honorable City Council docket for consideration the construction of the West Newton Square Enhancements project.

Brief Description of the Project: HDR Engineers are completing the final design of the enhancements project. The project is a holistic investment in the public right of way and includes new traffic signals and roadway improvements, milling and paving, sidewalks, accessible curb ramps, bike lanes, new striping and crosswalks, new streetscape improvements including new street trees, street lighting, and space for street furniture. The project limit is Washington Street West Newton running approximately from Chestnut Street to Lucas Court.

The project schedule is as follows: bidding in winter 2017, construction to begin in spring 2018, and completion in 2019.

Please docket this request with the Honorable City Council for their consideration.

“COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS requesting approval pursuant to Section 26.51 of the West Newton Square Enhancements Project on Washington Street running approximately from Chestnut Street to Lucas Court, for construction of the West Newton Square Enhancements Project.”

Sincerely,

James McGonagle  
Commissioner Public Works

APPROVED  
*Setti D. Warren*  
11/13/17

*City Council*

*City of Newton*

*Massachusetts*

Inter-Office Correspondence

To: Public Facilities Committee  
Public Safety and Transportation Committee

From: D. Crossley, Chair of Public Facilities  
A. Ciccone, Chair of Public Safety and Transportation Committee

Subject: Plans

Date: November 24, 2017

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Please review the attached information pertaining to the following docket items scheduled for discussion on Wednesday, November 29, 2017

**Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Public Facilities Committees**

**#378-17 Request for Approval of West Newton Square Enhancement Project**  
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Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

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

**378-17**  
Telephone  
(617) 796-1120  
Telefax  
(617) 796-1142  
TDD/TTY  
(617) 796-1089  
www.newtonma.gov

**Barney Heath**  
Director

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 22, 2017

**TO:** Councilor Deborah Crossley, Chairman  
Councilor Jay Ciccone, Chairman  
Members of the City Council

**FROM:** James McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Works  
Barney Heath, Director, Department of Planning and Development  
Lou Taverna, City Engineer  
Nicole Freedman, Transportation Director  
Rachel Blatt, Long Range Planner  
Lily Canan Reynolds, Community Engagement Manager

**RE:** **#378-17 Request for Approval of West Newton Square Enhancement Project**  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COUNCILORS COTE, HESS-MAHAN & BROUSAL-GLASER requesting approval pursuant to §26-51 for the West Newton Square Enhancements Project on Washington Street running approximately from Chestnut Street to Lucas Court, for construction of the West Newton Square Enhancements Project.

**MEETING DATE:** November 29, 2017

**CC:** Maureen Lemieux, Chief of Staff, and Chief Financial Officer  
Dori Zaleznik, Chief Administrative Officer

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The West Newton Square Enhancements Project is the second village enhancements project, after Auburndale Square, and **the first to be completed in conjunction with the Complete Streets Policy and Newton-in-Motion, the Transportation Strategy.** The West Newton Square project started with an identified need to upgrade traffic signals and became a broader effort to improve public safety and enhance the village character. The design has

developed with robust input from the West Newton community and businesses along with the guidance of the three Ward 3 Councilors.

On November 29, 2017, the Public Works Department and Planning Department, along with the consulting team from HDR and KMDG, will present the West Newton Square Enhancements project for consideration. We seek Council approval of the layout of the proposed street improvements. Should this be granted, the project would proceed to final construction documents and bidding. The project will again be presented to the Finance Committee for approval of the budget after bids are opened and before construction.

### **Project Goals**

From the outset, the project has had the following goals:

- Maximize safety and convenience for all travel modes
- Enhance Pedestrian Experience / Village Character / Business Climate
- Benefit the Environment

Safety is the first and foremost concern for this project. **The Transportation Strategy research identified West Newton as a crash hotspot, particularly for crashes involving pedestrians and/or bicyclists.** MassDOT has actually identified West Newton as one of the top 5% worst crash locations for pedestrians and bicyclists in the Boston metro region.

Additionally **we heard time and again that West Newton Square feels like a highway on-ramp, when it is in fact a vibrant village center and a regional destination for arts, culture, dining, and business.** This project is an opportunity to enhance the village character, make it easier to walk between businesses, and still accommodate through traffic.

In addition to hard infrastructure, this project intends to **restore the tree canopy with 40 new trees.** Wherever possible, the design team is looking to modern techniques that will give plantings the best chances for tree health and simultaneously reduce the risk of roots uplifting sidewalks.

