CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2011

Present: Ald. Ciccone (Chairman), Johnson, Harney, Yates, Shapiro, Fuller and Freedman Absent: Ald. Swiston Also Present: Ald. Lennon and Sangiolo City Staff: Clint Schuckel (Traffic Engineer), Chief Matthew Cummings (Newton Police Department), Interim Chief Bruce Proia (Newton Fire Department) and David Koses (Transportation Planner)

#98-11 <u>HIS HONOR THE MAYOR</u> requesting the creation of a full time police officer position to raise the complement of officers from 139 to 140 officers from May 1, 2011 to July of 2011 to address the deployment of a police officer to Afghanistan. [03-29-11 @ 5:40 PM]

ACTION: APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Harney not voting)

NOTE: Chief Cummings explained this position became available because of a police officer being deployed to Afghanistan. The department is not required to pay the officer's salary while he is deployed; they are only required to keep his position. This approval would allow him to fill a sixth position which he feels is essential to the department as they are short, increasing the complement to 140 officers. Four police recruits are currently in the process of entering the academy in May 2011. A fifth recruit could also enter the academy using this patrol officers' salary.

Ald. Fuller asked how many positions are currently filled. Chief Cummings answered there are 129. He said the Police Department is budgeted at 139. Chairman Ciccone said there is an item docketed for discussion within this Committee of the financial impact of adding Police Department personnel on the overtime account.

Ald. Johnson made the motion to approve this item. Committee members agreed 6-0, Ald. Harney not voting.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES						
#101-11	HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend					
	two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000) from Free Cash for the					
	purpose of supplementing the Fire Department overtime account. [03-28-11 @					
	1:07 PM]					
ACTION:	APPROVED 6-0, SUBJECT TO 2 ND CALL (Ald. Harney not voting)					

<u>NOTE:</u> Interim Chief Proia explained that his FY11 overtime budget was \$500,000.00. Approximately \$200,000.00 has been transferred this fiscal year to cover the overtime account from full time salaries for four winter manning months (December, January, February and

March) and the growing number of vacancies; currently the department has five vacancies. He anticipates twelve fire recruits entering the academy in October, graduating in December 2011. The department will continue to foresee an additional six months of overtime until graduation. Last year, the department spent approximately \$1,003,000 in overtime and approximately \$1,200,000, two years ago.

Ald. Johnson expressed her concerns and asked how fire fighter fatigue was managed. Interim Chief Proia answered fire fighters do not work beyond their shift without his approval. Ald. Yates asked how the process of a shift-swap was approved. He answered that the House Captain is responsible for approving and tracking shift swaps evenly - position to position.

Ald. Fuller suggested e-mailing Interim Chief Proia requesting additional information for Finance Committee's review on April 11, 2011. Therefore, Ald. Shapiro made the motion to approve this item, subject to second call pending additional information for Finance Committee's review. Committee members agreed 6-0, Ald. Harney not voting.

Committee Clerk's Note: Interim Chief Proia provided information relating to the past five years of overtime costs, both budgeted and supplemental and the reasons for the overtime, to the Finance Committee for consideration. Please refer to the April 11, 2011 Finance Committee Report for this information.

#113-08 <u>PLANNING DEPARTMENT</u> requesting a presentation and discussion of the Newton Corner Phase 2 Study to be conducted by the Central Transportation Planning Staff. [03/07/08 @ 3:45 PM] HELD 4-0 on 03/23/11 NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0

NOTE: Mr. Schuckel provided Committee members with a PowerPoint presentation from the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS), attached to this report. He reviewed the studies, findings and recommendations. Phase I study looks primarily at low cost, short-term improvements. Phase II study looks primarily at high cost, long-term improvements. City traffic has been affected since 1996 when tolls were removed and tolls increased on I-90. The Massachusetts Turnpike hired a consulting firm, URS to complete a study. In 2002, URS recommended the installation of a traffic signal at Park and Tremont Streets.

Summary of Phase 1 Recommendations:

Convert to full signal at Centre Street and Centre Avenue. The City and State believe this would significantly worsen delays and safety, further extending vehicles queues onto the Massachusetts Turnpike. The alternative is to restripe (or narrow) to a single lane approach.
 Modify signals to control entry at the east side of the bridge. The City and State are looking at alternatives to improve weaving moves.

3. Improve signing at rotary. The State will be advertising a bid soon (project # 605913)

4. Install signal on southbound Centre at Washington Streets to control turns. Traffic Council denied this signal on November 19, 2009.

5. Install traffic signal at east bound off-ramp at Centre Street. This requires a Traffic Council study and further consultation with the State.

Summary of Phase II Recommendations:

1. Alternative #2 - Add an I-90 Westbound Off-Ramp to North Beacon Street (Route 20). This would be most beneficial to Newton Corner and I-90.

Chairman Ciccone opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Richard Belkin, 149 Park Street, said the State has recommended converting the pedestrian signal at Centre Street and Centre Avenue to a full traffic signal to enhance pedestrian safety. Janet Sterman, 120 Church Street, said Worcester Poly Tech Institute recommends the following solutions: Eliminate right turn on red at the corner of Park Street and Centre Avenue and relocating the traffic signals at Centre Street and Centre Avenue heading east.

Mr. Schuckel stated both phases of the Newton Corner Study may be found on the City's Planning Department website at the following addresses. <u>http://www.newtonma.gov/Planning/studies_and_reports/Newton_Corner_Phase_1_Memo%20-</u>%20final.pdf_or_http://www.newtonma.gov/Planning/studies_and_reports/ncorner_phase_2.pdf

Ald. Lennon asked Mr. Schuckel to provide a written update on Phase 1 recommendations with what has been implemented thus far. He then suggested docketing items that have not been completed to bring Phase 1 recommendations to fruition. He again suggested advocating the Executive Department to move forward with Phase II recommendations. Mr. Schuckel will prioritize Phase 1 and 2 recommendations prioritizing which would be the most beneficial to the City. Ald. Johnson suggested docketing an item for Traffic Council's consideration to install a traffic signal at the intersection of Centre Street and Centre Avenue and to docket an item for Alternative #2. Ald. Fuller suggested Chairman Ciccone, Ald. Lennon and Mr. Schuckel work with the Executive Department to move forward with Phase II recommendations.

