

Project Overview

What is Newton-in-Motion?

Newton-in-Motion is a citywide transportation strategy, a guide toward long-term transportation goals for a more equitable, economically and environmentally sustainable transportation system.

What's in the Transportation System?

Everything that allows someone to go from Point A to Point B is part of the transportation system. It includes the physical infrastructure: roads, sidewalks, parking lots, bike racks, train stations, etc.; as well as the programmatic infrastructure: school buses, MBTA transit, employer transportation incentive programs, ZipCars, Uber, etc.

What is Newton-in-Motion based on?

Newton-in-Motion started in January 2016 with a review of existing transportation plans including the City's Comprehensive Plan from 2007 as well as plans for corridor improvements, like the construction plans for Needham Street redesign and the Washington St Corridor Study. Newton-in-Motion also takes into account the thousands of ideas and comments submitted by over 550 people during the Transportation Strategy workshops and online surveys. The local Newton information will be combined with research on best practices used around the country and the world.

What will the Newton-in-Motion Report include?

The Transportation Strategy Report will include a suite of recommended strategies to make measurable progress toward the City's transportation goals by 2040. The report will include maps of recommended priority investment areas for Driving, Active Transportation, and Transit. The report will also detail programmatic and systematic recommendations. Programmatic recommendations include strategies to encourage safer travel behavior and expand transportation options. Systematic recommendations will include recommended strategies to facilitate consistent decision making.

How will Newton-in-Motion address traffic congestion?

Congestion is a problem of too many drivers using a roadway at a particular moment in time. The 20th century approach to managing congested roadways was to build more roads and to widen the existing ones. This approach is not appropriate to 21st century Newton, since expanding roads would scar the well-loved character of the City's walkable neighborhoods and lively village centers. The difference on a street between a Monday morning traffic jam and a smooth Sunday afternoon ride, can be as little as 10% fewer cars. Newton-in-Motion will approach congestion from the perspective that through investment in transportation options, traffic congestion can be reduced. During rush hour, every person walking, biking, riding transit, carpooling, or flexing their hours is actively reducing congestion. By providing safe and inviting facilities and encouragement for those who are so inclined to not drive at peak times, the City can improve the driver experience as well.

Glossary of Terms

Newton-in-Motion has articulated goals, targets, and strategies. Each of these terms has a particular meaning in the context of this project.

Goal = What Newton wants to achieve

Measure = A metric to track how well the City is meeting its goals

Baseline = Where the City stands today (2016)

Target = Where Newton wants to be in the future (2040)

Strategy = A policies or program to help the City meet its goals