



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

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ARPA: Newton Highlands Village Center Project (\$250,000)

Newton has wonderful village centers that serve as centers of business, public transportation, shopping and dining, a variety of housing types, and community gatherings. The pandemic created great stress for much of the village center-based business community at a time when many residents have been staying closer to home looking for dining, walking and biking destinations, and easy shopping.

The City recently completed village center improvement projects in Newtonville and West Newton Square with street, sidewalk, biking, and lighting improvements and more trees, benches and art. Residents and businesses helped us design the improvements.

I have decided to commit \$250,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (or ARPA) funds to begin the engagement and design process for a streetscape improvement project that will update the heart of Newton Highlands. Upon completion, this exciting infrastructure project will support a multi-modal, business-friendly, resilient, inviting village center to accommodate all modes of transportation (pedestrian, bicycle, vehicular, and public transit users).

The project will proceed in phases. We'll begin by gathering ideas and information from residents, business owners, City officials, Area Council members and key constituent groups; by thoroughly analyzing and assessing existing conditions; and by identifying conceptual alternatives for improvements. The one selected as the preferred alternative at the conclusion of this Engagement and Conceptual Design phase will be advanced through the Preliminary and Final Design phases, and ultimately construction.

Our goal in our village center projects is to have "livable streets" with an enhanced, resilient environment for our businesses and surrounding neighbors to thrive. We look forward to lots of input in the coming months on the Newton Highlands Village Center. The project email address is highlands@newtonma.gov.