

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2012

Present: Ald. Ciccone (Chair), Johnson, Swiston, Yates, Schwartz and Kalis

Absent: Ald. Fuller and Harney

City Staff: Clint Schuckel, Director of Transportation and David Turocy, Commissioner Public Works Department

#278-11 ALD. YATES, requesting a report from His Honor the Mayor on the likely impacts on traffic in Newton from the changes to the Route 9/128 intersection as part of the Add-A-Lane Project. [09/26/11 @ 2:37 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 5-0, Ald. Johnson not voting**

NOTE: Mr. Schuckel joined the Committee for a follow-up discussion to address previous questions presented to the project representatives; areas the City should perform traffic counts and MassDOT mitigation.

Mr. Schuckel stated that the City has not received written correspondence from MassDOT regarding questions submitted last month. The Committee asked that he relay an additional email to them, attached to this report (follow up questions from 03/07/12 presentation).

Mr. Schuckel asked Committee members for clarification on areas to perform traffic counts. They asked that he perform base-line traffic counts prior to construction at the following eight locations:

1. Quinobequin Road, north of Route 9
2. Chestnut Street, north of Route 9
3. Winchester Street, north of Nahanton Street
4. Needham Street, east of Christina Street
5. Nahanton Street, east of Winchester Street
6. Washington Street, over I-95
7. Elliot Street, near Needham Town Line
8. Oak Street, north of Needham Street

Mr. Schuckel stated that on March 7, 2012, project representatives verbally committed to this Committee that a monitoring program would be put in place to solve problems, if necessary. Thus far, the City has not received this commitment in writing. Chair Ciccone stated he would ask the Executive Department to request this letter in writing.

Chair's Note: On March 26, 2012, Chair Ciccone requested through Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer, a written commitment letter from the project representatives to the City and this Committee and if necessary, they will provide mitigation funds to resolve problems.

Ald. Yates made the motion to hold this item pending receipt of answers. Committee members agreed 5-0, Ald. Johnson not voting.

DISCUSSION ITEM: Chairman's Note: At the Chair's request, Clint Schuckel Director of Transportation will provide an overview of City projects planned for the coming construction season. This would be an update of "funded/unfunded" projects approved by Traffic Council.

NOTE: Clint Schuckel, Director of Transportation provided Committee members with a PowerPoint presentation, attached to this report.

Mr. Schuckel stated a Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) has been implemented by the Executive Department and will be led by Ald. Harney as a recommendation from the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

Mr. Schuckel provided the Committee with the DPW 2012 construction plans. Included in his presentation were the following: Chapter 90 road resurfacing projects, Chapter 90 "5%" pedestrian projects, HAWK signal locations, Chapter 90 "5%" bicycle lanes locations, Chapter 90 traffic signal improvement locations, mitigation by Special Permits and other grant-funded projects. He stated the Executive Department has agreed to take "5%" of Chapter 90 funds and dedicate them towards pedestrian or bicycle related improvements.

In summary, well over 5% of Newton's Chapter 90 funds are being spent toward bicycle or pedestrian improvements in 2012. He said that additional work is being completed through other funding sources including Mitigation via Special Permit and CDBG and Mass Works Grants. Chapter 90 proposed spending for 2012 is approximately \$2.349 million. A list of scheduled street pavings will be listed on the City website.

The Committee expressed their concerns regarding properties that do not have curbing. They suggested that all properties should be consistent and have curbing. They are hopeful TAG will educate bicyclists and suggest that they use bicycle lanes. They asked if the City had reserve funds available for potholes or street repairs or if unused snow removal funds or a percentage could be used for paving City streets. Mr. Schuckel said that City policy tries to ensure sidewalks are consistent on at least one side of the street. Chapter 90 money requires the paving of 500' on a street. These funds cannot be used to repair potholes or cracks; these types of repairs are completed by using the City budget. It is his understanding; any remaining snow removal money is put towards the City contingency fund for emergencies.

DISCUSSION ITEM: Chairman's Note: At the Chair's request, Clint Schuckel Director of Transportation will provide an update on "Luke", the multi-space parking meter at the Cypress Street lot, installed in February 2011 including revenue, number of people who use credit cards and what it is costing the City to take credit cards.

NOTE: Clint Schuckel, Director of Transportation provided Committee members with a PowerPoint presentation, attached to this report. He provided an update on "Luke", the multi-space parking meter at the Cypress Street lot, installed in February 2011. His presentation included revenue and monthly operating expenses.

June 1, 2011 to February 29, 2012 (9 months). It is estimated, 99% + patrons are satisfied. The multi-space parking meter has been accepting credit card payments since 4/27/11. Revenue has increased since the commercial parking permit program (23 applicants) ended on 5/31/11.

