



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

Newton, Massachusetts Community Preservation Program FUNDING REQUEST

PRE-PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL

(For staff use)
date rec'd:

Last updated February 2020.

Please submit this completed file directly – do not convert to PDF or other formats.

For full instructions, see www.newtonma.gov/cpa or contact:

Lara Kritzer, Community Preservation Program Manager

City of Newton Planning & Development Department, 1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, MA 02459

lkritzer@newtonma.gov

617.796.1144

You may adjust the space for each question, but the combined answers to all questions on this page must fit on this page.

Project TITLE	Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Redesign		
Project LOCATION	Full street address (with zip code), or other precise location. Commonwealth Avenue (Lyons Field to East of Auburn Street)		
Project CONTACTS	Name & title or organization	Email	Phone
Project Manager	Nicole Freedman Director of Transp. Planning, City of Newton	nfreedman@newtonma.gov	617-879-8148
Other Contacts	Barney Heath, Director of Planning & Development, City of Newton	bheath@newtonma.gov	617-796-1131
Project FUNDING	A. CPA funds requested: \$390,000	B. Other funds to be used: \$4,837,900	C. Total project cost (A+B): \$5,227,900
Project SUMMARY	<p>Explain how the project will use the requested CPA funds. You may provide more detail in attachments, but your PROJECT SUMMARY MUST FIT IN THE SPACE BELOW. Use a cover letter for general information about the sponsoring organization's accomplishments.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Redesign Project will redesign, reconstruct and restore a critical compromised segment of the Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway from Lyons Field to just east of Auburn Street. The project will create new green space and add a continuous walking and bicycle path where the roadway currently exists by rerouting vehicular traffic from north of the median to the south. Project benefits include: a) increase the overall amount of green space b) link myriad trail networks including the Charles River Path, the Riverside Greenway trail network (in development), and Weston's planned shared use path, currently at 25% design, running along Commonwealth Ave from the Newton to Natick borders, d) increase visibility and access to the Charles River at the historic boathouse e) improve transit access in the area by upgrading bus stops.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway, the crown jewel of Newton, provides a nearly continuous east to west linear park, and walking and bicycling route for the expanse of Newton. Typically, the area north of the median grass strip, known as the Carriageway, functions as a shared street. It carries a low volume of vehicles at slow speeds enabling people to comfortably walk, bike and jog in the street; the south side of the median typically functions as a two lane arterial, carrying the majority of vehicles.</p> <p>Between Lyons Field and the Charles River bridge, however, the Carriageway portion north of the median assumes a compromised form, carrying the westbound vehicular traffic as it approaches Highway 95 and 90. The shared street environment, typical for most of the Carriageway in Newton disappears in this section; westbound arterial traffic is routed to the north side of the median, and people on bikes and foot previously enjoying a parkway experience are pushed towards a narrow sidewalk. The project will reroute westbound vehicular traffic, currently north of the median in the Carriageway, to the south side.</p> <p>The impetus for this project is MassDOT's \$23.8M Project 110980 Newton-Weston-Bridge Rehabilitation South Avenue (Rt. 30) over the Charles River. The MassDOT project will be reconstruct the bridge over the Charles River at Commonwealth Avenue with construction taking place 2022-2024. Newton's Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Redesign project will leverage significant funds from this MassDOT project. As part of their project, MassDOT must reconstruct the Auburn Street intersection at a cost to them in excess of \$1M. Reconfiguring the Auburn Street intersection from its current deficient geometry is critical to transforming the Carriageway into the proposed desired form with new green space, and a bike and pedestrian path. The City is working tightly with MassDOT to coordinate design and construction of both projects in order to realize the vision of the Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Redesign. MassDOT recognizes this important symbiotic relationship and has committed to funding construction of Newton's project through it's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program with \$5.9 million in funding confirmed for FY2025.</p>		