Ald. Johnson made the motion for No Action Necessary on this item, recommending docketing items as recommended. Committee members agreed 7-0.

<u>REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE on 05/04/09</u> <u>REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES & FINANCE COMMITTEES on 02/17/09</u>

#60-09 <u>ALD. SANGIOLO, GENTILE AND HARNEY</u> requesting the installation of traffic islands on CONCORD STREET to be funded with the Cabot, Cabot and Forbes Traffic Mitigation Fund for Lower Falls (Ward 4). [02/03/09 @ 1:01 PM] FINANCE NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0 on 03/08/10 HELD 6-0 (Ald. Freedman not voting)

NOTE: Mr. Schuckel provided Committee members with a PowerPoint presentation, attached to this report. He explained that the Riverside Center Mitigation Funds appropriated \$150,000 for three Grove Street projects (two projects have been completed; one is anticipated to be completed in the fall 2011, with additional design work to be completed). Approximately \$35,000 remains in the appropriation.

Since July 2009, Traffic Council can consider speed humps after a petition has been received, a traffic study is completed and criteria established to determine if a hearing will be held. After

Traffic Council makes a recommendation, an approval is sent to the Public Facilities Committee, an appeal is sent to Public Safety & Transportation Committee for review.

Ald. Sangiolo said Public Facilities Committee was provided with a report from Mr. Taverna indicating the consideration of installing speed tables rather than raised crosswalks could save the City money. She asked that this item be held pending a discussion with the Law Department on the reconsideration of the Board's approval of the Grove Street at Pine Grove raised crosswalk to determine if it can be amended for the installation of a speed table.

Chairman Ciccone opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Norm Sieman, 100 Clearwater Road, feels he disagrees with the amount of funds remaining. He believes there is approximately \$50,000 remaining in the appropriation because it was his understanding the two completed projects has cost approximately \$100,000. Mr. Schuckel said he would verify the amount remaining.

Ald. Yates moved to hold this item pending the requested information from Ald. Sangiolo's discussion with the Law Department. Committee members agreed 6-0, Ald. Freedman not voting.

At approximately 9:55 pm, Ald. Yates made the motion to adjourn. Committee members agreed 6-0, Ald. Freedman not voting.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr., Chairman

#98-11



City of Newton 11 MAR 29 P Police Department

P 5 LA

TELEPHONE (617) 796-2101 FAX # (617) 796-3679 TDD/TTY: 617-796-1089 Office of the Chief of Police

HEADQUARTERS 1321 WASHINGTON STREET NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02465

MATTHEW A. CUMMINGS CHIEF OF POLICE

March 23, 2011

Mayor Setti Warren Newton City Hall 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton Centre, MA. 02459

LOVEL

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I respectfully request that the police complement be raised from 139 officers to 140 officer effective May 1st, 2011. I am requesting this addition officer due to the fact that Officer Ronald McNeil, who graduates from our police academy on May 1st, has been redeployed to Afganastan for the next 12 to 14 months. This will allow me to hire an additional officer while Officer McNeil is deployed.

I am expecting a retirement in July of 2011 and when this happens, we will be back to 139 police officers.

This is a cost neutral move. Deployed officers do not receive a salary; however, we are required to hold their opening.

Very truly yours,

Matthew A. Cumming

Chief of Police



FIRST ACCREDITED CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS



SETTI D. WARREN MAYOR

March 28, 2011

Honorable Board of Aldermen Newton City Hall 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write to request that your Honorable Board docket for consideration a request to appropriate the sum of \$225,000 from Free Cash to Account # 0121002-513001 Fire Rescue Overtime.

The FY11 overtime budget for the Fire Department was \$500,000. Due to the winter manning program and a growing number of vacancies in the department an additional \$200,000 has been transferred to overtime from full time salaries. As of today, remaining funds approximate \$15,000. We believe that the department will incur an additional \$30,000 per week for the remaining 2 weeks of the winter manning period, and approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000 per week for the 13 weeks during the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. We will continue to evaluate the spend rate – and will update the Finance Committee when this item is discussed.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

Setti D. Warren Mayor

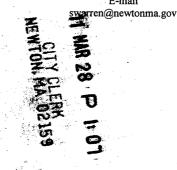
Cc: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer Bruce Proia, Interim Fire Chief

City of Newton, Massachusetts Office of the Mayor

#101-11 Telephone (617) 796-1100

> Telefax (617) 796-1113

TDD (617) 796-1089 E-mail



PS&T April 6, 2011

113-08 Newton Corner Phase 2 Study by CTPS

#113-08

Masspike Recent Toll History

- Tolls removed in W. Newton (1996)
- Weston/Allston tolls: 50 cents to \$1.00 (July '02)
 - Weston/Allston tolls: \$1.00 to \$1.25 (January '08)

