

What is this?

City staff have reviewed past planning and policy documents in preparation for the Zoning Redesign: Village Centers community engagement, which asks community members to share their experiences of and visions for their village centers. Doing so acknowledges that this effort is not starting from scratch. Over the last 15 years, the City, in collaboration with the Newton community, has developed these documents. The synthesized strategies/goals and actions/objectives below present an overall perspective of the pressures, challenges, and opportunities relevant to Newton village centers within these documents.

How is this organized?

Each strategy/goal and action/objective is organized by the most prevalent themes used within these planning and policy documents and from what we heard during our December 2020 Zoning Redesign events. In addition these themes are used to organize the Vision Kit, which this document is a supplement for.

What documents are included?

<i>Document</i>	<i>Link</i>
Comprehensive Plan (2007)	https://www.newtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=41594
Newton Centre Task Force (2008)	https://www.newtonma.gov/home/showdocument?id=70061&t=63757183635
Council on Aging Report (2014)	https://www.newtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/38668/637288584
Housing Strategy (2016)	https://www.newtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=41602
Transportation Strategy (2017)	https://www.newtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=34350
Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)	https://www.newtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=34530
Economic Development Strategy (2019)	https://www.newtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=33677
Riverside Vision Plan (2019)	https://www.newtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=33483
Climate Action Plan (2019)	https://www.newtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=34132
Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)	https://www.newtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=41574
Comprehensive Arts and Culture Plan (2019)	https://www.newtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=30043

Did we miss something?

Is there a strategy or objective that we missed? Is there a document that should have been included? Let us know! Email Zachery LeMel, zlemel@newtonma.gov with the subject "Village Centers - Planning Docs".

ENVIRONMENT

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Achieve greater efficiency in housing	Allow for smaller unit residences	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Create incentives and mandates for an energy-efficient future	Include a combination of standards, special permit criteria, and incentives to ensure the highest degree of energy efficient design, like Passive House	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Promote energy-efficient, human-scaled and durable construction	Expand advisory design review & what comes under Urban Design Commission	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Provide options for residents to live low-carbon lifestyles	Support carless residents, employees, and visitors. Provide needed amenities and services on-site	Riverside Vision Plan (2019)
Prioritize energy-efficient building principles	Minimize carbon footprint for transportation to/from buildings. Provide a minimum number of fast charge and /or level 2 charging stations for electric vehicles and the electrical infrastructure to expand to include more charging stations.	Riverside Vision Plan (2019)
Improve Newton’s climate resiliency	Reduce urban heat island (UHI) effect, Ensure flood resiliency, Consider vulnerable populations	Riverside Vision Plan (2019)
Restore local ecology	Require and/or incentivize construction with: ▪ Durable, energy and resource efficient materials ▪ Sustainable waste management plans (before, during, and after construction) ▪ Proper soil/erosion controls and native plantings ▪ Net-zero energy goals	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Incentivize energy efficiency in site design	Require and/or incentivize building and site designs to maximize energy efficiency, provide clean and renewable energy generation, and to reduce the heat island effect	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Promote transportation options that reduce emissions from single-occupancy vehicles.	Provide safe walking conditions and increased shuttle services to open space/natural areas, transportation hubs, and cultural/community amenities	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)

