

# Welcome to the Newton Transportation Strategy Workshop #3



# Agenda

- » **Overview of the Newton Transportation Strategy**
- » **What we've heard**
- » **Draft strategies**
- » **Workshop Activity**

# Project Overview



# Newton-in-Motion Process Overview



Newton-in-motion is a **strategic process**



that will create a **comprehensive guide** towards a more equitable, economically and environmentally sustainable **multimodal transportation system**.



This plan will go **hand-in-hand with other plans and strategies**



that carry **Newton forward** in a future of changing travel patterns and growing transportation options.

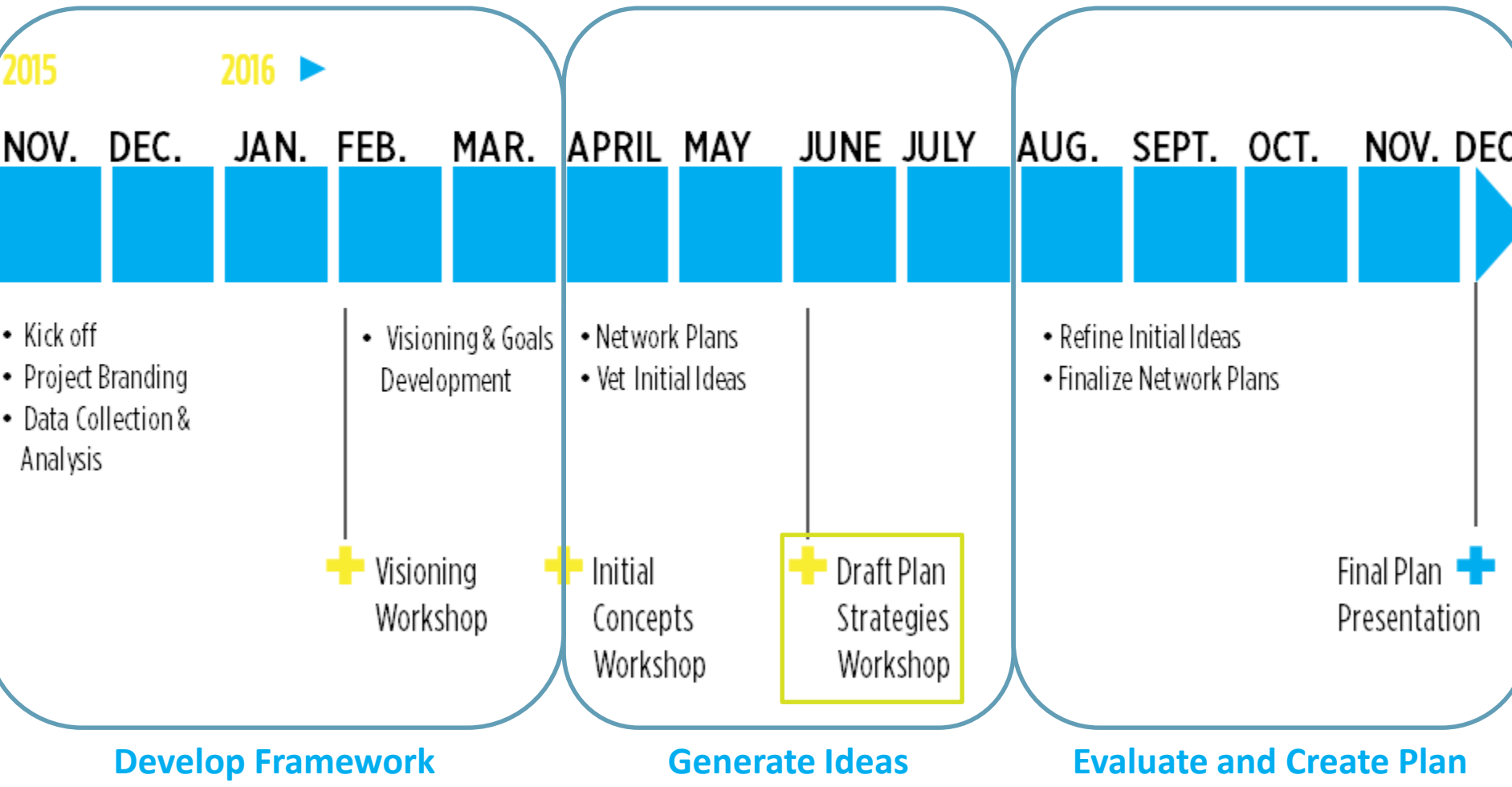


Take your part in sharing **your vision** for Newton's dynamic transportation future!