It is important for us to be upfront that this is not a project about getting traffic through the square faster. **It never has been a goal of this project to make driving faster than it is today, but it has been our goal to improve the experience of driving and the safety of driving through the square.**

Since the Mass Pike extension was constructed through Newton in the 1960s, local activity in West Newton Square has consistently been prioritized lower than the needs of those passing through. This was the paradigm of the 20<sup>th</sup> century globally. In recent years, streets have come to be viewed with the complexity of demands placed upon them, **Newton is one of 142 communities in Massachusetts to adopt a complete streets policy and reframe**

**conversations about street design in this multifaceted framework. The West Newton Square Enhancements Project is the first major street design project completed within this framework.**

### **A year and a half of collaboration**

This project has benefitted from in-depth discussions with committed businesses and residents in West Newton and the ongoing involvement of the three Ward 3 Councilors. There have been four phases of public involvement to this point.

In the first phase (June-August 2016), **we asked, “What do we need to know?”** We heard about places to look for inspiration, ideas for West Newton’s future, and experiences with West Newton Square.

In the second phase (Sept-Oct 2016), we presented two concept plans and **we asked, “What do you think of the options?”** We heard perspectives from local businesses, residents, and through travelers about how they expected these ideas to affect their use of West Newton Square and what they preferred about each concept.

In the third phase (Nov 2016-Jan 2017), **we presented the recommended concept to the West Newton** community and businesses. In these meetings we have heard overwhelmingly positive feedback and excitement. On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 we presented to the Council in a Committee of the Whole, the same recommended concept and took in your feedback.

In the fourth phase (Jan-Nov 2017), we have been **working through the detailed design plan.** During this period we have been working across all City departments, and with businesses and residents to take on the details of the plan and how things will work. **We have made a number of adjustments to the plan as a result of these discussions, reflecting the importance of balancing the needs of many users and activities in a lively destination like West Newton Square.**

The City has also been working with our internal and external utility partners to ensure that any work that would involve surface disruptions is completed in advance.

- **Gas:** National Grid has been working throughout the summer and fall to install a new gas main through the project scope area. At the completion of this work, the old line will be capped and abandoned.
- **Water:** Two fire hydrants are being moved to locations that allow for more efficient parking layouts. The water main has been reviewed by engineering division, and cleaning and lining in the out years is the only expected future work (which does not involve major disruption to the roadbed).
- **Sewer:** Cleaning and lining of the sewer main may be performed in the future, which would involve manhole to manhole work, not roadway excavation.

- **Stormwater:** The storm drain system has been reviewed and, as part of this project, the bricked-in-place catch basins will be replaced with more effective deep sump pre-cast concrete catch basins.