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Project TITLE	Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Redesign			
USE of CPA FUNDS	RECREATION			
	create	x		
	rehabilitate/ restore			
COMMUNITY NEEDS	<p>From each of at least 2 plans linked to the Guidelines & Forms page of www.newtonma.gov/cpa, provide a brief quote with plan title, year, and page number, showing how this project meets previously recognized community needs. You may also list other community benefits not mentioned in any plan.</p> <p>This project restores a critical gap of the Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway to its preferred form of a linear parkway and pathway for people recreating on foot and on bicycle. Numerous plans recognize the need for this project. More importantly, both the City of Newton and MassDOT have committed financially to this project: A) Newton’s Capital Improvement Plan has committed \$200,000 to 25% design in FY21. The City has contracted with Howard Stein Hudson and has made substantial progress towards completion of 25% design, estimated for fall 2020. The City previously committed \$24,000 for concept design, which has since been completed. B) MassDOT has committed \$5.9 million towards construction in FY2025 through their Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects budget, to coincide with the construction of MassDOT’s previously mentioned bridge project.</p> <p>Current plans which reference this project are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Newton Capital Improvement Plan, 2020, page 6, “Two new Complete Streets projects were approved in the spring of 2019. The second project is the Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway improvements. This Auburndale project will complement MassDOT’s work on the Charles River Bridge. The segment along Comm Ave will be a shared use path for pedestrians and bicycles on the Charles River Trail from Lyons Field to the Auburn Street intersection then connecting to walkable streets over Pigeon Hill to trails along the river”. http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/99660 2. MassDOT State Prioritized Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects, FY 2025, Project construction funded. Project ID 610674, Page 3-111. https://www.ctps.org/data/pdf/plans/TIP/FFYs-2021-2025-TIP.pdf 3. Metropolitan Area Planning Council Landline Vision Plan, 2018, Shown on map. https://trailmap.mapc.org/. The LandLine is a vision for a continuous trail network throughout the metro-Boston area. 4. Newton Open Space and Recreation Plan 2020-2027, 2020, http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/104585 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Page 137, “The City should work to ensure regionally connected bike and pedestrian facilities. This will entail extending existing paths such as the DCR’s Blue Heron Trail, Upper Falls Greenway, and Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway, to nearby towns and cities. “ o Page 153, “81. Create a safe, low-stress bike lane on Commonwealth Avenue Carriage Lane.” 			
COMMUNITY CONTACTS	<p>List at least 3 Newton residents or organizations willing and able to comment on the project and its manager’s qualifications. No more than 1 should be a supervisor, employee or current work colleague of the project manager or sponsor. Consult staff on the community contacts required for your specific proposal.</p>			
	Name & title or organization	Email	Phone	Mailing address
	Mayor Ruthanne Fuller City of Newton	rfuller@newtonma.gov	617-796-1108	1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459
	Herb Nolan Founder Solomon Foundation	herbnolan@solomonfoundation.org	617-875-6861	10 Laurel Ave, Wellesley, MA 02481
	Ted Chapman Project Manager Riverside Greenway Working Group	ehchapman@verizon.net ehchapman@verizon.net	617-680-5278	N/A

You may adjust the space for each question, but the combined answers to all questions on this page must fit on this page.
Full proposals must include separate, detailed budgets in addition to this page.