[www.newtonma.gov/transportationstrategy](http://www.newtonma.gov/transportationstrategy)  
transportationstrategy@newtonma.gov

# NEWTON TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY PROJECT SCHEDULE



**Develop Framework**

**Generate Ideas**

**Evaluate and Create Plan**

# Coordination with Other Efforts

City of Newton

## Housing Strategy

# Housing Policy Forum

**When: Monday January 25, 2016**  
**7:00 pm**

**Where: Newton South High School Lecture Hall**

All are encouraged to attend and participate in the public forum of the Housing Strategy. This meeting will include a presentation on an assessment of City policies and a discussion of best practices to consider for Newton.



for more info visit [www.newtonma.gov/housing](http://www.newtonma.gov/housing)  
Questions: [housingstrategy@newtonma.gov](mailto:housingstrategy@newtonma.gov)

## FY2017 – FY2021 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan And Long Range Projection



City of Newton, Massachusetts  
**Setti D. Warren, Mayor**  
October 5, 2015



## Zoning Reform

### Introduction

Homes and businesses, streets and parks, public and private spaces; these are the elements that define the physical character of a city. While the City of Newton directly controls the improvement of these public elements, it is mostly through the zoning ordinance that the City has influence on the use and design of private property. The City of Newton last conducted a significant review and update of its zoning ordinance in 1987. In December, 2011, the [Zoning Reform Group](#) released a [report](#) recommending that changes to the Zoning Ordinance be considered to enhance its usability and bring the regulations into compliance with the [Comprehensive Plan](#). This report described a three phase process with Phase 1 focusing on enhancing the usability of the existing ordinance.

If you have any questions or comments about the Zoning Reform Project, please contact James Freas, Acting Director of Planning and Development, [zoningreform@newtonma.gov](mailto:zoningreform@newtonma.gov).

### News and Updates

At the October 5, 2015 regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen, the Board adopted the updated Zoning Ordinance, which takes effect on **November 1, 2015**. The adoption of the updated ordinance completes Phase 1 of the City's Zoning Reform project. The updated ordinance represents the City's first steps to enhance the usability of these regulations by: clarifying ambiguities and inconsistencies; improving legibility through the application of simpler language; use of more illustrations and tables; the creation of use tables to better explain permit processes and standards in each zoning district; using hyperlinked cross-references to increase functionality; and the utilization of a document format to improve legibility and transparency.

In accordance with state law (M.G.L.c. 40, §6), the new zoning ordinance shall apply to any building permit or special permit issued after the first date of advertisement, which was September 2, 2015. Generally, the updated ordinance shall not apply to any building permit or special permit issued prior to that date. For more detailed information of applicability, please speak with a representative of the Planning Department or Inspectional Services Department.

The City's updated Zoning Ordinance can be viewed through the hyperlink below or can be purchased from the City Clerk.

[Chapter 30: Zoning Ordinance](#)

The [Look-Up Table](#) below is a cross referencing tool to look up content from the previous version of the City's Zoning Ordinance and see where it can be found in the City's updated Zoning Ordinance.

### Meeting Notes, Handouts, and Resources

[Use Table for Proposed Updates to Zoning Ordinance](#)

[Zoning Reform Phase 2](#)

[Zoning Reform Group, 2011](#)

[Zoning Reform Report, 2011](#)

[Newton Zoning Ordinances](#)

[Newton Comprehensive Plan, 2007](#)

[Zoning Reform Phase 1](#)

## Announcing New Complete Streets Funding Program

The new Complete Streets Funding Program, authorized by the 2014 Transportation Bond Bill, offers Massachusetts municipalities incentives to adopt policies and practices that provide safe and accessible options for all travel modes – walking, biking, transit and vehicles – for people of all ages and abilities.

### Online Portal

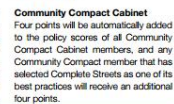
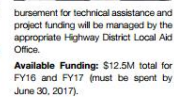
MassDOT has launched an interactive web portal to assist municipalities through the policy development, prioritization planning, and project approval steps of the application process. In addition, a Complete Streets Funding Program Guidance document, explaining the program requirements, model policy guidance and scoring system, and eligible infrastructure, is available online.