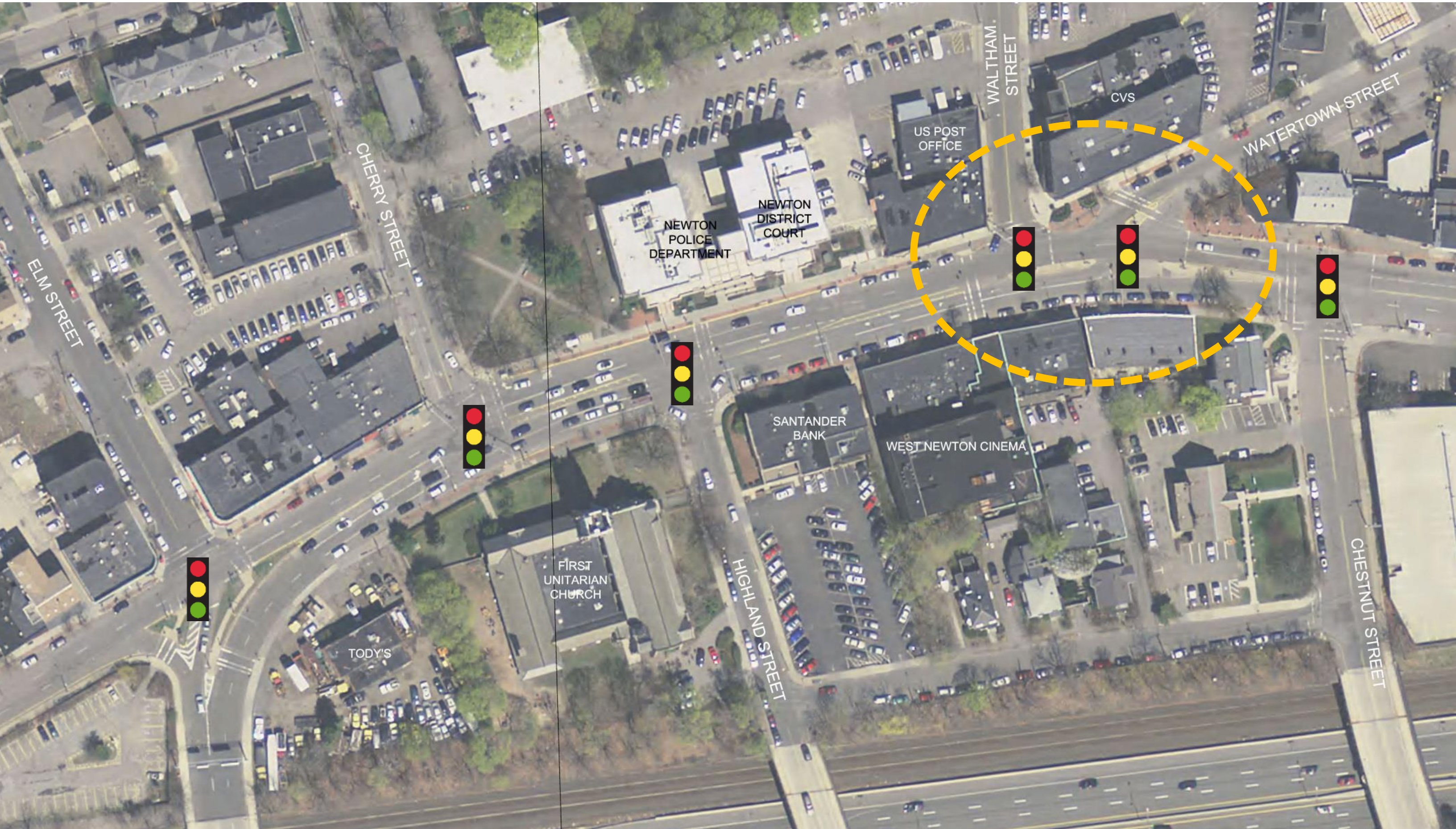
### **An introduction to the project benefits**

The presentation on November 29<sup>th</sup> will describe the project benefits in more depth but here is a quick introduction:

- Outdated, unsynchronized traffic signals are being replaced with the latest signal technology, including wireless Opticom preemption for emergency vehicles, accessible pedestrian signals, pedestrian countdown signals, and dedicated bike signals.
- The complex set of intersections at Washington St @ Watertown St and Washington St @ Waltham St are being combined into a single signalized intersection.
- Reorganizing the signals at Cherry St and Highland St to work together to provide smoother north/south travel through the square.
- Two missing crosswalks at major desired routes are being added – Washington St @ Elm St, Washington @ Watertown St.
- Relocated bus stops to improve operational efficiency in accordance with MBTA guidance.
- 40 new trees planted with modern approaches to maximize tree health.
- Expanded sidewalks in key locations and an expanded and improved public plaza at Washington @ Watertown St.
- Added parking on both ends of the square, including additional accessible spaces (approx. 20 additional spaces total).
- Connected bike facilities in both the east and west directions through the square with a combination of buffered and protected bike lanes.
- All new street lighting – designed to highlight crosswalks and generally provide even lighting across the square. Light fixtures will include plugs for future twinkle lighting and be designed to accommodate banners.
- New street furniture – classic benches and artistic seating arranged as conversation areas as well as bike parking, big belly trash receptacles, and reserved space for bike share. Space is being made available in the plaza for future arts and cultural programming as well.

**Project Website:** [www.newtonma.gov/westnewtonsq](http://www.newtonma.gov/westnewtonsq)





West Newton Square today



West Newton Square Enhancements Project



West Newton Square Enhancements Project

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. A-

2017

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE CITY OF NEWTON AS FOLLOWS:

That the Revised Ordinances of Newton, Massachusetts, 2012, as amended, be further amended with respect to Chapter 26, **STREETS AND SIDEWALKS**, as follows:

In **Sec. 26-8D. Trial program for removal of snow and ice from sidewalks.**, as established by Ordinance Z-83, dated March 21, 2011, and most recently amended by Ordinance A-88, dated November 7, 2016, strike in the sixth sentence the words "November 1, 2017" and insert in place thereof the words "November 1, 2019."

Approved as to legal form and character:

DONNALYN B. LYNCH KAHN  
City Solicitor