Project TITLE		Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Redesign	
SUMMARY CAPITAL/DEVELOPMENT BUDGET			
Uses of Funds			
Concept Design – Complete. 50% paid for by City of Newton. 50% paid for by Solomon Foundation			\$47,900
25% Design – In Process. Paid for by City of Newton. City is under contract with HSH.			\$200,000
Final Design – On track to begin late summer 2020. Seeking CPA funds.			\$390,000
Construction – Assigned MassDOT construction funds, FFY2025 via MassDOT’s Bike/Ped program* (Massdot has allocated \$5,914,556 or construction in the FY2025 budget. Current cost estimate is \$4,590,000)			\$4,590,000
			\${amount}
D. TOTAL USES (should equal C. on page 1 and E. below)			\$5,227,900
Sources of Funds		Status (requested, expected, confirmed)	
City of Newton & Solomon Foundation (Concept Design)		Confirmed	\$47,900
City of Newton (25% Design)		Confirmed	\$200,000
CPA Funding (Final Design)		Requested	\$390,000
MassDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program (Construction)		Confirmed	\$4,459,000
E. TOTAL SOURCES (should equal C. on page 1 and D. above)			\$5,227,900
SUMMARY ANNUAL OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE BUDGET (cannot use CPA funds)			
Uses of Funds			
DPW Transportation Operations (planned restriping, every 5 th year, pothole maintenance) <i>Majority of work to begin after 5th year</i>			\$20,000
Parks & Recreation Operations (mowing, reseeding, bench repair, tree trimming) <i>Majority of work to begin after first few years</i>			\$5,000
F. TOTAL ANNUAL COST (should equal G. below)			\$25,000
Sources of Funds			
DPW Annual Operating Budget			\$500
Parks & Recreation Annual Operating Budget			\$2,000
G. TOTAL ANNUAL FUNDING (should equal F. above)			\$2,500
Project TIMELINE		Phase or Task	Season & Year
Concept Design			Complete
25% Design			Fall 2020
Final Design			2023
Construction			2025

Project TITLE		Commonwealth Avenue Parkway Re-design	
↓ Check off submitted attachments here.			
REQUIRED.	✓	PHOTOS	of existing site or resource conditions (2-3 photos may be enough)
	✓	MAP	of site in relation to nearest major roads (omit if project has no site)
Pre-proposals: separate attachments not required, just use page 3 of form. Full proposals: separate, detailed budget attachments REQUIRED.	PROJECT FINANCES printed and as computer spreadsheets, with both uses & sources of funds		
	✓	development pro forma/capital budget: include total cost, hard vs. soft costs and contingencies, and project management – amount and cost of time from contractors or staff (in-kind contributions by existing staff must also be costed) operating/maintenance budget, projected separately for each of the next 10 years (CPA funds may not be used for operations or maintenance)	
	✓	non-CPA funding: commitment letters, letters of inquiry to other funders, fundraising plans, etc., including both cash and est. dollar value of in-kind contributions	
	✓	purchasing of goods & services: briefly summarize sponsor’s understanding of applicable state statutes and City policies	
REQUIRED for all full proposals.	SPONSOR FINANCES & QUALIFICATIONS, INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT		
	✓	for sponsoring department or organization, most recent annual operating budget (revenue & expenses) & financial statement (assets & liabilities); each must include both public (City) and private resources (“friends” organizations, fundraising, etc.)	
	✓	for project manager: relevant training & track record of managing similar projects	
REQUIRED for all full proposals involving City gov’t., incl. land acquisition.	✓	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN	current listing/ranking & risk factors for this project
	✓	COVER LETTER	from head of City department, board or commission confirming: current custody, or willingness to accept custody, of the resource and commitment of staff time for project management
REQUIRED for all full proposals involving real estate acquisition, construction or other building/landscape improvements.	SITE CONTROL, VALUE & DEED RESTRICTIONS		
	NA	City Agreement to a permanent deed restriction for affordability and public recreational use	
	ZONING & PERMITTING		
	NA	short email confirming review by the Development Review Team (DRT)	
	NA	brief property history: at least the last 30 years of ownership & use (ask CPC staff for assistance with sources)	
	NA	environmental mitigation plans: incl. lead paint, asbestos, underground tanks	
	NA	zoning relief and permits required: incl. parking waivers, demolition or building permits, comprehensive permit or special permit	
	NA	other approvals required: Newton Conservation Commission, Newton Historical Commission, Newton Commission on Disabilities, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Massachusetts Architectural Access Board, etc.	
	DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION		
	NA	professional design & cost estimates: include site plan, floor plans & elevations	
NA	materials & finishes; highlight “green” or sustainable features & materials		
OPTIONAL for all proposals.	✓	LETTERS of SUPPORT	from Newton residents, organizations, or businesses