### Primary Requirements

To be eligible for up to \$50,000 in technical assistance and up to \$400,000 in construction funding, a municipality must meet three primary requirements:

- Attendance of a municipal employee at a Complete Streets training
- Passage of a Complete Streets Policy that scores 80 or above out of a possible 100 points (Tier 1)
- Development of a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan (Tier 2)

MassDOT offers technical assistance to conduct a needs assessment, network gap analysis, and/or safety audit to determine a targeted investment strategy for Complete Streets infrastructure. Upon completion of these requirements, a municipality is eligible for construction funds (Tier 3). Reimbursement for technical assistance and project funding will be managed by the appropriate Highway District Local Aid Office.



For more information and to register to become a Complete Streets Eligible municipality go to [www.mass.gov/massdot/completestreets](http://www.mass.gov/massdot/completestreets).

**massDOT**  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

# Project Outcomes

- » Develop a vision for transportation in Newton
- » Identify goals and metrics
- » Recommend early action projects, policies, network plans, and future projects
- » Tie it all together in Action and Implementation Plans

# What We've Heard





**Newton-in-Motion  
Visioning reached  
hundreds of people  
through:**

2.5 day Needham Street Workshop, "open house" style

Gallery of Transportation Information showcase at City Hall

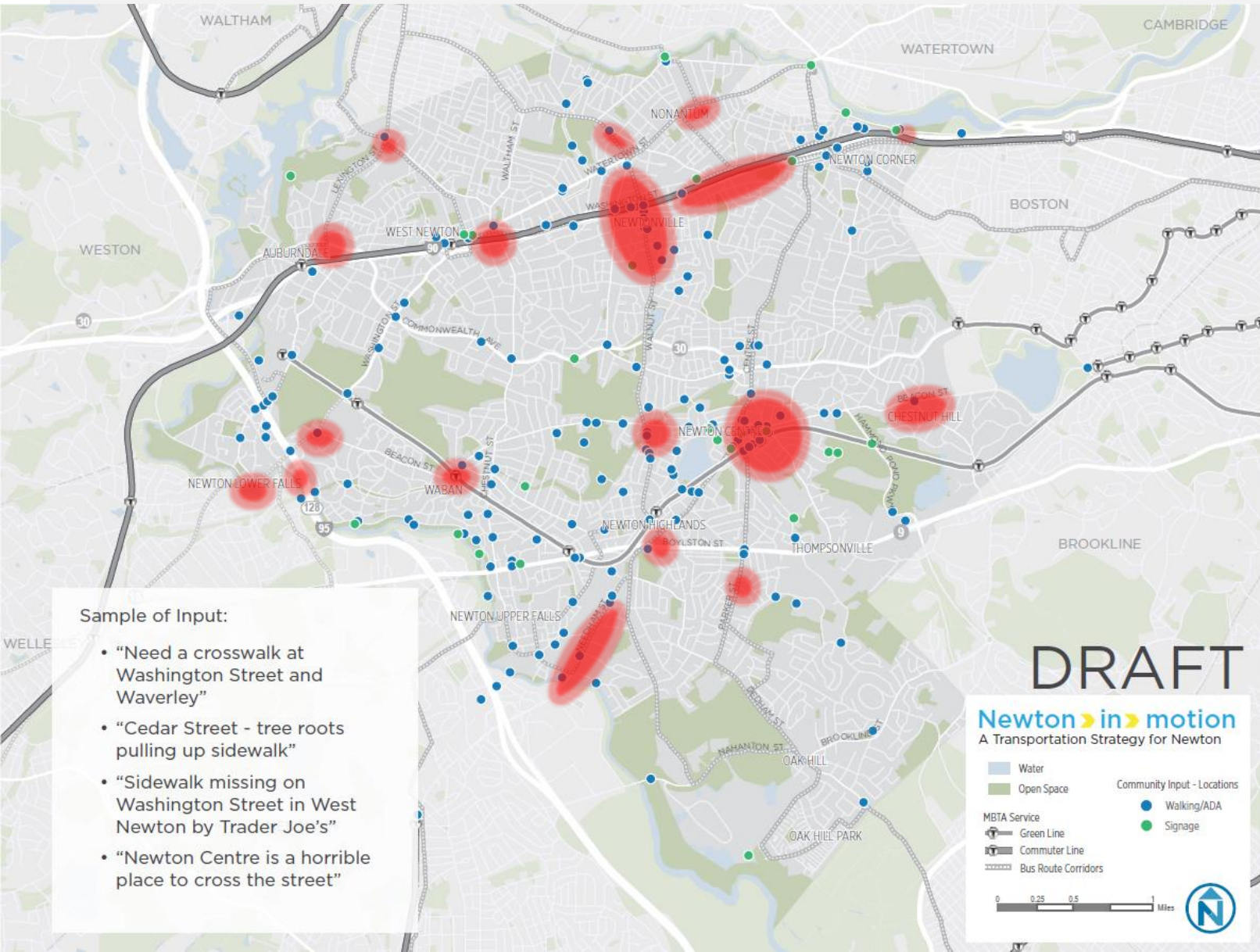
Three presentations, including the Housing Strategy and MBTA Focus 40 project, televised on NewTV

