



SETTI D. WARREN
MAYOR

City of Newton, Massachusetts Office of the Mayor

Telephone
(617) 796-1100

Telefax
(617) 796-1113

TDD
(617) 796-1089

E-mail
swarren@newtonma.gov

17 October 2016

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to submit for your review the **FY18-FY22 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)** for the City of Newton. This plan highlights the tremendous work that we have accomplished together since January 1, 2010 and expands on the success of the risk-based model of the previous 5-year plans. This plan is a result of the extraordinary progress we have made in the last seven years, as well as the great course we have set for the next 20 to 30 years.

The long-term capital needs of our education system have always been a priority. As you all know, the Angier School opened in January 2016, completed on time and under budget; the Zervas School, slated to open in the fall of 2017 remains on time and on budget, and Cabot School, a project where we will save the historic original building is scheduled to be completed and open in September 2019. We have moved our Pre-K students to a consolidated facility (the former Aquinas site) this past September, and have included plans in this C.I.P. to develop the Aquinas site as the new home of the Lincoln Eliot community.

This strategy will allow us to move the Horace Mann School into the newly renovated Carr School and use the current Horace Mann for needed space for programming for our youth and intergenerational community center and Parks and Recreation year-round activities and programming, while Lincoln Eliot will become the City's new swing space.

Last year we were proud to open a newly renovated Fire Station 10 and Wires Division and the Fire Station 3 and Fire Headquarters project is on track as well.

While we have made great progress in the areas listed above, there are three major areas to which we have dedicated significant financial resources within this plan and that I would like to highlight:

- Public Safety Emergency Communications System,
- Traffic Signalization/Village Center Upgrades, and
- Paving/Complete Streets

Public Safety Emergency Communications System

Unparalleled Public Safety in today's ever-changing environment requires a reliable, robust, redundant emergency communications system. For the first time in the City's history, the City has established an Emergency Communications Team (internally referred to as the "Purple Team") consisting of members of the Police Department, Fire Department, Information Technology Department, Public Buildings Department and the Executive Department in order to ensure that the City's Emergency Communication System is able to meet the needs of the residents, visitors, emergency personnel, and first responders of the City of Newton. This 5-Year C.I.P. includes necessary improvement to the City's Public Safety Emergency Communications System.

Traffic Signalization/Village Center Upgrades

The original plan has been expanded and now includes entire village centers and main corridors in addition to the original intersections. Completing the remaining of the original locations and improving additionally identified inefficient and unsafe intersections are of paramount importance for the City. The goal over the next 3-5 years is to reduce excessive vehicle queuing that can extend several blocks, minimize the number of vehicles and amount of time they idle, thus reducing the amount of carbon monoxide produced, eliminate driver frustration, reduce the number of vehicle/bicycle/pedestrian crashes and develop a signal infrastructure that can be maintained in the most efficient and proactive manner. The City intends to accomplish these goals through the implementation of improved roadway geometry, ADA compliant equipment, state-of-the-art detection systems, and coordination/timing communication.

Paving

Roads and sidewalks, suffering from years of neglect have been a major focus of mine. However, even after doubling the number of roads paved per year, we recognized that would not be enough to bring our roadways up to acceptable standards.

Therefore, this year the City contracted the services of StreetScan, Inc. to conduct a pavement inspection of all City streets utilizing their innovative and patented vehicle-mounted sensing technology (acoustic, radar, optical) to detect surface and subsurface roadway defects, removing human bias and allowing data-driven, evidence-based decision making strategies for the maintenance and improvement of the City's roadways.

Results of this inspection are not surprising and are as follows:

- Current average PCI (Pavement Condition Index) for Arterials and Collectors is 69.5
- The City has 75 miles of Arterial and Collector streets
- Current average PCI for Locals roadways is 59.3
- The City has 201 miles of Local streets
- 35% (99 miles) of the City's roads are structurally damaged with a PCI of less than 55

Using the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) rating, along with the City's Roadway Asset Management database, City staff have worked with the staff at StreetScan to develop a comprehensive, long-range Roadway Maintenance Plan based upon highest priority. Roadway characteristics, including classification, PCI value, age of pavement, traffic counts, number of homes, and accident history, as well as other utility work (water, sewer, stormwater, gas, electric), targeted improvement projects, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, traffic signal upgrades, street trees, and related neighborhood work are all factors that the asset management software program has used in order to determine a street's priority.

StreetScan has completed their evaluation and have worked with the City to draft a 10-year, data-driven plan designed to optimize the cost and schedule of repairing and maintaining the City's roadways which will bring the average PCI for Arterials and Collectors up to a score of 80, and the average PCI for Local roadways up to a score of 72 - the recognized industry standards. This plan will include the reclamation of more than 30 miles of roadways, rehabilitation of more than 140 miles, preventive maintenance on close to 80 miles, and deferred maintenance on almost 20 miles.

We could not have made the incredible strides we have in the last 7 years without the support and partnership of the members of the Honorable City Council, School Committee, businesses and residents of our great city.

I look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion of this plan. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Setti D. Warren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "W".

Setti D. Warren
Mayor