

City of Newton
Zoning & Planning Committee



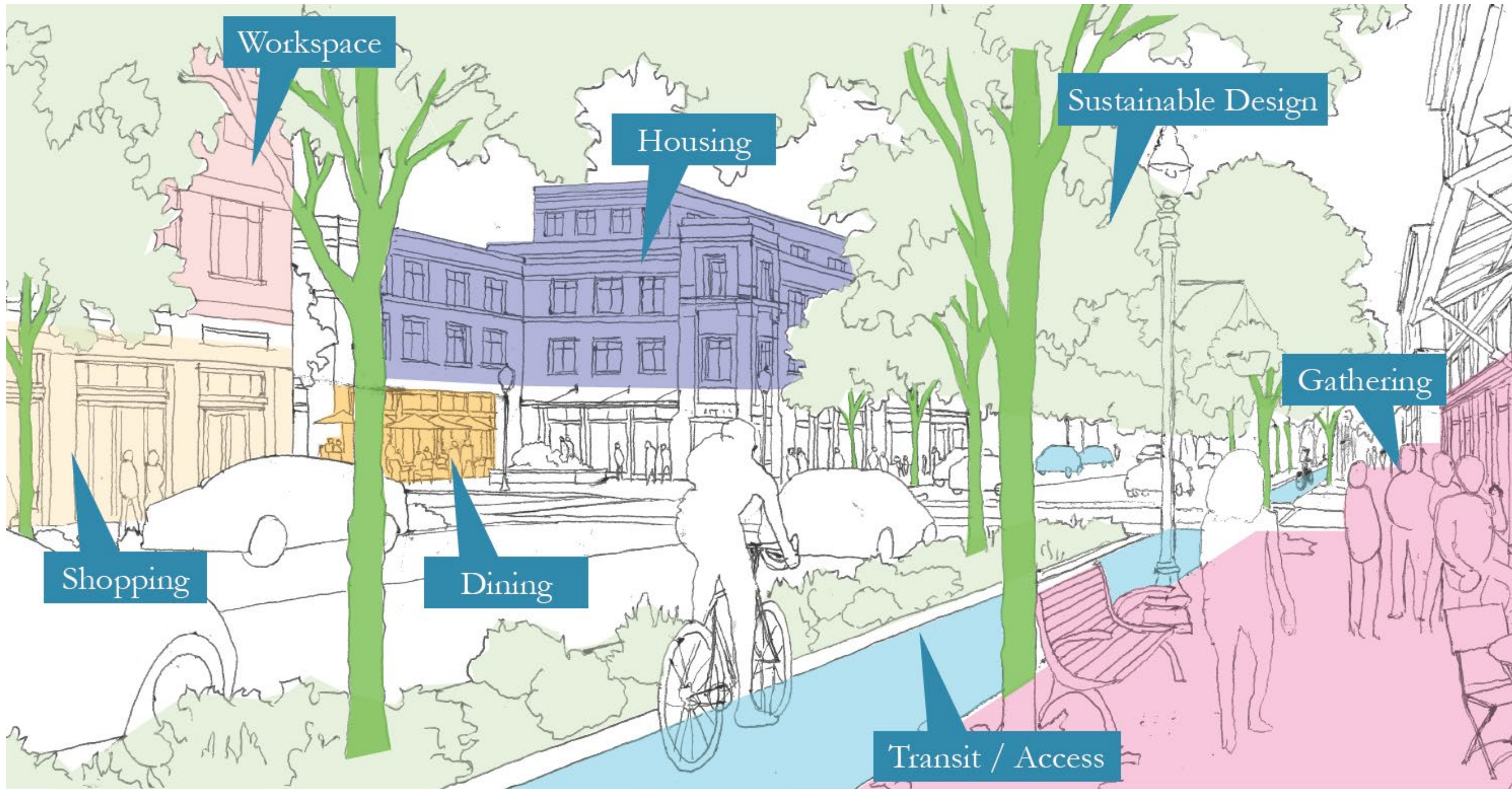
Lower Falls + Auburndale Draft Village Center District Maps