10 mobile/pop-up workshops, including the Newton Senior Center, Newton Free Library, Albert Edgar Angier School, and several village centers

Online workshop exercises and dynamic project website



# We heard: The need for a safer, more walkable Newton



### Sample of Input:

- "Need a crosswalk at Washington Street and Waverley"
- "Cedar Street - tree roots pulling up sidewalk"
- "Sidewalk missing on Washington Street in West Newton by Trader Joe's"
- "Newton Centre is a horrible place to cross the street"

# DRAFT

**Newton in motion**  
A Transportation Strategy for Newton

Water  
Open Space

Community Input - Locations  
Walking/ADA  
Signage

MBTA Service  
Green Line  
Commuter Line  
Bus Route Corridors

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

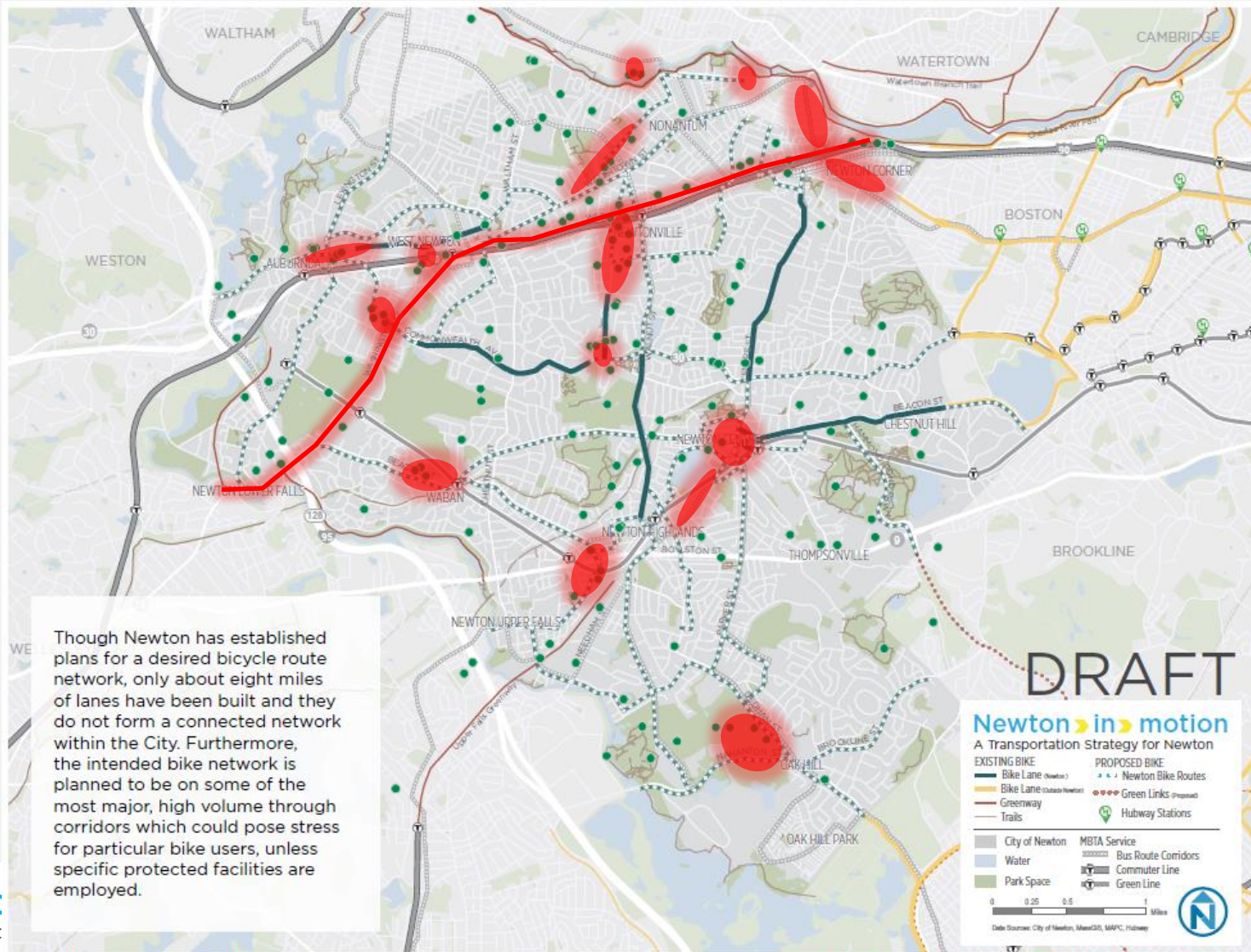
# *We heard: School access by school bus, public transit, walking and biking is a priority (as well as smart school siting)*