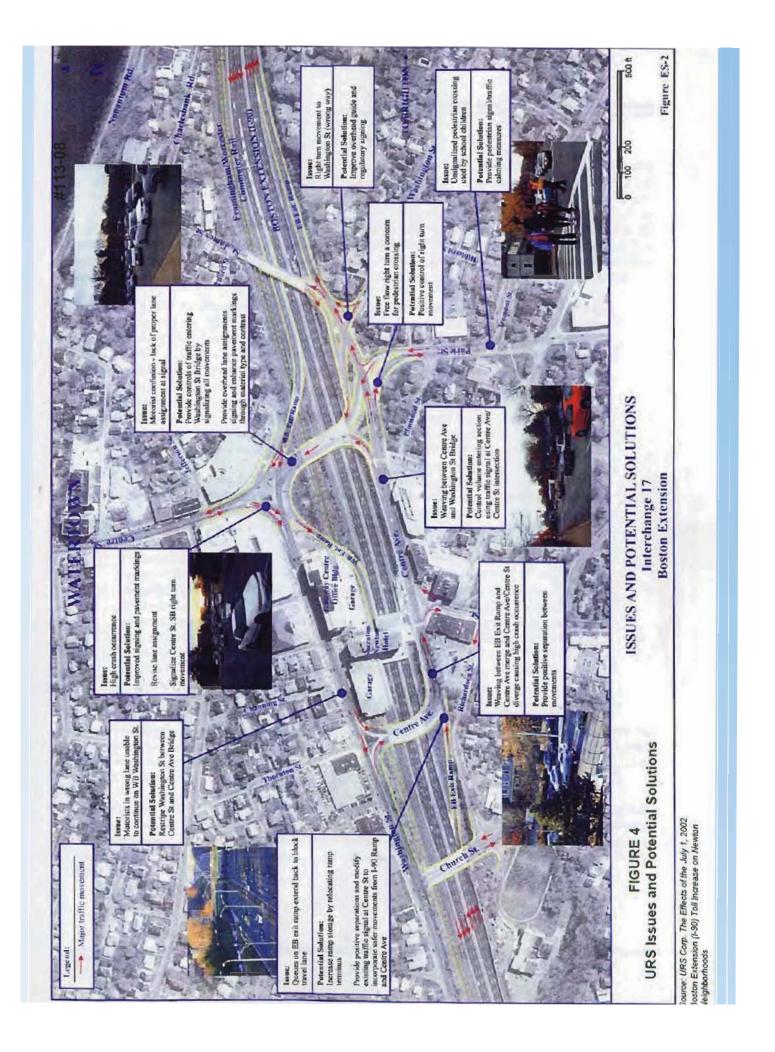




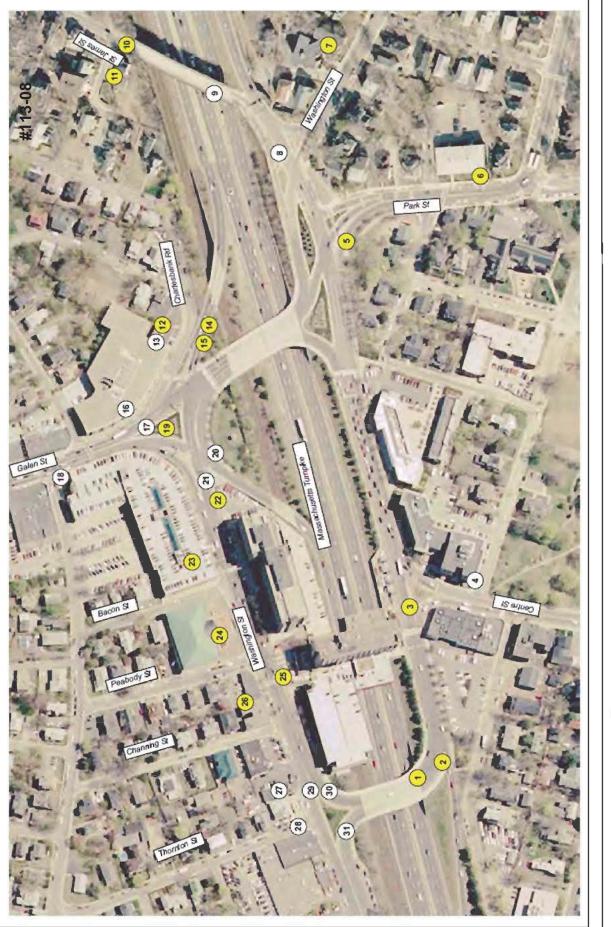
URS Study: January 2003

- Objective: Study impacts of July toll increase
 - Fall 2002
- 95,000 vehicles per day
- 66,000 from Newton streets
- 29,000 from I-90 (29% in CTPS study)
- AM Peak cars from Newton
 - 10% eastbound off-ramp
- 23% westbound off-ramp
- PM Peak cars from Newton
 - 22% eastbound off-ramp
- 42% westbound off-ramp





 CTPS Phase I Study: Sept 2006 Objectives: Objectives: Befine & prioritize URS study short-term findings 	 – "Inform Newton's thinking about possible long term actions" • Methodology: 	 Nov 1, 2005: 7am-9am license plate study at 31 locations 48% match rate (14,210 plates)
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I-90 Interchange 17: Traffic Patterns and Operational Improvements

FIGURE 3 License Plate Survey Recording Locations November 1, 2005 (7:00 to 9:00 AM)

= Voice recorder location
 Aenal photo source: MrSID Geolewer

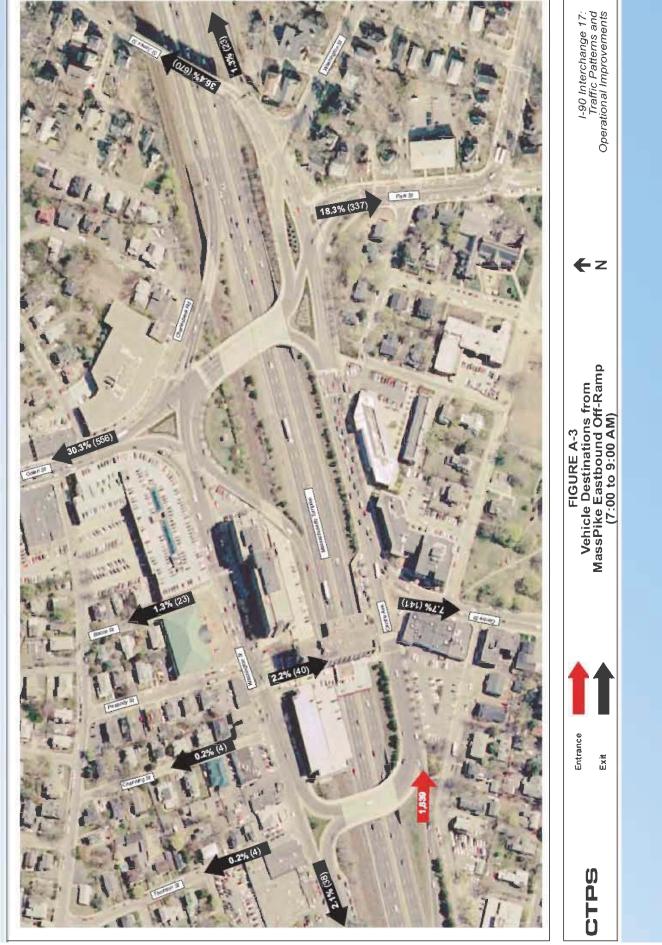
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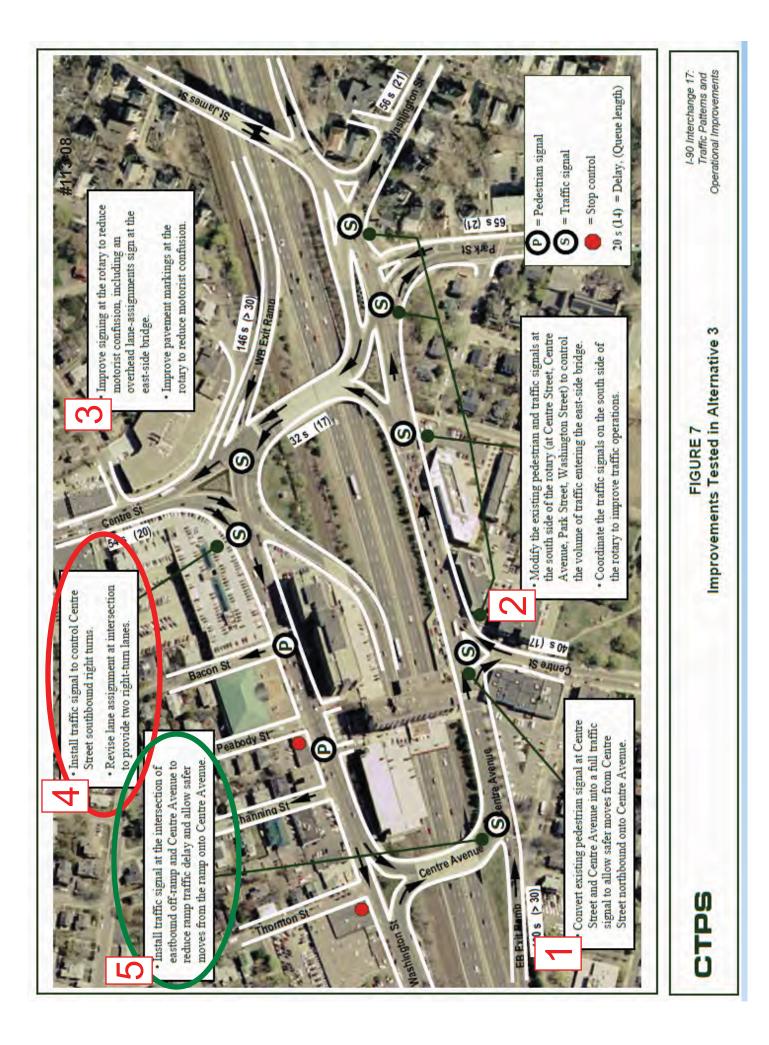
) = Camera location

CTPS Phase I Findings

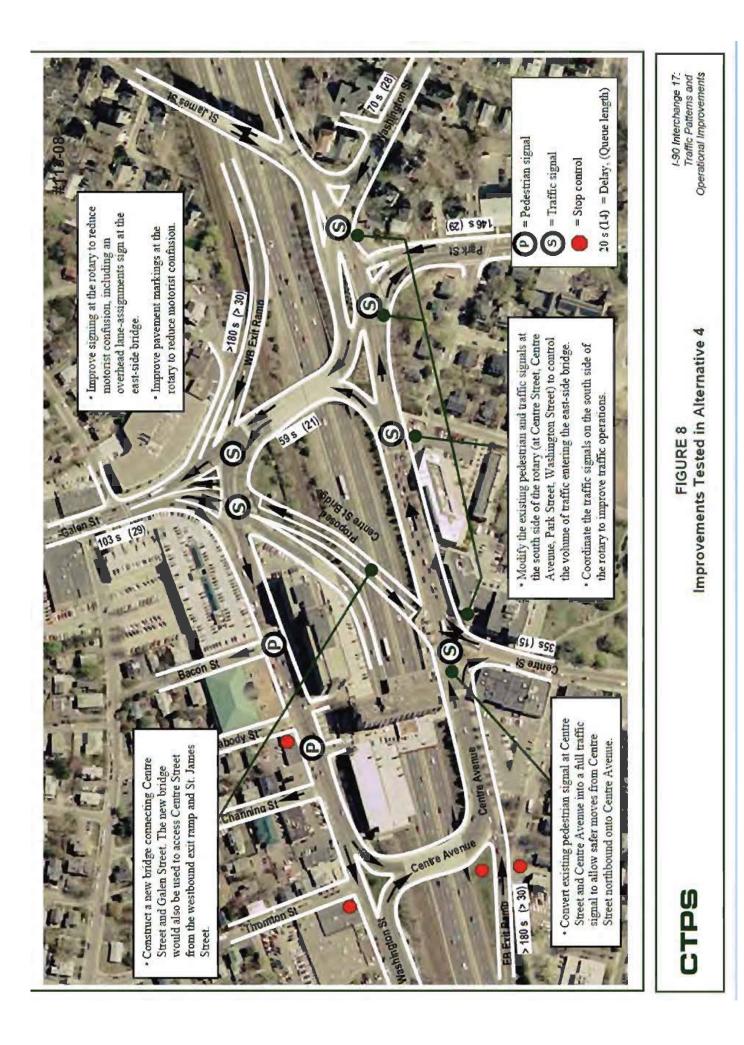
- Town of origin
- Newton (19%)
 - Boston (15%)
- Watertown (7%)