Public Info Session

December 6, 2022

Build Upon Existing Successes and Strengths

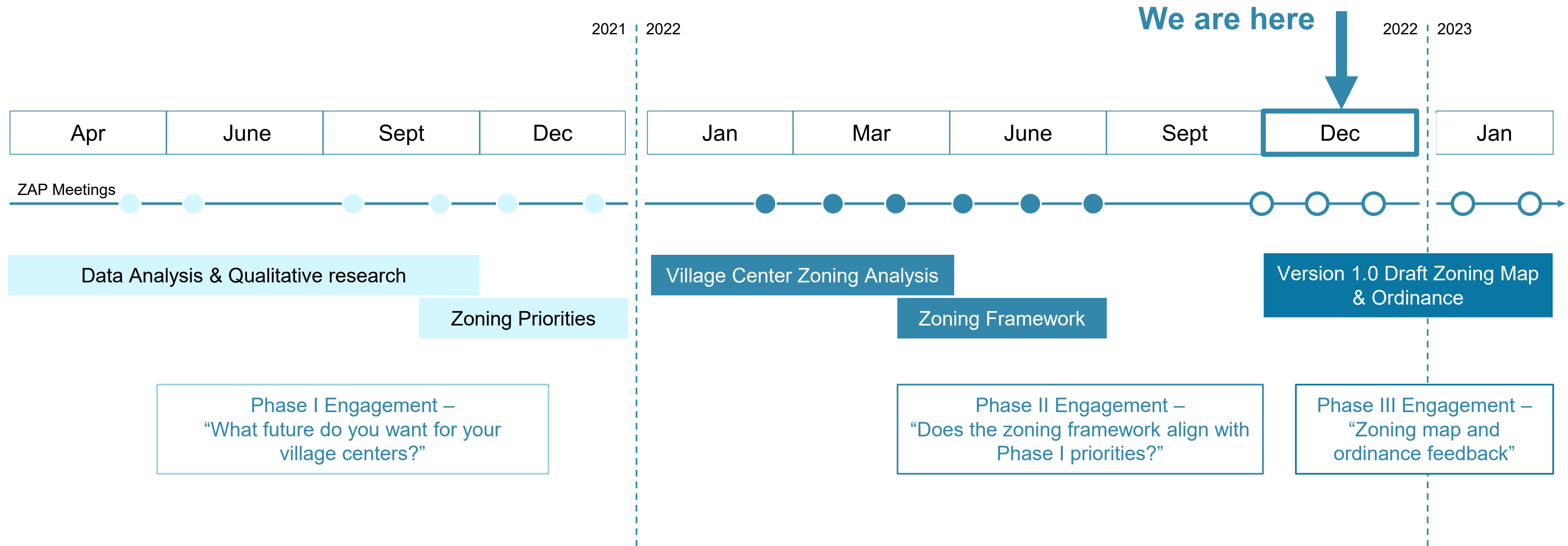
Active and Vibrant Village Centers



Right now, the Newton City Council is considering a set of proposed zoning changes for Newton's village center commercial districts, a set of rules that determines what can be built (the zoning ordinance) and where (the zoning map).

Newton has a strong foundation of diverse and dynamic village centers. However, the current zoning one-size-fits-all format does not recognize this. These draft village center zoning district maps, version 1.0, build upon the successes and uniqueness of each village center, while also guiding development that addresses our current and future needs.

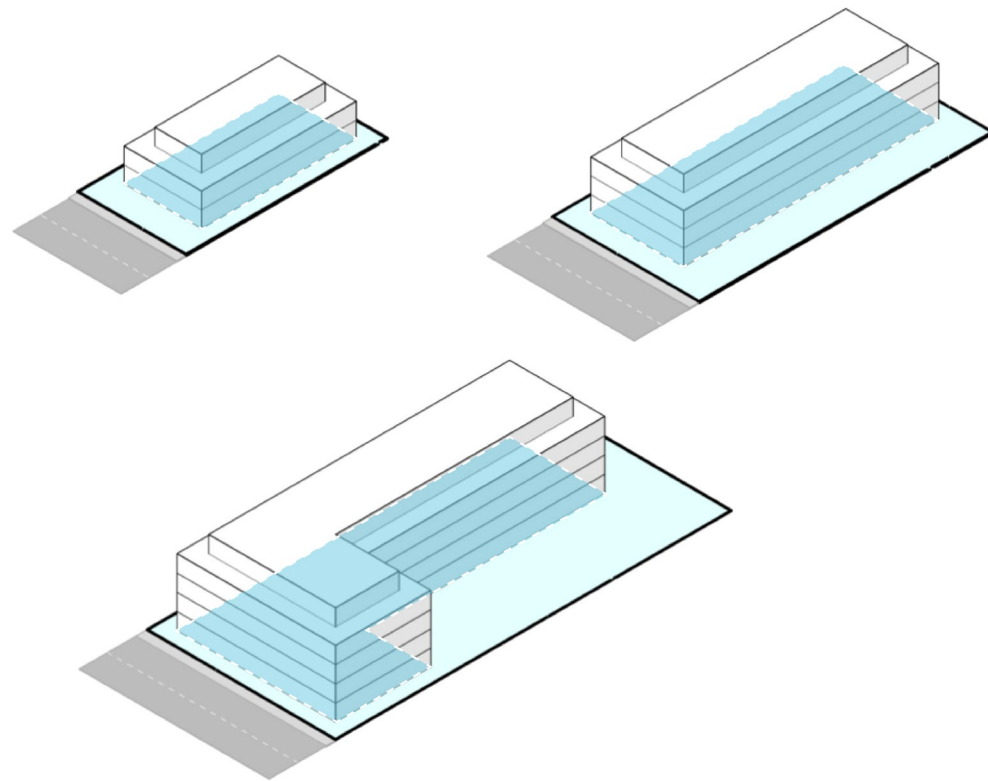
Building Upon A Multi-Year Effort



Regulating Urban Form with Three Principal Mechanisms

1 Building Footprint

Sets the maximum area per story



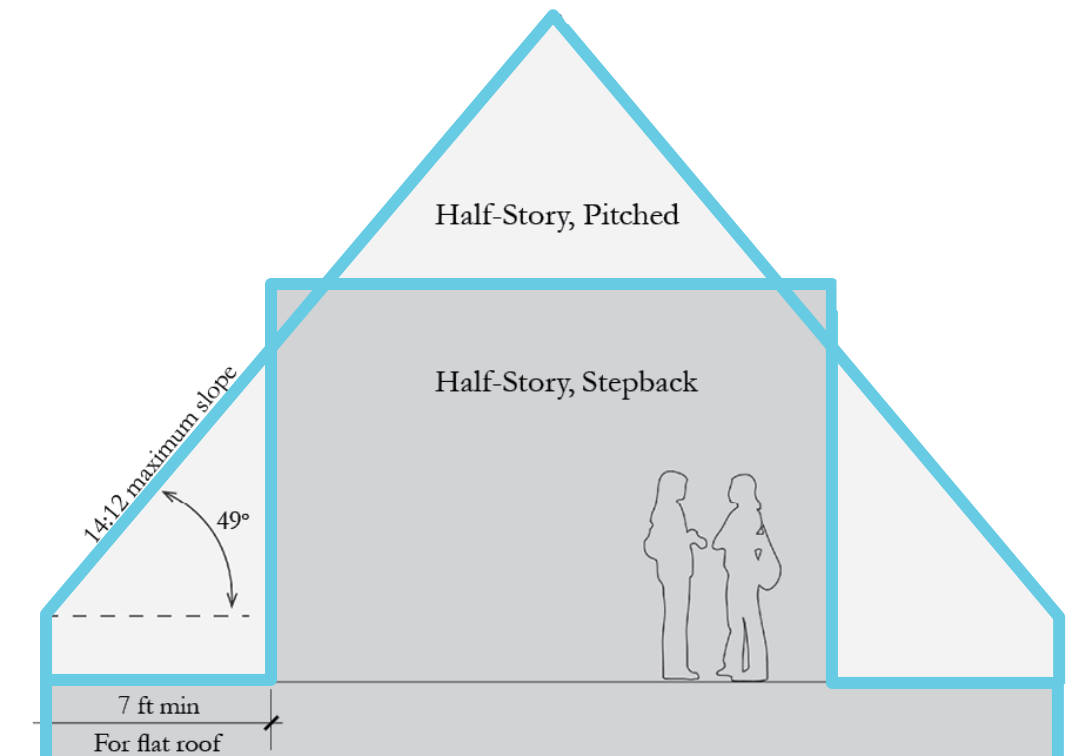
2 Building Height

Sets the maximum height in stories/feet



3 Roof Form

Provides options for a flat or pitched roof half-story



Village Center District Buildings

Village Center 1 (VC1)

2.5 Stories

45 Feet tall, max.

4,000 SF, max. footprint

Residential Primary Use



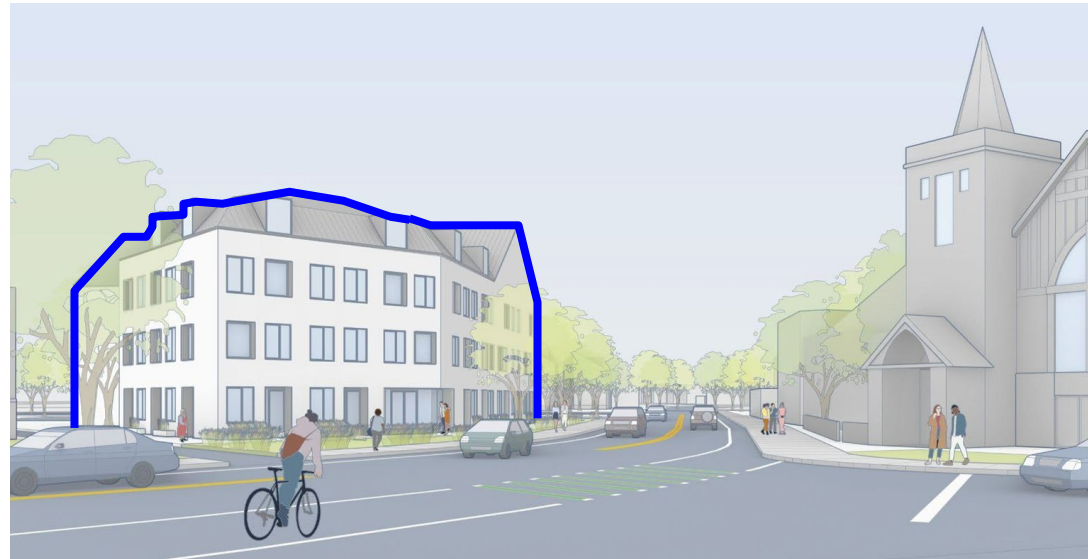
Village Center 2 (VC2)

3.5 Stories

62 Feet tall, max.

10,000 SF, max. footprint

Mixed-Use Primary Use



Village Center 3 (VC3)

4.5 Stories

75 Feet tall, max.

15,000 SF, max. footprint

Mixed-Use Primary Use



Proposed Development

Existing Development

Additional Controls Further Guide New Development

Large Project Review



- Site plan review for projects on sites larger than 20,000 sq. ft.
- Special Permit for projects on sites larger than 30,000 sq. ft.

Height Impact Reduction



- Maximum height set at a half-story
- Height is reduced by one story when the **VC3** abuts a residential zone within 50 feet

Design Standards for All Buildings



- Maximum building length
- Architectural feature incentives (awnings, bay windows, balconies)
- Minimum sidewalk width
- Entry requirements
- Parking located in the back or under

Mapping Principals

The following draft maps for the new Village Center Overlay Districts are intentionally meant to be reviewed and updated going forward.

These version 1.0 maps present a customized approach for each village center based on the following mapping principals:

- Visually analyzing street conditions and patterns through Google Earth and site visits
- Determining zoning, land use, and building type consistencies and inconsistencies
- Matching the proposed village centers zoning districts on both sides of the street where possible
- Stepping down proposed village center districts as they meet the surrounding neighborhoods
- Considering unique conditions to each area, like street access

Newton Lower Falls

Existing Zoning

- Business (BU)
- Manufacturing (LM, M)
- Multi-Residence (MR)
- Single Residence (SR)
- Mixed Use (MU)
- Public Use & Open Space (PU, OS/R)

Proposed Zoning

- Village Center 3 (VC3)**
Category: By-Right / Special Permit
Footprint, max: 15,000 sf / 17,500 sf
Height, max: 4.5 stories
Use: Residential, Commercial, Mixed-Use
- Village Center 2 (VC2)**
Category: By-Right / Special Permit
Footprint, max: 10,000 sf / 12,500 sf
Height, max: 3.5 stories
Use: Residential, Commercial, Mixed-Use
- Village Center 1 (VC1)**
Category: By-Right / Special Permit
Footprint, max: 4,000 sf / 6,000 sf
Height, max: 2.5 stories
Use: Residential / Limited Commercial



Auburndale

Existing Zoning

- Business (BU)
- Manufacturing (LM, M)
- Multi-Residence (MR)
- Single Residence (SR)
- Mixed Use (MU)
- Public Use & Open Space (PU, OS/R)

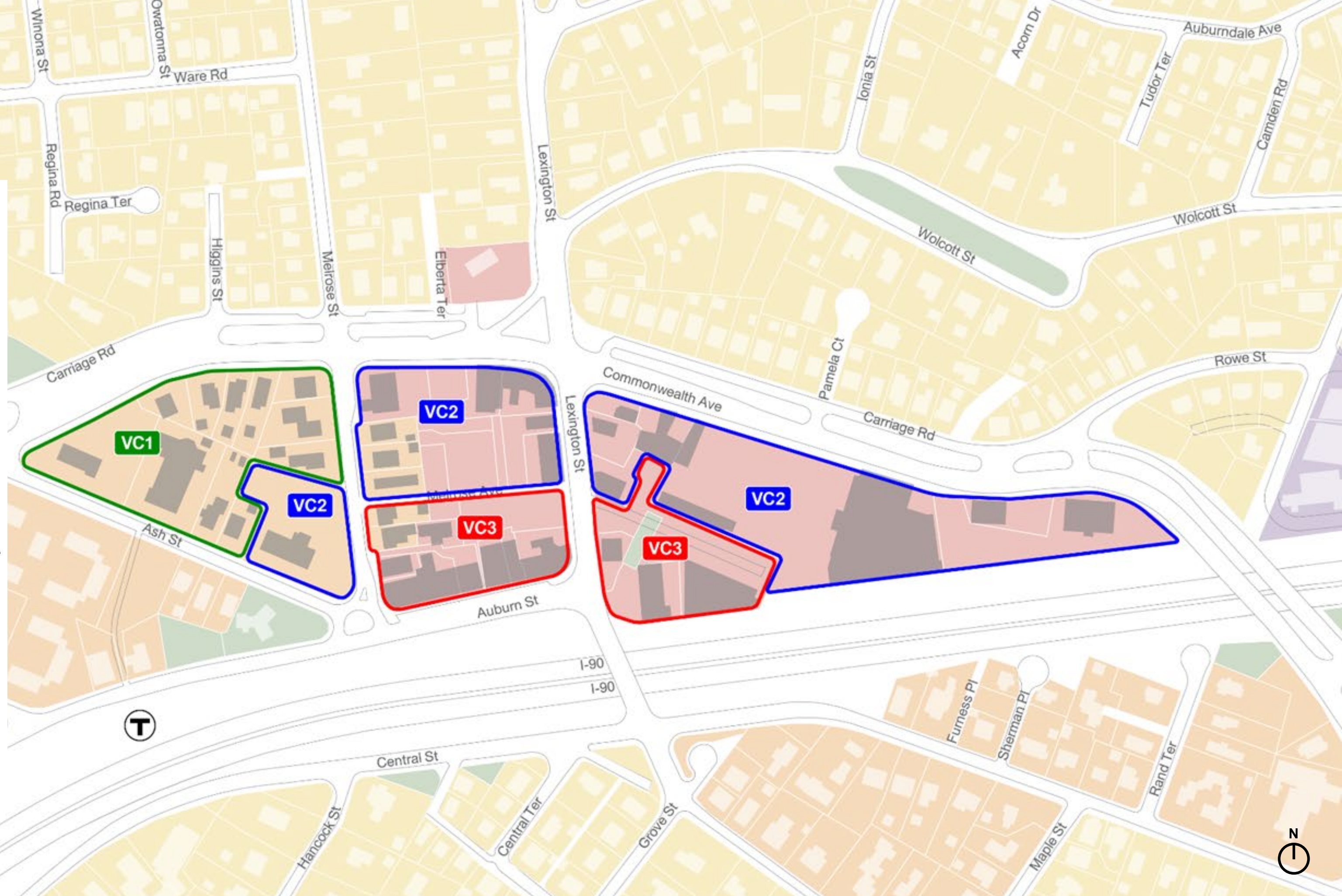
Proposed Zoning

- Village Center 3 (VC3)

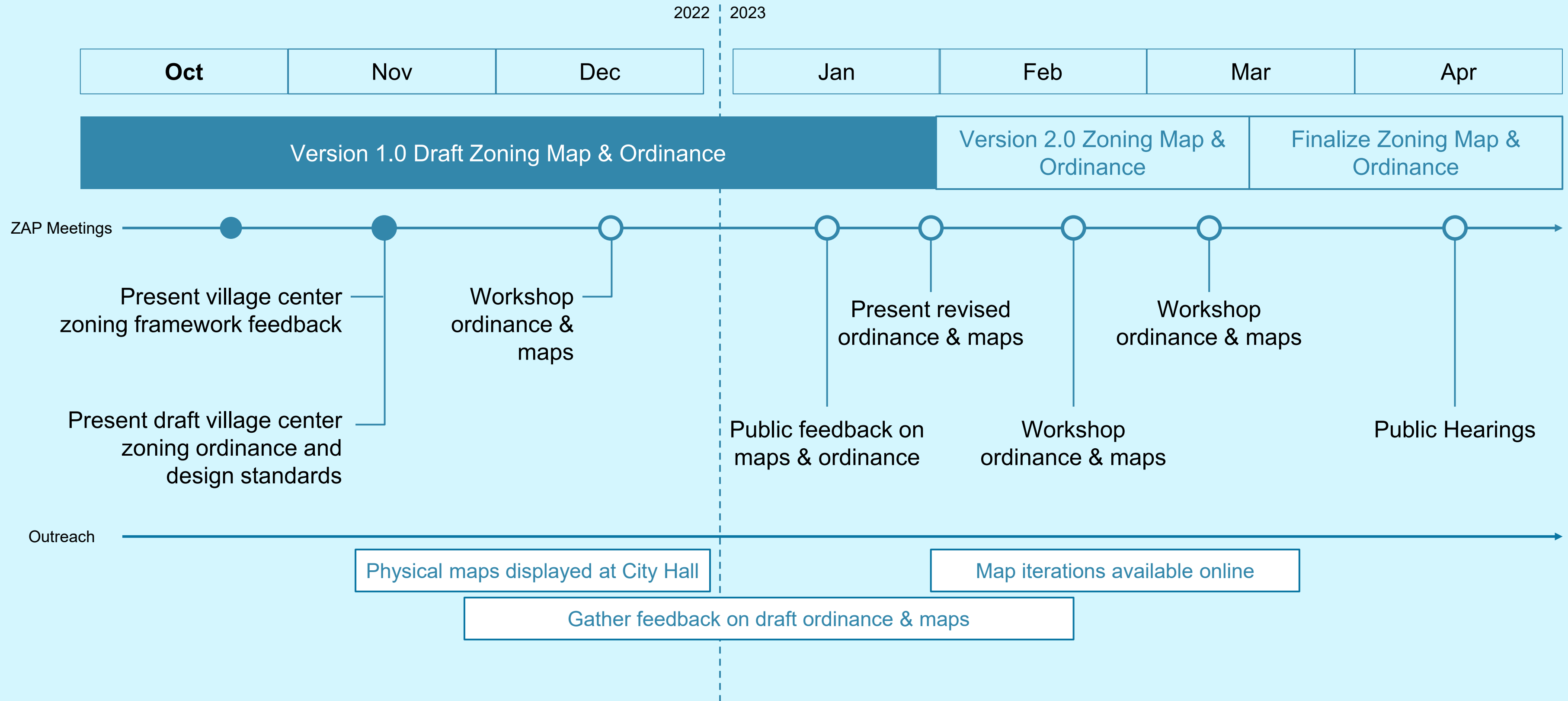
Category	By-Right / Special Permit
Footprint, max:	15,000 sf / 17,500 sf
Height, max:	4.5 stories
Use:	Residential, Commercial, Mixed-Use
- Village Center 2 (VC2)

Category	By-Right / Special Permit
Footprint, max:	10,000 sf / 12,500 sf
Height, max:	3.5 stories
Use:	Residential, Commercial, Mixed-Use
- Village Center 1 (VC1)

Category	By-Right / Special Permit
Footprint, max:	4,000 sf / 6,000 sf
Height, max:	2.5 stories
Use:	Residential / Limited Commercial



Additional Opportunities Ahead to Review Future Proposals



We Want to Hear From You!

Couldn't make the session or were not able to speak? Submit comments using the Google Form by the end of 2022:

<https://newtonma.gov/vcmaps>

Click Here



City of Newton
Zoning & Planning Committee



Thank You!
More information at:

<https://www.newtonma.gov/government/planning/village-centers>