



# Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

## City of Newton In City Council

**Wednesday, June 22, 2016**

Present: Councilors Ciccone (Chair), Fuller, Yates, Lipof, Norton, Blazar, and Harney

Absent: Councilor Cote

Also Present: Councilor Hess-Mahan

City Staff: Sgt. Jay Babcock, Newton Police Department and David Koses, Transportation Coordinator

Others Present: Frank Stearns, Holland & Knight, LLP; and John Savino, Transportation & Parking Manager

### **#186-16(A)&(B) License renewals for Boston College Bus**

BOSTON COACH TRANSPORTATION, request for annual renewal of the Boston College Bus Licenses. There are no changes proposed to last year's licenses.  
[04/28/16 @ 1:18 PM]

**Action:** **Public Safety Approved 5-0 (Lipof and Yates not voting)**

**Note:** Attorney Frank Stearns and Boston College Transportation and Parking Manager John Savino presented the request to renew the annual bus licenses for Boston College. The bus routes remain the same as last year and include two shopping shuttles, one to Newton Centre and the other to the three malls in Chestnut Hill. The addition of the shopping shuttle routes were at the request of the merchants and students. The Newton Centre bus does not have as large a ridership, as the shuttle to the malls, particularly when it is nice out as the students can walk to Newton Centre. Wegmans in Chestnut Hill Square is a favorite destination for many of the students that ride the mall shuttle. Mr. Savino provided the attached information, which included the ridership numbers for all the shuttles for the past academic year, a map of the campus route, and the schedule for the Boston College Law School bus.

A committee member asked what type of fuel the buses were using. Mr. Savino responded that the buses use bio-diesel fuel. At the request of a Committee member, Mr. Savino agreed to investigate the possibility of using electric buses in the future. The Ward 7 Councilors have heard zero complaints from constituents in regards to the shuttle buses. Police Sergeant Babcock added that the Police Department has no issues to report in relation to the buses. A Committee member added that the football shuttles have helped with traffic around Boston College on game days. With that, Councilor Fuller moved approval, which carried unanimously.

There is concern that other colleges with shuttles have not applied for licenses from the City. After consulting with the Law Department, Transportation Coordinator David Koses learned that if a college owns a shuttle and operates a shuttle with an employee, no city license is required.

**#106-16**      **Appeal of Traffic Council Decision of new parking regulations on Chestnut Street**  
COUNCILOR HESS-MAHAN, appealing the Approval of TC56-15 Traffic Council Decision on February 25, 2016: 15-minute parking zone, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in front of 25 Chestnut Street. Requesting on behalf of business owners 1) Reduce or eliminate the five approved 15-minute parking spaces. 2) Reinstate the one-hour limit, west side, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Ward 3) [Appeal filed 03/04/16]

**Action:**      **Public Safety Denied the Appeal 7-0**

**Note:**      Councilor Hess-Mahan explained that he filed the appeal of Traffic Council decision TC56-15 on behalf of the West Newton Square merchants. The decision changed a 1-hour parking zone for five vehicles in front of 25 Chestnut Street (Police Annex) to a 15-minute parking zone. The rationale for the change was to create turnover in the five spaces in order to allow parking for people that are making a quick visit to the Police Annex to pay parking violations or purchase parking permits.

At the time of the change, Police Sergeant Babcock suggested adding 1-hour or 2-hour parking spaces on Davis Street to provide some customer parking for the businesses. Councilor Hess-Mahan did submit a petition requesting 1-hour parking on the east side of Davis Street; however, none of the property owners on Davis Street were supportive of the proposed parking restriction, as it would mean visitors to their homes would be limited to a one hour stay.

When the restriction was changed, the small business owners in the area received a number of complaints from customers that there was no parking around their stores making it difficult to frequent their businesses. Most of the businesses in West Newton rely on public parking spaces for customer parking. There is limited on-street parking for the businesses in West Newton Square. The banks located in the square have private lots and though people frequenting other businesses use the bank lots, the banks do tow if there is no parking available in the lot for their customers. The small shops are reliant on repeat business to succeed. The businesses are hoping that they can reach a compromise with the Police Department and two of the spaces can be reverted to 1-hour parking.

With the help of the City's Urban Planner Rachel Blatt, a public parking map was developed and provided to businesses and visitors to West Newton Square. Councilor Hess Mahan provided hard and electronic copies of the maps to the businesses. There is also new signage directing drivers to public parking lots. The businesses are onboard with educating drivers about where to park and the parking maps have reduced the number of complaints but the businesses still receive parking complaints. There is a parking supply in West Newton but people want to park as close to their destination as possible. Councilor Hess-Mahan is a frequent visitor to West Newton Square and is aware that the spaces in front of the Police Annex are in use all day long.

Sergeant Babcock stated that parking for the Police Department is very limited and those five spaces are essential for people doing business at the annex. He has no problem converting two of the spaces to 1-hour parking if the parking violation payments move back to City Hall. Sergeant Babcock is aware that there are ongoing discussions regarding moving the payments back to City Hall but he is not privy to the details. Sergeant Babcock added that the police are currently not enforcing the 15-minute restriction. The Police Department is also looking at on-line payment programs for parking permits but they have not identified a good solution. The Police will continue to look at different options. There was a suggestion that the Councilors talk with the City Treasurer and Chief of Staff regarding moving the parking ticket payment location. If there were a change in the need for the 15-minute parking, the Traffic Council would revisit the request to split the parking into 15 minute and 1-hour spaces. On June 30, 2016, the city is starting its planning process for redesigning West Newton Square to improve traffic and parking in West Newton Square. There will be public hearings and many opportunities for public input.