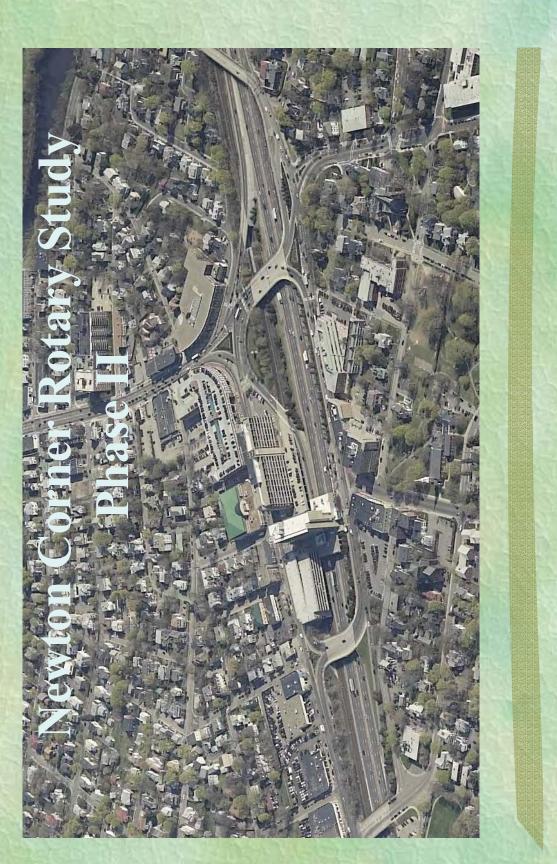


Summary of Phase 1 #13-08 Recommendations	 Convert to full signal @ Centre St/Centre Ave City and State believe this would significantly worsen delays and safety, further extending vehicles queues onto the Masspike Alternative: restribe (or narrow) to a single lane approach 	Mo I	Improve Signin – State advertisir	- Install signal on SB Centre @ Washington St to control turns	 Traffic Council denied 11/19/09 Install traffic signal at EB Off-Ramp @ Centre St Requires Traffic Council study, further consultation w/ State
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CTPS Phase 2 Study

- Conducted in Fall 2008
- develop long-term improvement concepts Using data collected in Phase I study,



Presented at Public Safety & Transportation Committee Meeting Newton City Hall, January 7, 2009

Study Background

- congested with regional and local traffic in peak hours. Newton Corner Rotary (I-90 Interchange 17) is
- simulated traffic conditions, and suggested short-term Phase I Study performed a license plate survey, operational and safety improvements.
 - Phase II Study examined long-term improvement alternatives.

Sdru

Study Objectives

- To develop long-term improvement alternatives
- To develop a transportation planning model set for testing alternatives
- To analyze and evaluate improvement alternatives
- To present evaluation results to the Study Advisory Committee

Study Advisory Committee

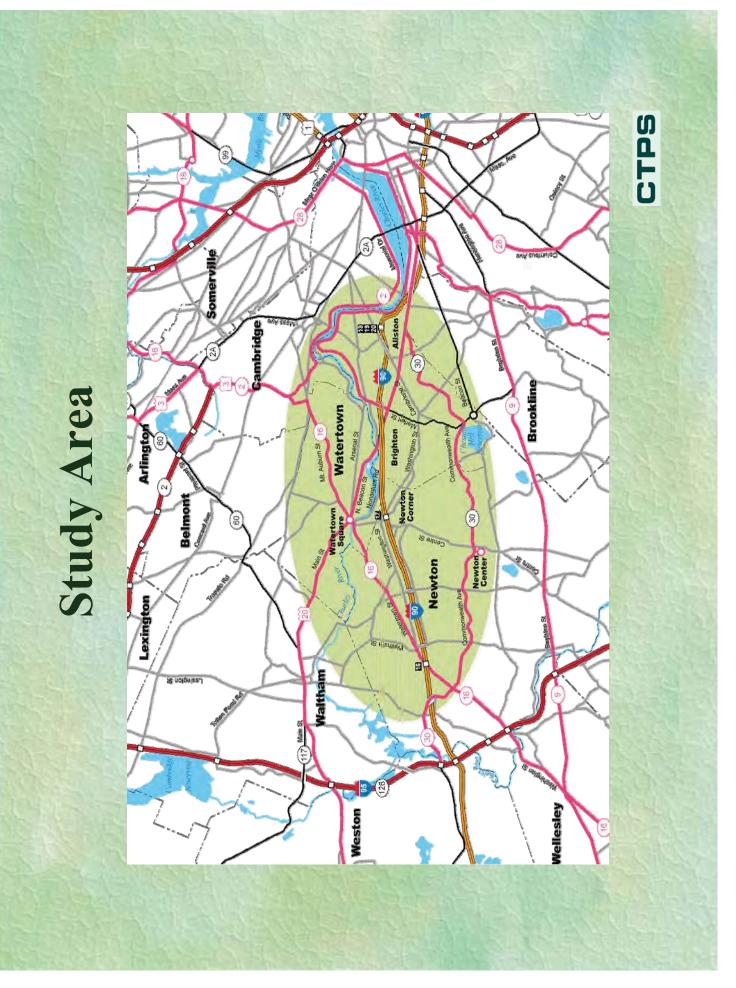
- Boston Transportation Department
- Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works
- Massachusetts Turnpike Authority
- Newton Aldermen
- Newton Planning and Public Works Staff
- Watertown Planning Department

Study Process

- First SAC Meeting (October 2007): developed improvement concepts
- additional concepts and selected modeling alternatives Second SAC Meeting (November 2007): developed
- Developed a transportation planning model set
- Analyzed and summarized model results
- Third SAC Meeting (March 2008): evaluated alternatives

Sdru





Transportation Planning Model

- Derived from Boston Region MPO Transportation Planning Model
 - Covered the entire Eastern Massachusetts Region
- Focused on the study area
- Base Year 2006 and Future Year 2030
- AM and PM Peak Periods
- Future Year assumptions based on Boston Region MPO's Journey to 2030 Transportation Plan

Developed Improvement Concepts

Concept 4: Add an I-90 westbound off-ramp to North Beacon Street (Rt. 20) Concept 5: Add a slip-ramp next to the east-side bridge from Centre Avenue Concept 1: Move the existing Interchange 17 westbound on-ramp to a new Concept 3: Convert St. James Street operations to one-way southbound location off Washington Street, just west of Church Street Concept 2: Add a westbound on-ramp at Interchange 16 to I-90 Westbound

Concept 6: Construct a new two-lane, two-way bridge over I-90 connecting Centre Street on both sides of the rotary

Concept 9: Install tolls at the I-90 eastbound on-ramps at Interchanges 16 Concept 7: Expand the rotary beyond the east- and west-side bridges Concept 8: Add an eastbound off-ramp at Interchange 16 and 17

Concept 10: Modify traffic operations at the east-side bridge approach

Sdru



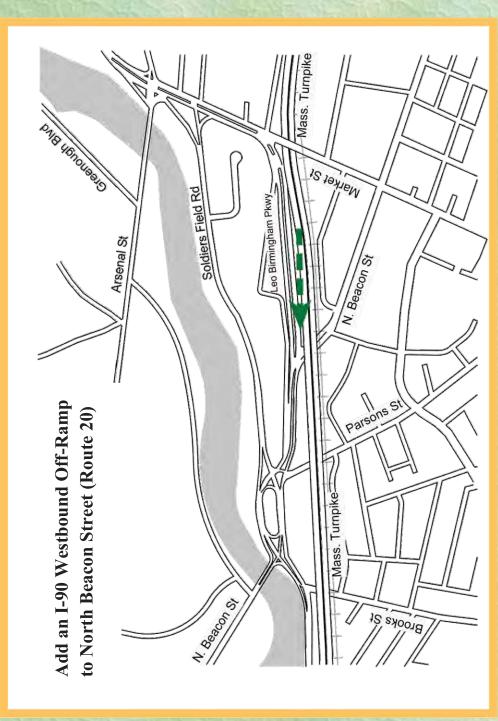
Selected Alternatives, 2030

Alternative 1: Future 2030 No-Build

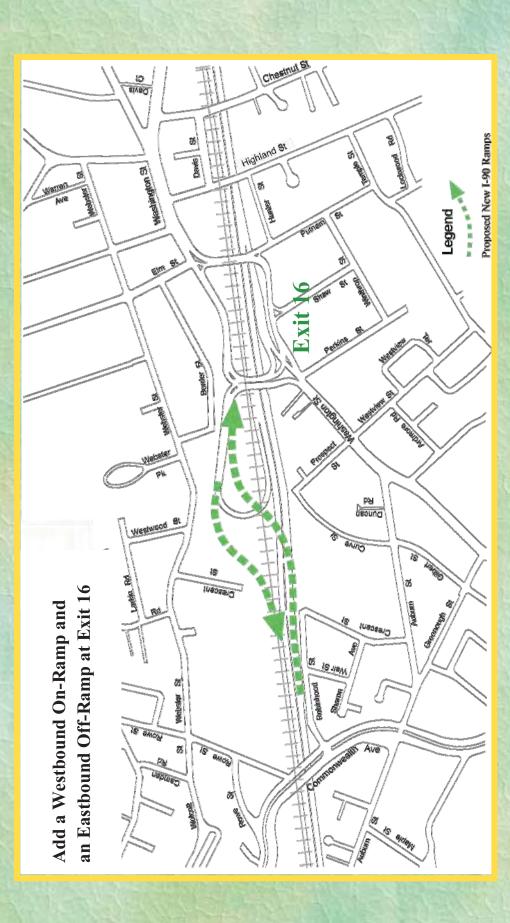
Alternative 2: Add an I-90 westbound off-Ramp to North Beacon Street (Rt. 20) Alternative 3: Add a westbound on-ramp and an eastbound off-ramp at Exit 16 Alternative 4: Install tolls at I-90 eastbound on-ramps at Exits 16 and 17 Alternative 5: Modify traffic operations at the east-side bridge approach



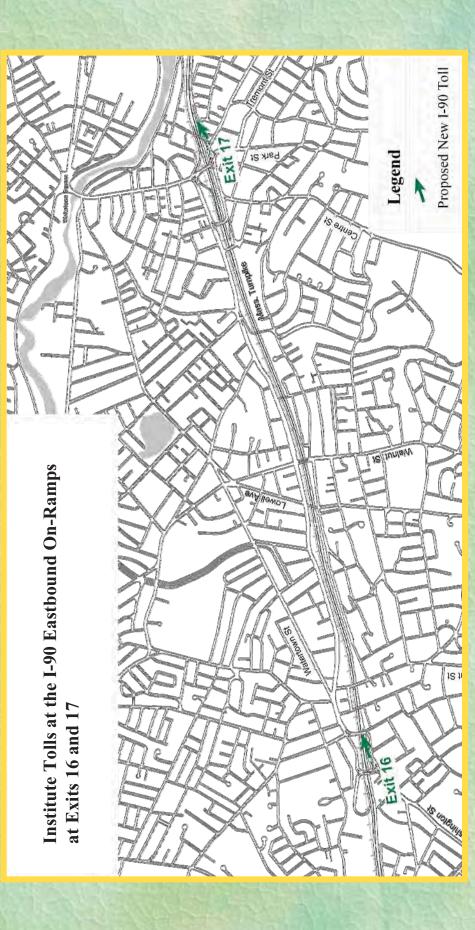


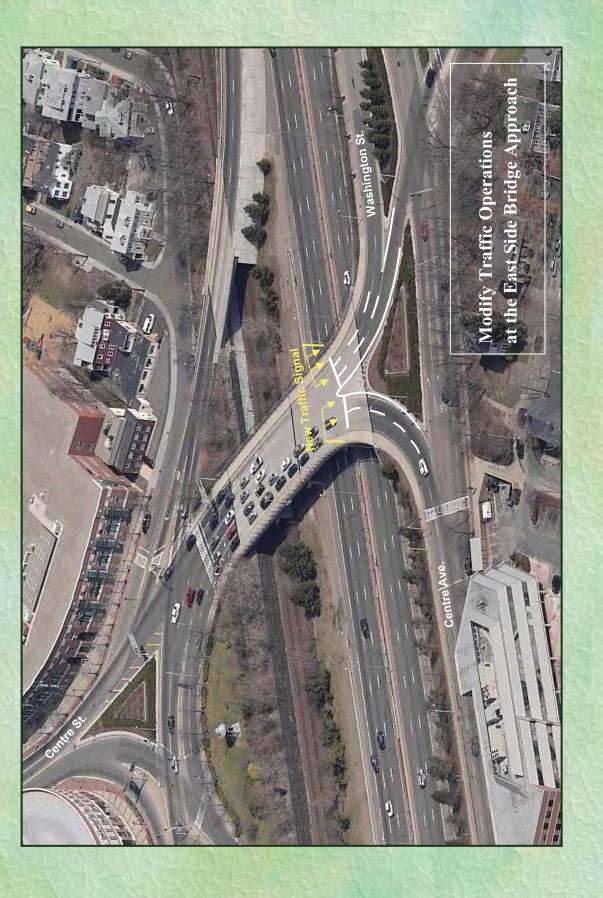












Evaluation of Alternatives

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AIt. 5 Operational Improvements at East-Side Bridge	\diamond	\diamond	\diamond	\diamond	0	\diamond	\diamond	\diamond	\diamond		
Alt. 4 Add I-90 EB Tolls at Ints. 16 and 17		0	\diamond	\diamond	•	0	0	0	0	e e	le
AIt. 3 Add I-90 WB On- and EB Off- Ramps at Int. 16	0		\diamond	•	0	0				Some \diamondsuit Negligible	Some 🗸 Negligible
Alt. 2 Add a I-90 WB Off-Ramp to Rt. 20		\diamond			•		0		•	Moderate O So	Moderate O Sc
Objectives	Reduce Traffic Congestion at Newton Corner	Reduce Traffic Congestion at Interchange 16	Reduce Traffic Congestion at Interchange 18/19/20	Divert Traffic from Local Streets to I-90	Improve Traffic Operations and Safety at Newton Corner	Improve Traffic Operations and Safety on I-90	Improve Traffic Operations and Safety at Other Locations	Minimize Right-of-Way Impacts	Minimize Construction Costs		Impacts Significant

CTPS

Conclusion

- Alternative 2: Most Beneficial to Newton Corner and I-90
 - Alternative 3: Not Beneficial to Interchange 16, Local Streets, and I-90
- Alternative 4: Some Benefits to Newton Corner and I-90
- Alternative 5: Slight Benefits to Newton Corner

Next Steps

- **Coordination Among Stakeholders**
- Public Participation
- Further Study Securing Funding



Next Steps

- Coordination Among Stakeholders
- Public Participation
- Further Study
- Securing Funding

60-09 Concord St Traffic Islands

PS&T April 6, 2011

Questions

- Should the City put traffic islands on Concord St?
- Should the City construct traffic calming (e.g., speed humps) on Concord St?
- How should traffic calming on Concord St be paid for?
- Should this docket item be "NAN'd?"

What's changed since July 2009

- Speed humps can now be considered by Traffic Council
- Following petition receipt, a traffic study is done and criteria are established to determine if a hearing will be held
- Traffic Council recommendation

 Approval goes to PF
 Appeal goes PS&T
- Mayor/Board determine if funded



Riverside Center Mitigation Funds

- \$150,000 appropriated for
 - Grove St @ Hagar intersection redesign (built 2010)
 - Grove St @ Cornell raised intersection (built 2010)
 - Grove St @ Pine Grove raised ? (Fall 2011)
- ~\$35,000 remaining in appropriation
- ~\$15,000 for "Lower Falls"
- ~\$135,000 for "Auburndale"



Public Facilities Committee

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

City Ordinance 26-51

- Construction work...requires approval by the Board of Aldermen for:
 - Design changes that change the flow of vehicular traffic
 - adding or deleting a traffic island; or
 - changing the width of a roadway to delete or add one or thru/turn lanes
 - Work privately funded w/ cost estimate > \$100k
- Exceptions: Board Orders, Special Permits, Funding

Does the project "change traffic flow?"

- Public Facilities "PF"/Finance approval required?
 - Hull + Walnut: PF (island), Finance? (if \$ needed)
 - Daniel + Jackson: Finance only (mitigation)
 - Raised crosswalks: Finance only (if \$ needed)
 - Speed humps: PF/Finance? (amend Ord 19-99)
 - Lowell Park: PF (street closure) Finance?
 - Concord St: PF (islands), Finance (mitigation)
 - Grove St: Finance (mitigation)

Docket Item History

- 21-05(3): Grove @ I-95
 - Restriping with permission of MassHighway done
- 21-05(4) Grove @ Hagar traffic calming
 - 3/21/07: PF recommended trial <u>without</u> stop signs
- 21-05(5): Concord @ Hagar traffic calming
 - PF recommended redesign with traffic islands
- 210-07: Grove @ Hagar request for stop signs
 6/28/07: Traffic Council denied 4-0, Board overturns
- TC 26-08: Grove St request for raised intersections
 5/22/08: Traffic Council approved raised crosswalks 2-1-1
- TC 61-08: Concord St request for traffic island – 4/30/09: Traffic Council votes NAN 3-1

Lower Falls Road Repairs

- Concord & Hagar
 Paving 2009
- Grove St
 - Water line rehab 2009
 - Paving 2010

Traffic Calming: Definition

"Traffic calming involves changes in street alignment, installation of barriers, and other physical measures to reduce traffic speeds and/or cut-through volumes, in the interest of street safety, livability, and other public purposes."

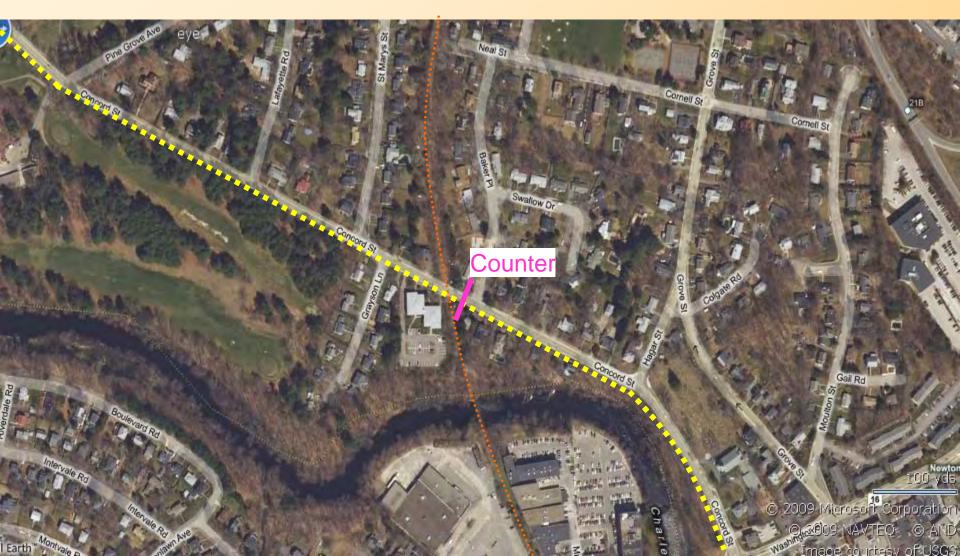
Source: Institute of Transportation Engineers

Questions

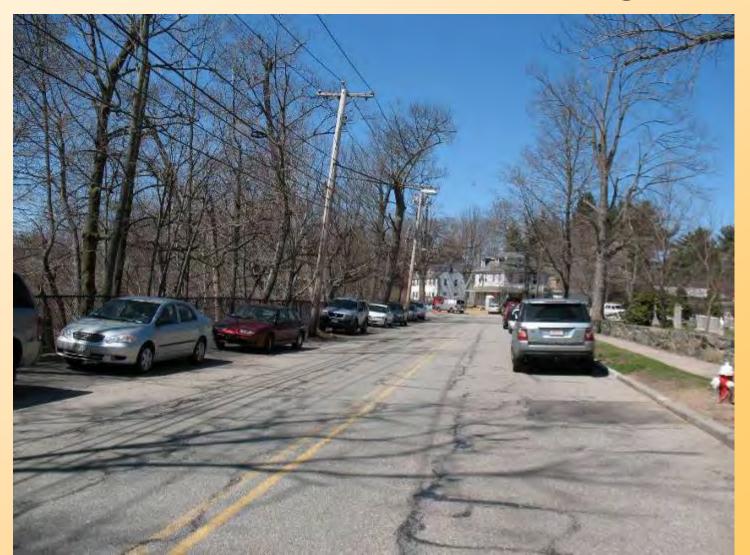
 Do conditions on Concord St and/or Grove St justify a traffic calming improvement?

 If so, what should be constructed, and how is the City going to pay for it?

Concord Street



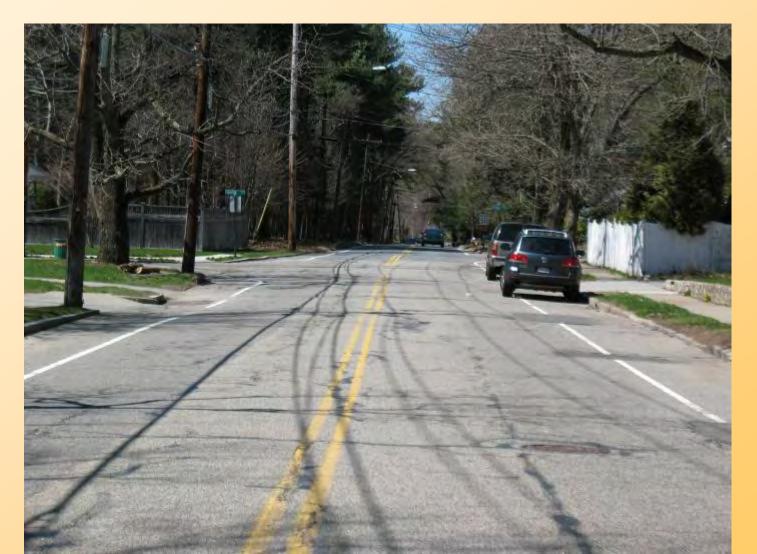
Concord St (Wash-Hagar)



Concord St (Hagar-Baker)



Concord St (Baker – St. Mary)



Concord St (St.Mary-City line)



Concord St Traffic Data

- Traffic counts conducted week of April 13, 2009
- Average daily traffic:
 - Northbound 2,030
 - Southbound 2,190
- 85th percentile speed:
 - Northbound 40 mph
 - Southbound 35 mph
- Three accidents in the past three year occurred at Washington St/ Concord St and no accident at the rest part of Concord Street

Traffic Council 4/30/09 Recommendations

- Add "share the road" bicycle signage
- Stripe travel lanes at 10' with striped shoulders
- Continued Police enforcement of speed limit (current 200 directed patrols per year)