- » % that feel their child's school encourages or strongly encourages walking and biking to school
  - 64% Elementary school
  - 15% Middle School
  - 10% High School

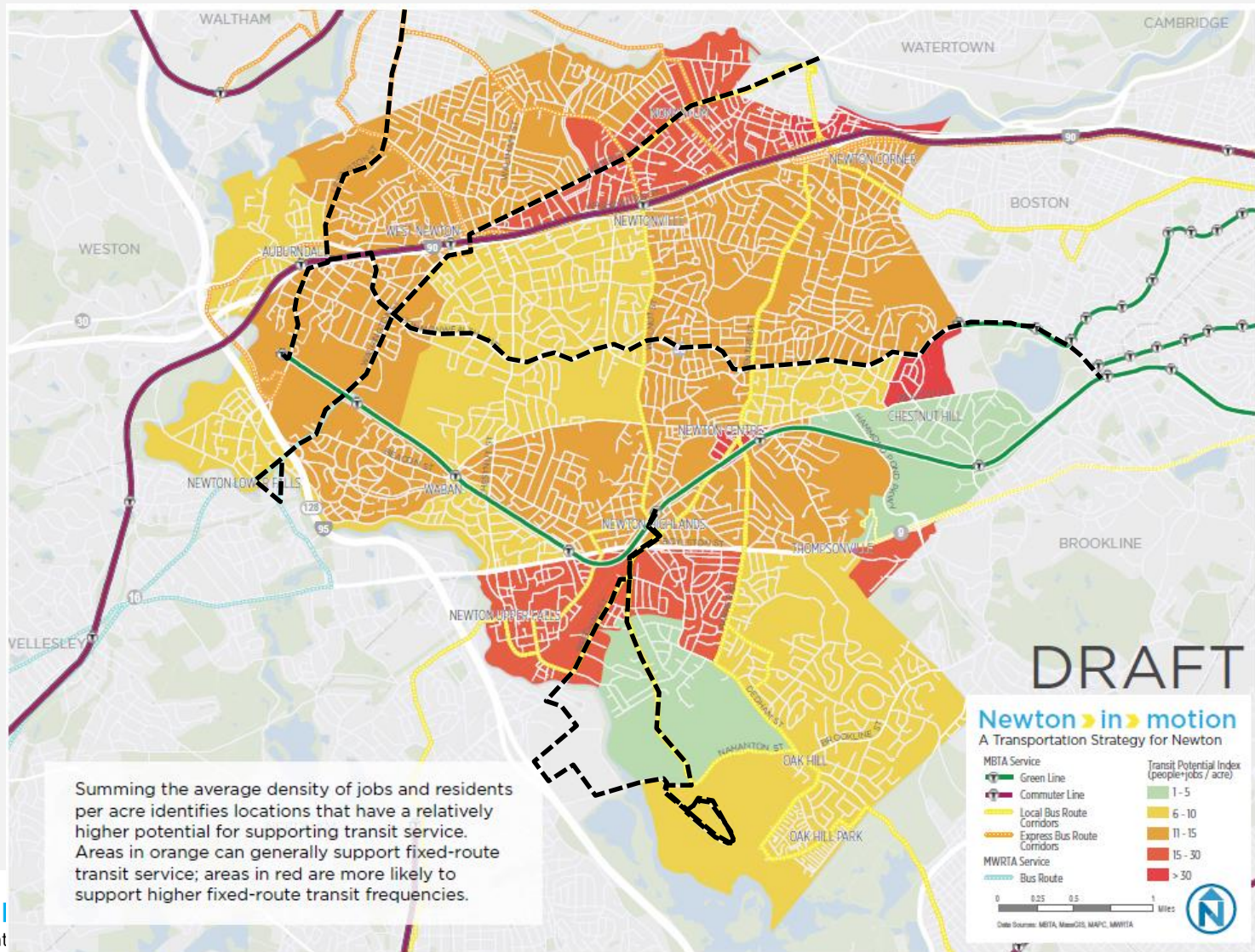
2014 City of Newton Planning Department Safe Routes to School Survey