Cypress Street Revenue

- Number of transactions: 33,266 (3,700/month)
- Percent credit by revenue=60%
- Percent credit by transactions= 40%
- Average credit card transaction estimated at \$3.00. Average cash transaction estimated at \$1.40. "Luke" requires a credit card minimum of \$1.50.
- \$/month= \$7,600
- \$/year= \$91,000
- \$/57 spaces/year= \$1,600 per space

The City is absorbing the 'convenience' fee to allow patrons the ability to use credit cards.

Cypress Street Monthly Expenses

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| • Visa/MasterCard credit card fees: | \$ 365 |
| • Receipt paper: | \$ 35 |
| • Cell phone modem: | \$ 40 |
| • Electricity: | \$ 10 |
| • Communication vendor fee: | <u>\$ 75</u> |
| TOTAL | \$ 525 estimate monthly expense |

Expense to Revenue is 7%. The 7% does not include labor and expenses associated with weekly cash, collection and coin counting completed by Village Bank.

The Committee asked Mr. Schuckel if he is able to determine parking lot capacity. He answered that the parking lot meets 100% capacity between 10am-2pm. He would have to perform other data searches to determine capacity other times of the day.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#262-11 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting amendments to Chapter 17 of the City of Newton Ordinances, 2007 to increase fees for permits issued by the Fire Department. [08/29/11 @ 3:50 PM]

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0, Ald. Yates not voting

NOTE: Chair Ciccone stated that Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer requested this item be voted no action necessary as it is the Executive Department's intention to docket a broader item. Therefore, without discussion, Ald. Swiston moved no action necessary. Committee members agreed 5-0, Ald. Yates not voting.

At approximately 9:30 pm, Ald. Swiston moved to adjourn. Committee members agreed 5-0, Ald. Yates not voting.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chairman

To: **ddelaney@newtonma.gov**
Subject: **(Fwd) (Fwd) Rt 95 / Route 9 Add-A-Lane meeting**
Date sent: **Thu, 22 Mar 2012 09:46:13**

----- Forwarded message follows -----

From: "" <byates@newtonma.gov>
To: DDelaney@newtonma.gov
Date sent: Wed, 21 Mar 2012 13:06:19 -0400
Subject: (Fwd) Rt 95 / Route 9 Add-A-Lane meeting
Priority: normal

----- Forwarded message follows -----

Date sent: Thu, 8 Mar 2012 12:39:56 -0500
Subject: Rt 95 / Route 9 Add-A-Lane meeting
From: Patrick Maher
To: aciccconejr@newtonma.gov
Copies to: byates@newtonma.gov

Alderman Ciccone,

I attended the meeting last night. I had to leave at 9:00pm so I only listened to the Rt95/Rt9 interchange presentation. Here are 3 comments that I hope are already identified and being considered:

1) The proposed change to the Rt95S exit ramp to Rt9W is creating a new weave situation with those cars exiting 95S and expecting to take a left turn into the SunLife complex. This replaces the current scenario where those cars enter the Harvard Pilgrim area to cross Rt9. Have the consultants considered taking some of Harvard's front lawn and creating a "Y" exit ramp? The right lane would continue to the current HP driveway where cars enter to cross Rt9 for the SunLife complex and/or Rt9E cars? The left lane would be for Rt9W traffic.

2) From the picture shown, there is a new choke point for all cars traveling on Rt9 with the intent of traveling Rt95N. Currently with the cloverleaf, there are 2 separate lanes for cars entering Rt95N; one for Rt9E cars and one for Rt9W cars. With the proposal, they are expecting all cars (including the Williams Office Park) to merge onto Rt95 at a single point. That may or may not be safer; I suspect it will be slower with its own set of issues.

3) How will snow removal be handled for the two new left turns crossing oncoming traffic? How will it impact traffic?

My sense is that this project as proposed is a done deal. The consultants did not appear to be concerned about issues from the Rt9 perspective; they are focused on expanding and improving Rt95 traffic. Hopefully Newton and Wellesley public officials can mitigate the new problems being created for our communities.

Sincerely,

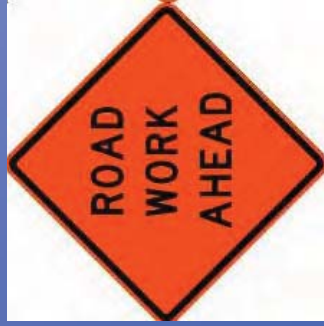
Patrick Maher
81 Winslow Road
Waban, MA 02468

DPW 2012 Construction

TAG Meeting 3/21/12

Clint Schuckel, PE

Director of Transportation Division



Transportation Division of DPW

- **Maintenance Responsibilities (contract + in house)**
 - All traffic control devices: signals, signs, markings
 - 1,800 Parking meters
 - 75 Gaslights
 - Special Events, e.g., Marathon
- **Transportation Engineering**
 - Traffic calming
 - Traffic signal design
 - Studies to support Traffic Council
 - Development review



Chapter 90 Road Resurfacing

- State Aid, formula-based, \$2.35 million for 2012
- Streets in annual program are selected based on:
 - PCI: Pavement Condition Index
 - Water/sewer projects from previous year
 - Crash history
- Each street is reviewed by staff for potential traffic calming opportunities. May require Traffic Council involvement.
- Properties without curbing are given option to participate in curb betterment program (resident pays 50%)
- Prior to paving, DPW crews complete sidewalk repairs and rebuild curb cuts to ADA standards

Chapter 90 “5%” ~ 50% Pedestrian Projects

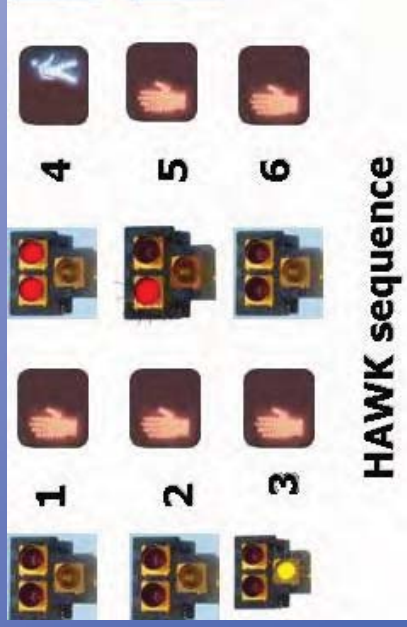
- Washington @ Concord
 - Signal improvements, curb extension
 - \$50,000 from National Development



- Waverley @ Franklin
 - Intersection “diet” to tighten up corners

“Hawk” Signals (Ch 90 \$)

1. Crafts at Linwood (in design)
2. Parker near Theodore (in design)
3. Centre near Pelham (under study)
 - \$25,000 from Panera will partially fund
4. Beacon near Lawrence (BC \$)
5. Parker near Athelstane (SRTS- Bowen \$)



Chapter 90 “5%”

Bicycle Lanes

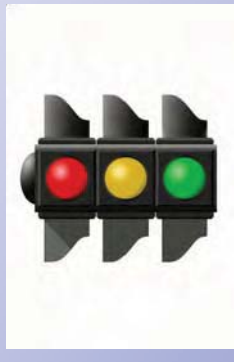
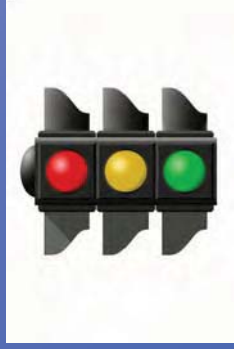
1. Centre Street
 - Comm Ave to Centre Ave
 - Recently approved by Traffic Council
2. Walnut St
 - Forest Ave to Homer St
 - Under Traffic Council trial
3. Walnut St
 - Comm Ave to NNHS
 - Pending Traffic Council hearing



Chapter 90 Traffic Signal

Improvements

- Washington @ Walnut video detection
- Beacon @ Walnut video detection
- Additional projects as identified & prioritized by ongoing signal retiming study
 - Study includes 65 signalized intersections
 - State grant \$160,000, City match \$40,000



Mitigation via Special Permit

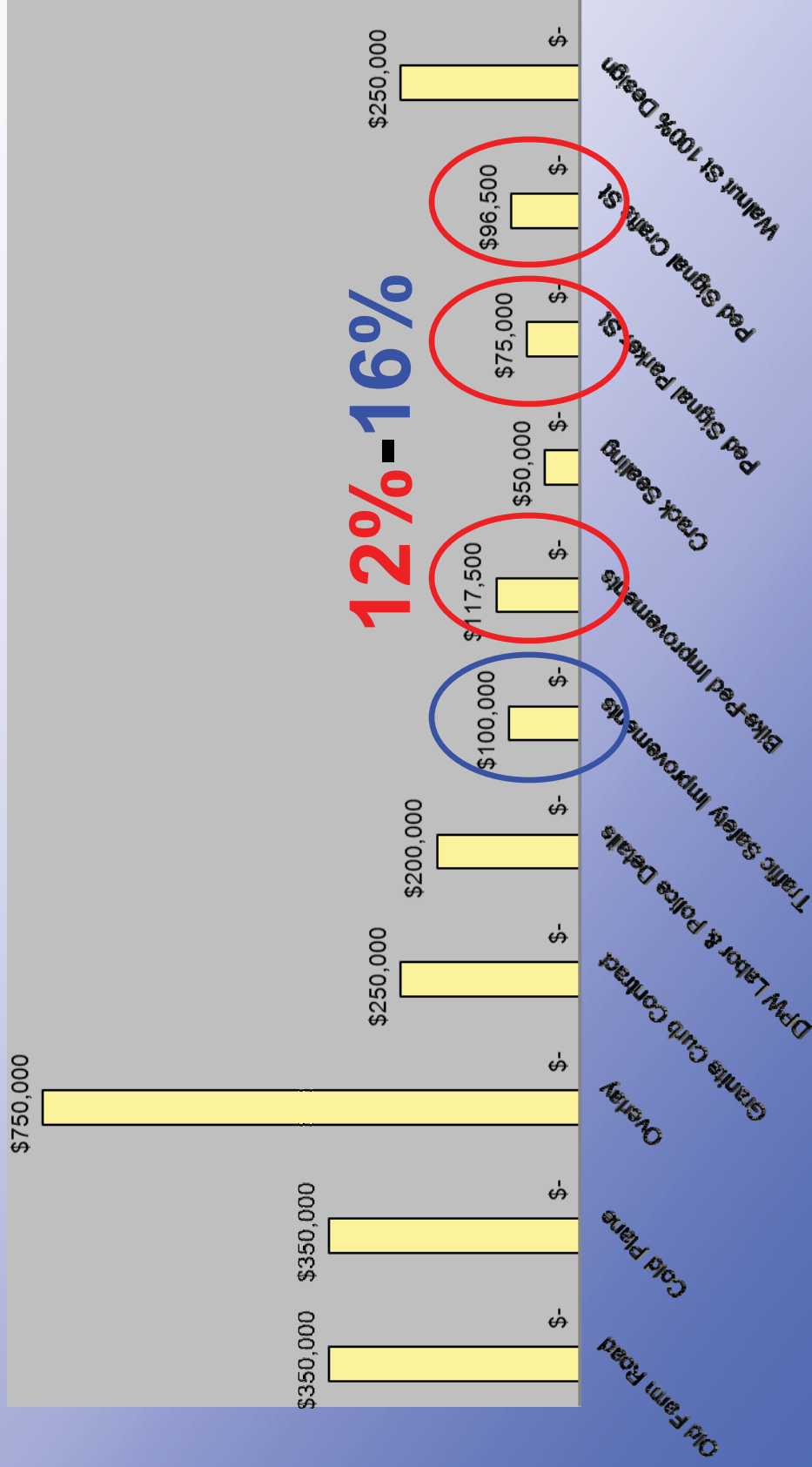
- MassWorks Grant (Chestnut Hill Sq)
 - Route 9 at Woodward/Elliott
 - Route 9 at Parker St, Clark St
 - Centre at Cypress, Beacon
 - Florence St: 1400' of sidewalk
- Washington at Crafts (Sovereign Bank)
- Grove St, Concord St (Riverside Center, 1990's)

Other Grant-Funded Projects

- ADA Block Grants (Alice Walkup)
 - In construction:
 - Washington St at Comm Ave (10 curb cuts)
 - Other locations in design/cost estimating:
 - Jackson at Pearl
 - Washington at Walnut
 - Comm Ave at Chestnut
- Community Block Grants (Lauren Williams)
 - Park at Vernon
 - Centre at Richardson

03/21/12 PS&T Discussion Items
CHAPTER 90 SPENDING 2012
\$2.349 million

□ ACTUAL COSTS ■ PERCENT COMPLETE





Summary

- Well over 5% of Newton's Chapter 90 funds are being spent toward bike/pedestrian improvements in 2012
- Additional work is being done through other funding sources
 - Mitigation via Special Permit
 - Grants: CDBG, MassWorks



Cypress St Revenue

- Credit card acceptance as of 4/27/11
- Commercial Permits (23) ended 5/31/11
- June 1, 2011 to February 29, 2012 (9 months)
 - # transactions: 33,266 (3,700/month)
 - % credit by revenue= 60%
 - % credit by transactions= 40%
 - \$/month= \$7,600
 - \$/year= \$91,000
 - \$/space/year= \$1,600



Cypress St Monthly Expenses

- Credit card fees: \$ 365
- Receipt paper: \$ 35 (1 roll)
- Cell modem \$ 40
- Electricity \$ 10
- Communication \$ 75
- \$ 525

Expense to Revenue: 7%*

*Not including labor & expenses associated with weekly cash/coin collection & counting @ Village Bank.