ENVIRONMENT

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Reduce land surface temperature	Increase street trees and healthy green space, Set design standards for new buildings to limit the heat island effect , Protect wetland resources to encourage natural hydrologic cycles, Encourage alternate forms of transportation to reduce single-occupancy vehicle exhaust	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Address heat island effects	Update requirements in the zoning ordinance with respect to pervious/impervious coverage, landscaping, low-impact stormwater management, and erosion/sedimentation controls	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Promote low impact development	Set standards for stormwater management in any new public streets/public spaces	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Create diversity in new open space	Build diverse new public open spaces that encourage outdoor activity, environmental awareness, and community building: e.g. trails, interactive water features, playgrounds, community gardens, plazas, and public art	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Endorse high-quality architecture and high-performance construction	Request that new development utilize natural and hardy materials, particularly where users can interact with them (e.g. ground floor facades, fences, and public spaces)	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Support the installation of residential and commercial solar.	Work with City Council to adopt a zoning requirement that all new buildings with a certain roof area require solar PV where technically feasible, and other “eco-roof” treatment where appropriate.	Climate Action Plan (2019)
Incentivize residents to switch to EVs with a goal of having 10% of all vehicles on the road be EV, BHEV, ZEM, PHEV+ by 2025.	Incorporate electric vehicle charging station requirements into the Zoning Ordinance and a criterion for large multi-family, commercial, and mixed-use developments.	Climate Action Plan (2019)
Work with City Council to adopt Zoning Ordinance amendments that require and/or incentivize high-efficiency performance, such as Passive House and/or net-zero new construction – within the next 12 months.	Work with City Council to require that all new construction and major renovations analyze the costs, benefits, and GHG impacts of maximizing energy efficiency; utilizing electric heating, cooling, and hot water; and using renewable energy, including thermal energy.	Climate Action Plan (2019)

ENVIRONMENT

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Work with City Council to adopt Zoning Ordinance amendments that require and/or incentivize high-efficiency performance, such as Passive House and/or net-zero new construction – within the next 12 months.	Work with City Council to adopt a zoning requirement that all new parking lots above a certain size require EV charging stations.	Climate Action Plan (2019)
Work with City Council to adopt Zoning Ordinance amendments that require and/or incentivize high-efficiency performance, such as Passive House and/or net-zero new construction – within the next 12 months.	Work with City Council to adopt a zoning requirement that all new buildings with a certain roof area require solar PV where technically feasible, and other “eco-roof” treatment where appropriate.	Climate Action Plan (2019)
Work with City Council to adopt Zoning Ordinance amendments that require and/or incentivize high-efficiency performance, such as Passive House and/or net-zero new construction – within the next 12 months.	Work with the City Council to adopt Zoning Ordinances that encourage additional, appropriate low-carbon housing near public transportation.	Climate Action Plan (2019)
Work with City Council to adopt zoning ordinances for energy efficiency and clean energy technologies	Work with City Council to allow by right the installation of GHG-reducing building improvements	Climate Action Plan (2019)
Pursue Green Design	Green design includes both technological solutions for reducing energy and water usage and reducing the environmental impacts of a project as well as placing new development in locations that promote alternative forms of transportation and reduce the need to create housing on greenfield locations on the periphery of the region.	Housing Strategy (2016)
Encourage sustainable development and sound environmentally practice in Newton Zoning Ordinance	Saving and creating open space while accommodating a greater density of new development; Reducing energy consumption of each structure; Reducing life cycle cost of each structure; Incorporating the best practices of new building technology	Newton Centre Task Force Report (2008)
Create FAR (Floor Area Ratio) incentives for applicants who fulfill certain criteria	Give FAR incentives to projects that follow certain design principles (including active use of solar and wind energy, collection of rainwater for re-use, etc.)	Newton Centre Task Force Report (2008)

ENVIRONMENT

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Work with City Council to adopt Zoning Ordinance amendments that require and/or incentivize high-efficiency performance, such as Passive House and/or net-zero new construction – within the next 12 months.	Work with City Council to amend the Zoning Ordinance to require new construction and major renovations seeking a Special Permit maximize energy efficiency, maximize the use of renewable energy including thermal energy, and use electricity for heating and cooling.	Climate Action Plan (2019)

Housing

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Ensure availability of accessible units	Incorporate criteria to guide the development and renovation of age-friendly housing into zoning	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Promote diverse building and unit sizes	Ensure that building types allowed are contextually appropriate and support the goal for diversity in housing including ownership and rental products	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Allow communal living models	Consider complex forms of multi-family housing in the zoning ordinance	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Focus housing where residents have transportation options	New housing be focused physically around transit stations, and programs should be put in place to ensure that new residents near transit service have every incentive not to drive. Development close to transit should have strict requirements to mitigate traffic	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Help address Newton’s current and shifting housing needs	Require a range of housing types, such as townhomes or 3-unit-style homes, traditional apartments, or condo-style buildings. Include age-friendly units that are floor-throughs or single-level units in elevator buildings with universal design features. Construct a mix of unit sizes, from studios to 3+ bedroom units, to accommodate residents and households of different sizes	Riverside Vision Plan (2019)
Encourage the production of a range of housing types	Reduce minimum lot area per unit in the zoning ordinance	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)

Housing		
Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Encourage mixed-use projects in villages and commercial corridors, especially those with mass transit.	Encourage development of housing geared towards young professionals and low to middle income families to create workforce to serve business growth and diversify the housing mix.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)
Encourage mixed-use projects in villages and commercial corridors, especially those with mass transit.	Encourage housing in villages and commercial corridors with mass transit to create "built in" customers for businesses who need less access to private automobiles.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)
Pursue diverse housing choices to meet changing housing needs of a diverse population.	Newton's growing senior population would be well served by increasing the supply of single level, elevator served residences in walkable and transit accessible locations, with design features as outlined in the Council on Aging's Age Friendly Housing Checklist	Housing Strategy (2016)
Locate housing to promote access and choice	When housing is located in walkable, transit-accessible locations, people have more transportation choices and this, in turn, helps to manage the high cost of living in communities like Newton. At the same time, choice also includes providing a mix of housing in all parts of the City.	Housing Strategy (2016)
Balance Housing Needs with the Need for Commercial Space	The City must recognize and balance the need for commercial space in the City, which is generally in limited supply. In transit-accessible and walkable locations, mixed-use buildings offer an opportunity to retain or expand commercial space while also gaining additional housing options.	Housing Strategy (2016)
Maintain character and scale while adding most amount of new housing	Encouraging the re-conversion of nonresidential space above the ground floor of commercial buildings back to residential use (where it once existed) and re-zone residential properties now used as businesses to encourage reversion to residential use	Newton Centre Task Force Report (2008)

Housing		
Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Create additional housing without excessive density.	Encourage new residential construction above ground floor commercial or parking facilities. Clarify permit process and provide flexible options for property owners to meet building heights and tenant parking requirements	Newton Centre Task Force Report (2008)
Enhancing village centers, supporting their vitality	Provide a housing alternative - that of living in a mixed-use environment - otherwise largely missing in the City	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Encourage retention of existing housing and development of new housing that supports village centers, that is focused on public transportation...	Revise the zoning rules that presently impose restrictions on residential uses in village centers and other business areas, at the same time assuring that concerns with regard to traffic, parking, affordability and livability are carefully addressed	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
In particular, joining housing development and public transportation improvements can bring great benefit to both: proximity to public transport can lower a household's transportation costs, and nearby housing boosts transit patronage.	- -	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Utilize existing housing	We need to reverse the gradual decline in housing use on the upper floors of existing commercial buildings and elsewhere in village centers.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Refining zoning	We should allow higher density for specific locations, such as village centers and commercial districts, and should explore allowing multifamily at some locations where otherwise not allowed.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Refining zoning	We should revise zoning to actively support a mix of uses within a building, a parcel, or an area. Such mixed use can promote housing affordability and a broader variety of living circumstances. Facilitating provision of housing together with retailing can promote a more active environment.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)

Housing		
Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Given our very limited land resources, we need to assure that regulation creates numerous well-located compact development opportunities	Explicitly allow a broad variety of types of residential use, including SROs, live/work arrangements, congregate housing, and others.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Given our very limited land resources, we need to assure that regulation creates numerous well-located compact development opportunities	Increase the proportion of residential development applications that can be approved by right rather than through special permit, variance, or comprehensive permit, utilizing clear objective standards and administrative review processes that can obviate the necessity of case-by-case review by the Aldermen.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
We need to have reasonable dimensional and parking standards for residential development.	Assure that lot area per unit, FAR, yards, maximum height, and building coverage rules work together reasonably, which again is clearly not the case in the Mixed Use districts.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Residential development and improvements	Review residential zoning with a view to optimizing residential land use, smoothing the transitional areas between residential and commercial areas, and providing additional opportunities for affordable housing, as discussed in the “Housing” element.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)

Shopping, Eating, and Working (Economic Development)		
Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Explore incentives and investments in locally-owned businesses	Regulations on formula style (chain) businesses, conditions related to reduced rent spaces reserved for locally owned businesses, and incentives that allow for greater density or a greater range of allowed uses where space for locally owned businesses is provided.	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Promote narrow and transparent shopfronts	Zoning rules can be used to mandate that new development in these village centers extend the traditional pattern of narrow storefronts with large windows while providing flexibility for larger tenants to use space toward the back of a property or to use multiple storefronts.	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)

Shopping, Eating, and Working (Economic Development)

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Design streets and plazas as places to linger	The zoning ordinance should require mid-large-scale projects to include new neighborhood plazas and seating	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Energize area with vibrant ground floor retail and activity	Provide active and publicly accessible ground-floor uses	Riverside Vision Plan (2019)
Provide an array of commercial space types	Provide commercial spaces of varied sizes to serve diverse markets. Accommodate regional demand where appropriate	Riverside Vision Plan (2019)
Support new and existing locally owned businesses	Provide smaller, more affordable spaces for local and independent businesses. Offer pop-up and temporary/seasonal spaces for retail and dining. Consider co-working uses on site	Riverside Vision Plan (2019)
Attract employers and support employees	Encourage housing and transportation options, as well as amenity uses, such as restaurants, retail, and entertainment	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Fix zoning that is at odds with that current preferences	Allow small-scale retail by-right	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Increase support for small local businesses	Locate neighborhood-scale retail and service uses on the ground floor of new developments	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Increase office space in Newton including coworking space to attract and retain companies and increase the commercial tax base.	Add office space by allowing appropriately scaled additional stories in the zoning redesign in targeted areas with demand for office space such as Riverside, Wells Avenue, Nonantum, and village centers.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)

Shopping, Eating, and Working (Economic Development)

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Encourage mixed-use projects in villages and commercial corridors, especially those with mass transit.	Redo zoning to make sure that market driven mixed-use developments are allowed in village centers and along commercial corridors. Allow for additional development around commuter rail, T stations, and other multi-modal assets to create mixed-use nodes with increased economic activity, customer base, and vibrancy.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)
Focus development of larger villages as regional centers for business and retail	Focus on creating a vibrant environment in the larger villages, especially those with mass transit, through attraction of restaurants, retail, housing, and office/co-working space. Review all zoning regulations to ensure they accommodate an increase in square footage of development that is in line with the community goals for each village.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)
Create a business environment in Newton that provides more support for small and local businesses	Make changes to zoning code to ensure co-working, incubator, and makers spaces are allowed as a right within targeted areas.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)
Create a business environment in Newton that provides more support for small and local businesses	Ensure zoning code allows home based businesses with appropriate regulations to preserve neighborhood character.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)
Implement policies to support small retailers and improve their ability to remain viable.	Consider employing small business friendly zoning that limits chain stores in village centers, preserves and increases supply of small retail spaces, and includes a business diversity ordinance.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)
Create Smart Developments	Incentivize development near jobs, housing and public transit	Transportation Strategy (2017)

Shopping, Eating, and Working (Economic Development)

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Improve the mix of private uses in village center	Sharpen the special permit process with clearer guidelines on maintaining existing scale, character, density	Newton Centre Task Force Report (2008)
Guide future development in keeping with the current character of Village center	Careful consideration of barring large chain stores by ordinance.	Newton Centre Task Force Report (2008)
Establish zoning overlay for village center	Provide a plan tailored specifically to the needs of the village center, allowing for mixed-use development and the use of district improvement financing, and removes some of the barriers posed by special permits	Newton Centre Task Force Report (2008)
Enhancing village centers, supporting their vitality	Provide services to nearby neighborhoods, restoring that function where it may have been eroded	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Discourage expansion of commercial uses in land and buildings currently zoned and utilized for non-commercial uses	Provide zoning support for the redevelopment of obsolete properties for uses that will maintain or increase the City's tax and employment base.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Encourage mixed uses in business areas and village commercial centers, particularly where public transportation is available	Implement zoning changes that encourage well-designed mixed use as an alternative to incrementally haphazard business sprawl, particularly for areas of the City having retail use, public transportation and good pedestrian access, strengthening both business and residential uses over time, and facilitating designs which assure compatibility between commercial and residential uses where such uses adjoin.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)

Shopping, Eating, and Working (Economic Development)

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
To enhance and promote equity and mobility. Our intention is to promote accessibility for all residents in all part of the City, including the 30% of the population that does not drive.	There is a neighborhood commercial center within [roughly ¼ mile radius] for the majority of residents in the neighborhood	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Encourage mixed-use development, compact building design, a range of housing choices, and provision of trees, benches, and other amenities in high pedestrian zones.	- -	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Village center development	Encourage mixed use in the village centers by promoting housing above retail. Increasing density allowing mixed-use development in the village centers would increase the population within walking distance and as a result would likely expand the available range of goods and services offered there. It would also increase the stock of affordable housing located close to employment centers and public transportation.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Village center development	Attract people into the village centers at off hours by developing cultural facilities focused on the local community—small theaters, art galleries, etc.—and maintaining local parks with improved facilities such as public gardens, outdoor cafes, band stands, tennis courts etc.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)

Transportation

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Focus development of larger villages as regional centers for business and retail	Design parking recommendations to ease congestion and make it easier for businesses and residents.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)
Review all land use regulations and development policies	Reduce or eliminate parking requirements for ground floor uses in village centers.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)

Transportation

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Use shared parking to reduce parking footprint in village centers	Update zoning policy to enable shared parking exceptions.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)
Village center development	Improve parking in the village centers. Explore conducting focused or comprehensive parking studies to assess the need for parking spaces in particular locations as may be appropriate.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Limit visible parking	Parking should be behind buildings, screened from the sidewalk, or ideally below ground	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Enrich the pedestrian experience of the village center	Create pedestrian passageways to improve connectivity	Newton Centre Task Force Report (2008)
To Maintain City Character and Quality of Life. Our intention is to assure that transportation change promotes rather than degrades the kind of City that is being sought, enhancing Newton’s village centers, neighborhoods, and other areas.	The streets are relatively narrow, and the streetscapes are well-defined by the buildings and trees along them	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Support smaller-scale buildings with limited or no on-site parking	Develop and implement a public parking garage strategy	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Shape where and how much parking is in private developments	Newton should consider reducing or eliminating the parking minimum, while also considering a parking maximum	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Require transportation demand management by developers	Build requirement for TDM plan into zoning ordinance to create parity between the incentives to drive and the incentives to walk, bike, or take transit.	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)

Transportation

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Improve accessibility of sidewalks	Update accessible curb ramps in conjunction with City accelerated road program projects	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Improve road safety	Manage driving speeds in neighborhoods to at or below the posted speed limit through roadway design and safety education	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Improve visibility on streets	Update street, sidewalk, and parking lot lighting	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Improve accessibility overall on roads	Incorporate principles of accessible/universal design in street, sidewalk, and parking lot design	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Manage transportation demand in new development	Establish standards for transportation demand management in new development (e.g. subsidies for transit, bike storage)	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Develop transportation management strategies for top destinations	Consider parking management strategies and explore options for centralized parking facilities	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Prepare for more electric vehicles	Plan for electric-vehicle charging stations in all new buildings and encourage adding them to existing parking lots	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Prepare for more shared vehicles	Require new development to assign space for shared vehicles (e.g. Zipcar)	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Increase the rate of biking, walking, telecommuting, shared rides, and use of shuttles and public transit, while reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips.	Work with the City Council to develop a TDM program to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips through amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.	Climate Action Plan (2019)

Transportation

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Increase the rate of biking, walking, telecommuting, shared rides, and use of shuttles and public transit, while reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips.	Work with the City Council to explore reducing or eliminating the minimum parking requirement in the Zoning Ordinance and instead setting a maximum on parking allotments.	Climate Action Plan (2019)
Plan for the Future of Parking	Adjust requirements to reflect updated demand calculations	Transportation Strategy (2017)
Encourage alternative means of transportation	Encourage adding bicycle racks and bicycle lanes	Newton Centre Task Force Report (2008)
Improve parking and traffic conditions	Pursue shared parking where possible, and eliminate the requirement to provide parking on-site	Newton Centre Task Force Report (2008)
About twelve or more Village Centers in Newton are intended to be strongly pedestrian-oriented areas, including those listed below. Within them, roadway and other infrastructure improvements and regulations are to be designed to maintain and improve the pedestrian experience.	The classification system and the placing of individual streets into the various classes has to be formally adopted by whatever bodies are to be guided by it, beginning with the Mayor and the Aldermen, beyond the system simply having been approved as a part of the Comprehensive Plan.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Modernize zoning's parking rules	In village commercial centers, consider revising policy to allow parking to be a shared resource, including considering the potential for an appropriate access fee, where legal, to help offset or shape parking demand, as well as clarifying when the "phantom" parking shortfalls on older properties can be used by new development which may have different needs.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)

Transportation

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Modernize zoning's parking rules	Consider complementing minimum standards for parking with carefully designed limits on allowable parking spaces at limited and appropriate locations where a viable split in transportation modes enables such limits to provide helpful incentives to alternatives to automobile travel as other cities have done.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Modernize zoning's parking rules	Require shared parking between developments where feasible.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Encourage excellent pedestrian access to transit and to other nearby destinations.	--	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
Encourage opportunities for innovative transit-oriented development.	--	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
We need to have reasonable dimensional and parking standards for residential development.	Clarify and ease by-right parking requirements to reflect special residential uses and access circumstances, for example location in transit-served village centers.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)
We need to have reasonable dimensional and parking standards for residential development.	Move towards parking as a shared resource in village centers, allowing fees in lieu of on-site parking.	Comprehensive Plan (2007)

Accessibility

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Ensure public space is accessible	Require publicly accessible open space in new large developments and develop set standards for new public open spaces	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)

Accessibility

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Encourage active store fronts	Amend the zoning ordinance to strengthen requirements around active front façades. ▪ Frequent entrances along a façade ▪ Parking behind and/or below buildings ▪ Line public open spaces with active façades to invite people to utilize the public space	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Utilize design to encourage active community life	Establish design standards for newly created or renovated public and privately-owned publicly accessible open spaces ▪ Encourage diverse open space programming – areas for social gathering and play as well as for quiet rest and relaxation ▪ Set “all age friendly” guidelines – e.g. benches with arms for older adults and elements of play for children, Require new development to underground utilities	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Incentivize contextual & human-scale building design	Develop zoning standards for building massing and articulation with a basis in the immediate context and best practices for vibrant neighborhoods	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
The City of Newton can promote quality of life and social engagement among older people by supporting convenient, affordable, and reliable local transportation options for residents who are unable to drive safely or who prefer to travel using public transportation options or other alternatives, including walking.	- -	Living and Aging in Newton (2014)
Use planning for the expanding senior population as an opportunity to promote livability of the community for all residents. Protecting and increasing access to public spaces, improving public transportation options, facilitating walkability, and promoting programs that help seniors maintain their property are ways in which the entire community may benefit.	- -	Living and Aging in Newton (2014)