# We heard: A desire for a connected bike network

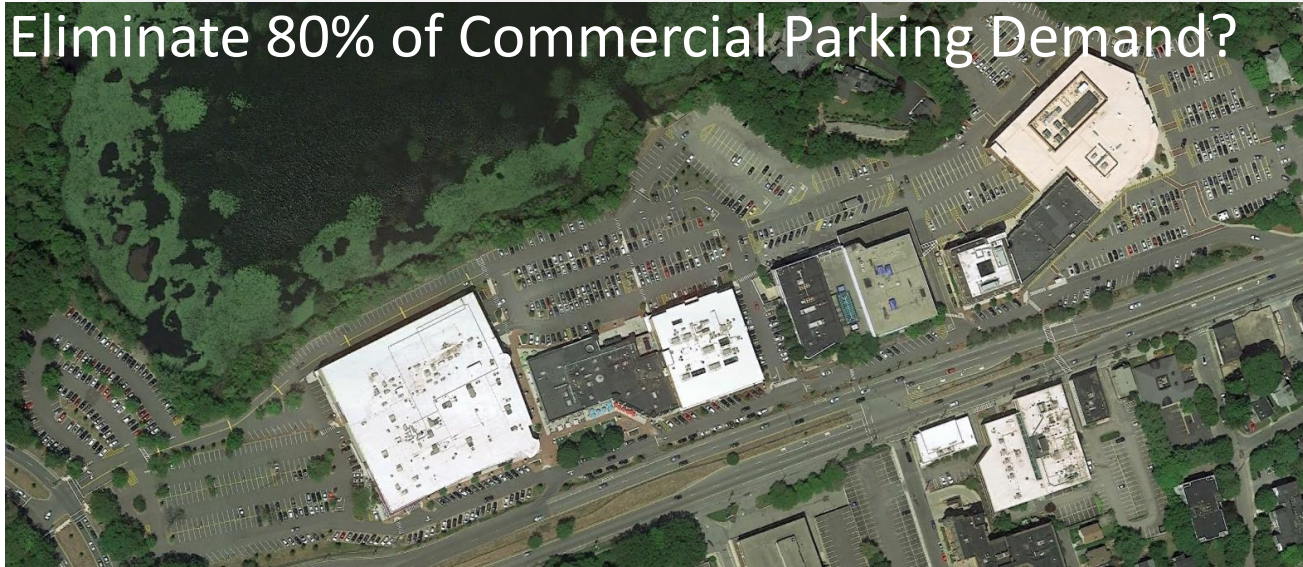


# We heard: The need for more frequent, more reliable, ADA accessible transit



# *We heard:* A desire to plan for the future, including