Council Fuller made motion to deny the appeal, which carried unanimously.

At approximately 7:55 p.m., Councilor Yates made a motion to adjourn, which Committee members unanimously supported.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chair**

### Ridership Numbers for All Boston College Newton Shuttle Services Academic Year 2015-2016

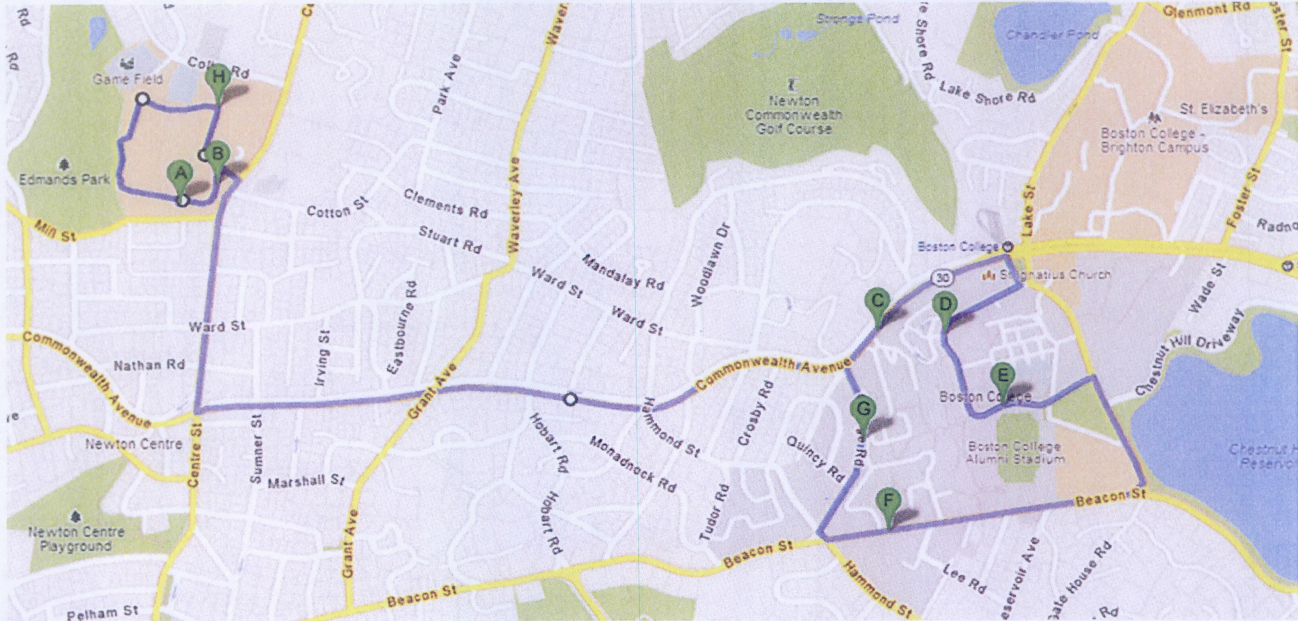
	Shopping Shuttle	Law Express	Newton Direct	Newton All Stops
September	680	105	545	467
October	1140	2230	409	444
November	1055	1572	319	337
December	377	319	154	150
January	705	751	140	147
February	953	2414	463	470
March	228	1432	206	177
April	1205	2078	290	370
May	0	578	138	116



# BC Shuttle

www.bc.edu/shuttle

## Newton Campus Route



### Newton Eagle Direct

Monday – Friday

7:00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

- A. Newton Campus – Stuart Hall
- B. Newton Campus – Main Gate
- C. Chestnut Hill Campus – Main Gate

### Newton All Stops –

Weekday

Monday – Friday

6:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.

- A. Newton Campus – Stuart Hall
- B. Newton Campus – Main Gate
- C. Chestnut Hill Campus – Main Gate
- D. Robsham Theater
- E. Conte Forum
- F. McElroy – Beacon St.
- G. College Road
- H. Newton Campus – Duchesne Hall

Track the shuttle in real-time via the [TransLoc Transit Visualization](#) app.

Please send feedback to [shuttle@bc.edu](mailto:shuttle@bc.edu)

# **BCShuttle**

**WWW.BC.EDU/SHUTTLE**

## **Law School Shuttle Express**

**Direct Service to Newton Campus from Reservoir T Stops Monday-Friday:**

7:10AM 7:50AM 8:45AM 9:30AM 3:10PM 5:00PM

(Additional stops at Bank America, Chestnut Hill Ave., South St. and Greycliff Rd. Bus Stop)

*Traffic and weather may cause changes in the schedule. Times are approximate.*

*Check on Transloc Rider for bus location, stops and announcements*

*Questions or Concerns?*

*Contact the Transportation and Parking Office*

*By Phone: (617) 552-0151*

*Or by Email: [shuttle@bc.edu](mailto:shuttle@bc.edu)*