Arts and Culture

Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Build dynamic and varied cultural spaces	Support arts and creative uses in designated commercial areas through zoning.	Arts and Culture Plan (2019)
Build dynamic and varied cultural spaces	Explore the potential for new collaborative art spaces including a large multi-use arts center in Newton.	Arts and Culture Plan (2019)
Promote art and activity in the villages	Include considerations for murals and public art in the updated Zoning Ordinance.	Arts and Culture Plan (2019)
Promote art and activity in the villages	Explore permitting outdoor dining and music in commercial areas.	Arts and Culture Plan (2019)
Allow for arts production, presentation, and artist housing	Clarify the standards for arts spaces to make permitting processes clearer for artists. local artists should be engaged directly in identifying needs that can be met either through zoning standards or partnership development projects.	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Foster sense of a "local destination" through the use of public art, placemaking	Dedicate a minimum of 1% of construction costs to public art	Riverside Vision Plan (2019)
Create a range of community gathering spaces	Amend zoning to allow broader range of civic and cultural uses as well as private entertainment and recreational uses	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Enhance Newton's thriving arts community	Incorporate art into new projects such as space for artists to live or work, commissioning of pieces, and more community art experiences.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)
Enhancing village centers, supporting their vitality	Provide focal areas around which the sense of place and of community that we seek can be effectively shaped	Comprehensive Plan (2007)

Process		
Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Enrich the pedestrian experience of the village center	City should establish Design Guidelines for Public Improvements including streets and sidewalks, lighting, street furnishings, landscaping, etc.	Newton Centre Task Force Report (2008)
Promote small blocks	The Zoning Ordinance can play a role in ensuring developments that span a large area create opportunities for pedestrian and vehicular interconnections	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Require gentle transitions to adjacent neighborhoods	Zoning could require that building heights be lower adjacent to residences in order to be complementary to the scale of surrounding neighborhoods.	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Evaluate development at human-level to understand human-scale experiences	Evaluate building heights and visual impacts from human-level perspective from adjacent neighborhoods	Riverside Vision Plan (2019)
Support a mix of uses	Allow more uses by-right with clear development and design requirements (height, massing, transparency, etc.), along with clear operating standards	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Ensure new construction is not overly large	Require new building heights to meet residential heights at neighborhood edges; utilize grade change and upper-story setbacks to reduce visible height of larger buildings	Needham Street Vision Plan (2018)
Improve the development review process	Create two tracks for zoning review (smaller vs larger commercial projects) to allow for a more efficient process.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)
Review all land use regulations and development policies	Complete the zoning redesign project and ensure regulations are predictable and align with stated goals of the community around economic development, livability, diversity, density, and inclusion. Create guidelines for when and where to increase height and square footage allowed in commercial areas to growth the commercial tax base and have vibrancy. Focus on core commercial areas and village centers, particularly those areas with multi-modal transportation options and existing infrastructure.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)

Process		
Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Review all land use regulations and development policies	Zoning redesign focus on reducing the need for special use permits to make development more predictable and easier in places where it is appropriate.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)
Review all land use regulations and development policies	Provide the public and decision makers better information about the fiscal of land use decisions. Prepare an impact analysis guide that outlines the cost of different types of development on the city including types of residential, commercial, retail, open space, etc. Use this as a tool to guide policy, decision making, and public education.	Economic Development Strategy (2019)
Promote Village and Neighborhood Comfort	Adjust siting and design standards for new development and new schools in multi-modal areas	Transportation Strategy (2017)
Match Processes with the Vision	Clarify procedure for substantial projects	Transportation Strategy (2017)
Secure Sufficient Resources	Require developers to pay for site context improvements	Transportation Strategy (2017)
Establish Data-Driven Prioritization	Improve development review process	Transportation Strategy (2017)
Maintain a process that is predictable and efficient	To this point, a number of these recommendations are targeted at positioning the City to be more predictable in reviewing projects that meet local need and vision.	Housing Strategy (2016)
Encourage building designs that are compatible with each other and their surrounding environment	Establish design guidelines for the public in addition to the private realm. The design guidelines could be integrated with a zoning overlay district	Newton Centre Task Force Report (2008)

Process		
Strategy/Goal	Action/Objective	Document
Tailor building design regulations to the expected range of uses in the building	if Newton would like to see new buildings in the village centers have the flexibility to be used for either residential or office, the floor-to-floor height will need to be tall enough for all of the additional infrastructure that offices need between floors (additional wiring, air exchangers, etc.)	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)
Encourage traditional New England roof diversity	Allow the area under a roof to be habitable above and beyond the allowed number of stories	Washington Street Vision Plan (2019)