supporting aging-in-place and planning for new technologies

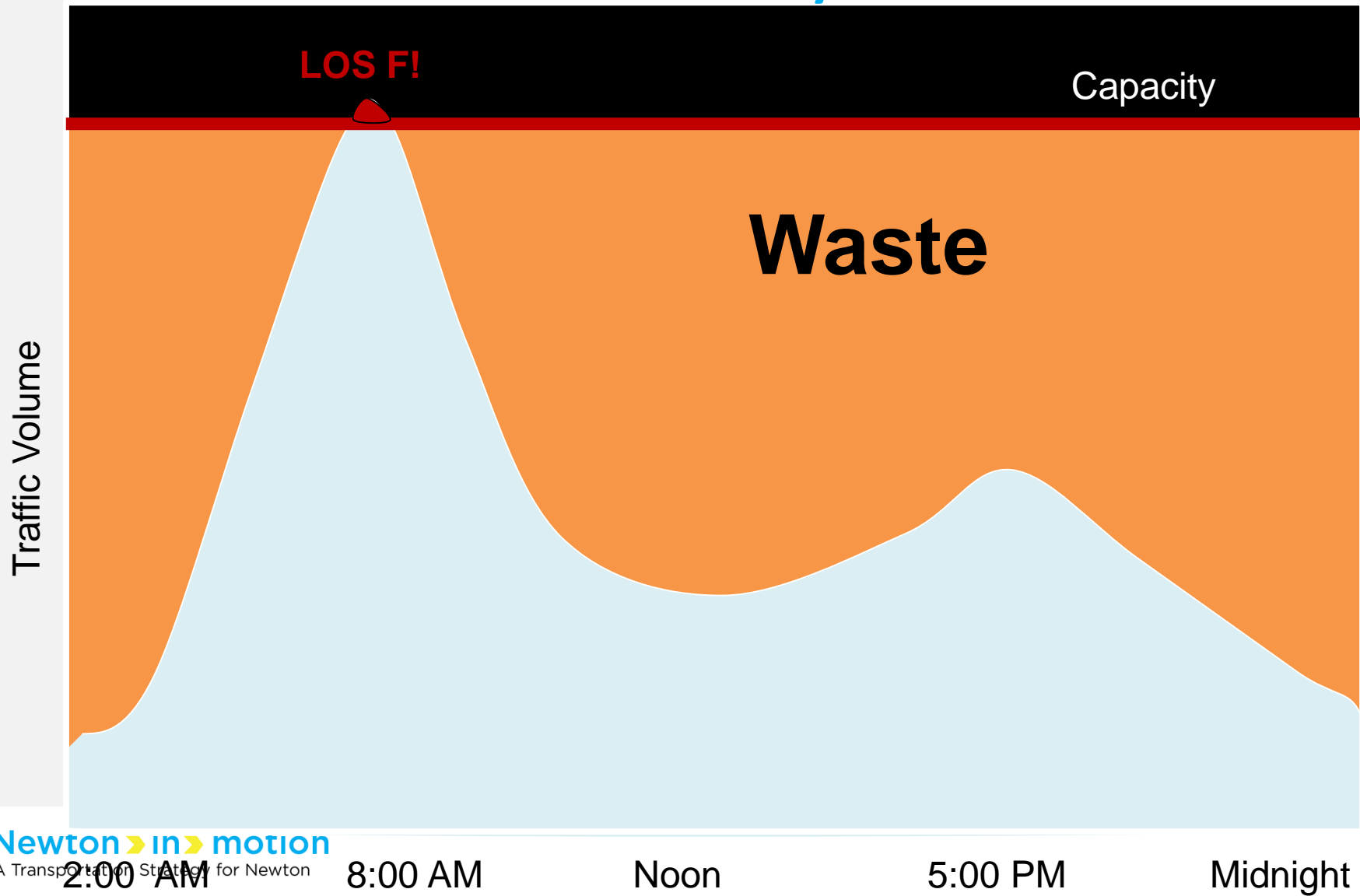
Eliminate 80% of Commercial Parking Demand?



Fixed-Route Transit vs.  
Door-to-door Demand Based  
Services?



# We heard: The need for more streamlined decision-making, transportation policies that support City goals, and accountability

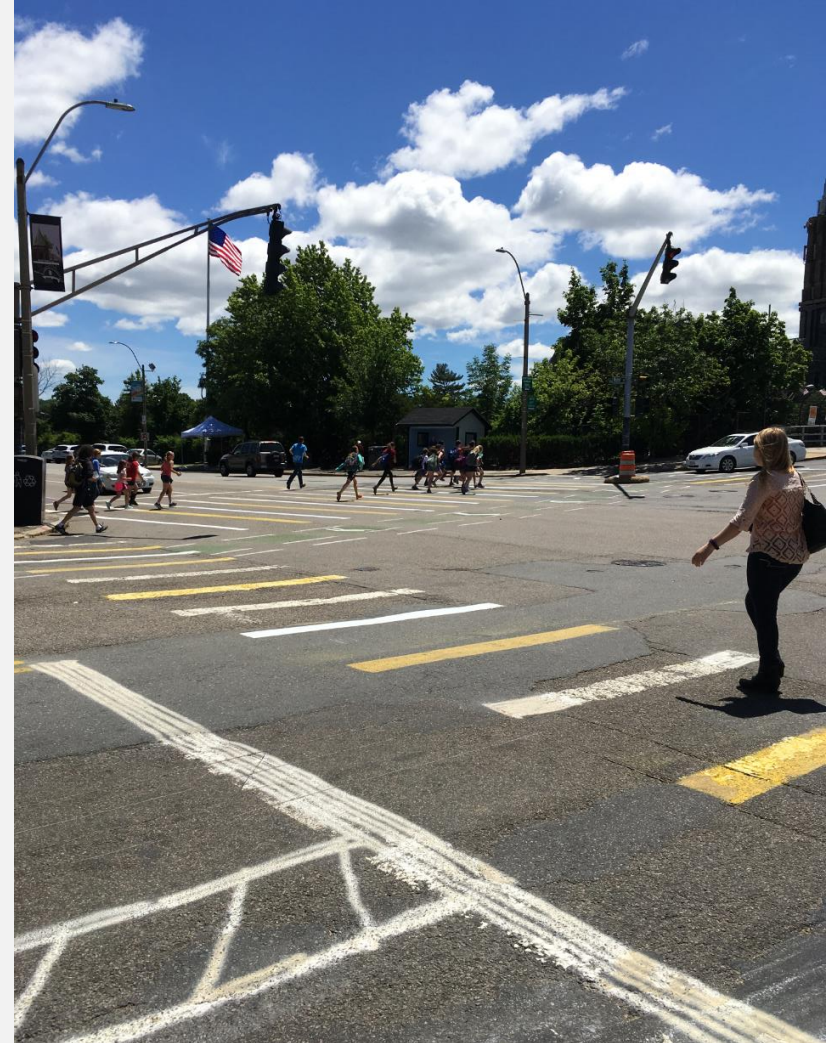




# *We heard:* An appeal for ACTION!



# *We heard: An appeal for ACTION!*



# Vision Statement

*“Newton’s transportation programs, projects, and policies should support economic development, champion a sustainable City, and provide equitable access for all people.”*

# Goals

- Smart Growth
- Real Options
- Reducing Driving & Strengthening Alternatives
- Quality of Life
- Safety
- Balance
- Consistency

# Activity Instructions



## LEARN ABOUT THE POSSIBLE STRATEGIES AND POST YOUR USER REVIEWS!

Home Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Each page of this booklet contains a set of strategies that would help Newton meet its transportation goals. Bring the booklet with you to each station to learn more about these strategies to inform your reviews. Your reviews will help prioritize the final recommendations for Newton-in-Motion.

These voting sheets are also available online at [www.newtonma.gov/transportationstrategy](http://www.newtonma.gov/transportationstrategy)

### How to use this booklet

For each strategy, mark the number of stars based on how much you'd like to see it in Newton:

★☆☆☆☆ *I don't like this idea very much.*

★★☆☆☆

★★★☆☆

★★★★☆

★★★★★ *I love this idea!*

## REDUCE DRIVING & STRENGTHEN ALTERNATIVES

Don't Like → Like it a lot!



INCREASE BIKE PARKING IN VILLAGE CENTERS



WIDEN SIDEWALKS IN VILLAGE CENTERS



CREATE SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PRIORITY PROGRAM



INTRODUCE BIKESHARE



EXPAND CARSHARE



ENHANCE BUS STOP AND COMMUTER RAIL STATION AREAS



CREATE CENTRAL TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION WEBSITE



UPDATE AND EXPAND PARKING MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS IN HIGH DEMAND AREAS

Comments: