

RECEIVED  
Newton City Clerk

CITY OF NEWTON

2022 MAY 19 PM 12: 26

DOCKET REQUEST FORM

**DEADLINE NOTICE: Council Rules require items to be docketed with the Clerk of the Council NO LATER THAN 7:45 P.M. ON THE MONDAY PRIOR TO A FULL COUNCIL MEETING.**

To: Clerk of the City Council

Date: May 19, 2022

From (Docketer): Lara Kritzer, Community Preservation Program Manager

Address: Planning Department, Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton MA 02459

Phone: 617-796-1144

E-mail: lkritzer@newtonma.gov

Additional sponsors: Community Preservation Committee

1. Please docket the following item (it will be edited for length if necessary):

Recommendation from the Community Preservation Committee that \$133,002 in Community Preservation Act funding be appropriated from the Unrestricted Prior Year Funds to the control of the Planning & Development Department for the completion of the 100% design of the Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Redesign Project in Auburndale.

2. The purpose and intended outcome of this item is:

- Fact-finding & discussion
- Appropriation, transfer,
- Expenditure, or bond authorization
- Special permit, site plan approval,
- Zone change (public hearing required)

- Ordinance change
- Resolution
- License or renewal
- Appointment confirmation
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

3. I recommend that this item be assigned to the following committees:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs & Services          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Property     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zoning & Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety      | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Facilities            | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use           | <input type="checkbox"/> No Opinion        |

4. This item should be taken up in committee:

- Immediately (Emergency only, please). Please state nature of emergency:

\_\_\_\_\_

- As soon as possible, preferably within a month
- In due course, at discretion of Committee Chair
- When certain materials are made available, as noted in 7 & 8 on reverse
- Following public hearing

PLEASE FILL OUT BOTH SIDES

5. I estimate that consideration of this item will require approximately:

- One half hour or less
- More than one hour
- More than one meeting
- Up to one hour
- An entire meeting
- Extended deliberation by subcommittee

6. The following people should be notified and asked to attend deliberations on this item. (Please check those with whom you have already discussed the issue, especially relevant Department Heads):

City personnel

Citizens (include telephone numbers/email please)

Lara Kritzer

\_\_\_\_\_

Barney Heath

\_\_\_\_\_

Nicole Freedman

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. The following background materials and/or drafts should be obtained or prepared by the Clerk's office prior to scheduling this item for discussion:

8. I  have or  intend to provide additional materials and/or undertake the following research independently prior to scheduling the item for discussion. \*

CPC Funding Recommendation and the City's CPA funding proposal for additional funding for the Commonwealth Avenue Cariageway Redesign Project.

(\*Note to docketer: Please provide any additional materials beyond the foregoing to the Clerk's office by 2 p.m. on Friday before the upcoming Committee meeting when the item is scheduled to be discussed so that Councilors have a chance to review all relevant materials before a scheduled discussion.)

Please check the following:

- 9.  I would like to discuss this item with the Chairman before any decision is made on how and when to proceed.
- 10.  I would like the Clerk's office to contact me to confirm that this item has been docketed. My daytime phone number is:
- 11.  I would like the Clerk's office to notify me when the Chairman has scheduled the item for discussion.

Thank you.

Lara Kritzer  
Signature of person docketing the item

[Please retain a copy for your own records]



Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts  
Department of Planning and Development  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

**336-22**

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Barney S. Heath  
Director

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## Community Preservation Committee Funding Recommendation for Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Redesign

**Date:** May 19, 2022  
**From:** Community Preservation Committee  
**To:** The Honorable City Council  
**CC:** Her Honor Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

### PROJECT GOALS & ELIGIBILITY

This proposal requests additional funding to complete the 100% design for the new pedestrian and bicycle paths which will replace the north carriageway of Commonwealth Avenue between Lyons Field and the Charles River Bridge in Auburndale. The project received \$390,000 in Recreation category funding in November 2020 to begin the design work and hired consultants Howard Stein Hudson to complete the 100% design for the new greenway and pedestrian space. An unanticipated issue with the intersection of Ash Street and Commonwealth Avenue, however, required the consultants to attend additional meetings and develop additional design alternatives for the intersection for review by the neighborhood, City and MassDOT. As a result, the project is now running short of funding and needs the requested CPA funds in order to complete the 100% design work. In addition, MassDOT has moved the project construction from FY25 to FY23, increasing the need for the 100% design work to be completed as scheduled.

The project's goal is to increase the amount of usable green space in this section of Commonwealth Avenue and to link existing 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). An additional goal is to increase the visibility of, and access to, the historic boathouse on the Charles River and improve transit access in the area by upgrading bus stops and pedestrian crossings.

The project is eligible for CPA funding for the creation of a Recreation resource.

### RECOMMENDED FUNDING

At its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 10, the Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommended, with a vote of 8 to 0, the appropriation of \$133,002 in Community Preservation Act funding from the Unrestricted Prior Year Funds to the control of the Planning & Development Department to provide additional funding to complete the 100% design of the Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Redesign in Auburndale.

[www.newtonma.gov/cpa](http://www.newtonma.gov/cpa)

Lara Kritzer, Community Preservation Program Manager

[lkritzer@newtonma.gov](mailto:lkritzer@newtonma.gov) 617.796.1144

Proposed CPA Fund Account for the Commonwealth Ave. Carriageway Redesign Additional Funding			
Account Name	Account Number	Amount Currently Available in Account	Proposed Amount for Project
Unrestricted Prior Year Funds	#5800-3599	\$4,733,063	\$133,002
Total Project Funds			\$133,002

**SPECIAL ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE CPC**

**Funding leverage & project costs:** The CPC recognized and appreciated the tremendous leveraging of CPA funding achieved by this project. Including both the current proposal and original funding, CPA funds account for only 8.6% of the overall project budget. The over \$6 million project has already been awarded full construction funding in the MassDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program budget and the construction has recently been moved from FY25 to FY23. In addition to the previous CPA funding for the project, the City received \$47,900 from the Solomon Fund to complete the conceptual plan and spent another \$200,000 to complete the 25% design for the project.

**Community spaces & services:** This project creates an entirely new recreational resource for the City by converting an existing traffic lane and its surrounding right-of-way lands into a developed bicycle and pedestrian pathway that will provide a critical link to other existing pathway systems. The original proposal noted that this is the only section of Commonwealth Avenue where the northern carriageway is not already a limited access roadway that is widely used by pedestrians and bicyclists. The project creates a safe path system along Commonwealth Avenue for pedestrians and bicyclists which will provide increased accessibility to Weston’s proposed bike path and link Newton’s existing trails to the north and south of this project.

**Project Timeline:** When the project was originally funded in 2020, MassDOT had planned to begin construction in FY25 but has since decided to move the work forward to FY23. The City is working closely with the consultants and MassDOT to ensure that the 100% design work is completed on time and expect to be ready to begin construction next year. Completing the 100% design is the last work on the project which the City is responsible for and is crucial to having the construction completed by MassDOT.

**Accessibility:** This project proposes to improve accessibility in this area of Newton by creating accessible pedestrian and bicycle paths which are fully separated from vehicular traffic along Commonwealth Avenue.

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS** *(funding conditions)*

1. The additional funding will continue to be used to pay for the services of a consultant to complete the 100% design of the redesigned carriageway space.
2. Any interim plans or designs will be shared with the CPC for public posting on the CPC’s website.
3. The applicant should also be prepared to update the CPC at regular intervals as requested on the status of the project.
4. The CPC shall receive copies of all relevant plans, drawings, schematics, budget and marketing materials, etc. associated with the use of the CPA funding. The Applicant will also be expected to present these materials at a meeting of the CPC for their review and approval before the final funds are released and/or the project is considered complete.

5. All recommended CPA funds should be appropriated by the City Council within six (6) months and expended within two (2) years of the date of any CPC recommendation. If either deadline cannot be met, the applicant should request a written extension from the CPC, which the CPC may grant at its discretion.
6. Any CPA funds appropriated but not used for the purposes stated herein shall be returned to the Newton Community Preservation Fund.

#### KEY OUTCOMES

The Community Preservation Committee will evaluate this project based on its success in completing the 100% design for the new bicycle and pedestrian pathways in place of the northern carriageway of Commonwealth Avenue in a manner which meets the neighborhood and City's transportation and recreation goals for the area and on time for MassDOT construction in Fy23.

#### ATTACHMENTS

- 2022 Proposal and selected attachments submitted to the CPC for the May 10, 2022 review

Additional information not attached to this recommendation, including petitions and letters of support, are available on the CPC's website at:

<https://www.newtonma.gov/government/planning/community-preservation-program/proposals-projects/commonwealth-avenue-carriageway-redesign-project>

**Newton, Massachusetts Community Preservation Program  
FUNDING REQUEST**

(For staff use)  
date rec'd:

City of Newton



Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

PRE-PROPOSAL       PROPOSAL

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](http://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](mailto: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.

<b>Project TITLE</b>	<b>Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Redesign Additional Funding</b>		
<b>Project LOCATION</b>	Full street address (with zip code), or other precise location. Commonwealth Avenue (Lyons Field to Charles River Bridge)		
<b>Project CONTACTS</b>	Name & title or organization	Email	Phone      Mailing address
<b>Project Manager</b>	Nicole Freedman Director of Transp. Planning, City of Newton	<a href="mailto:nfreedman@newtonma.gov">nfreedman@newtonma.gov</a>	617-879-8148      1000 Comm Avenue, Newton, MA 02459
<b>Other Contacts</b>	Barney Heath, Director of Planning & Development, City of Newton	<a href="mailto:bheath@newtonma.gov">bheath@newtonma.gov</a>	617-796-1131      1000 Comm Avenue, Newton, MA 02459
<b>Project FUNDING</b>	<b>A. CPA funds requested:</b> \$ 133,002	<b>B. Other funds to be used:</b> \$ 5,928,000	<b>C. Total project cost (A+B):</b> \$ 6,061,002
<b>Project SUMMARY</b>	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>Funding Request - The CPA recently provided the Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Redesign Project \$390,000 for design, to take the project from 25% design to final design. The City respectfully requests an additional \$133,002 in design funding to complete the design process. Since submission of the 25% design, there has been additional coordination required due to a scope change at Ash Street where the existing signal was deemed to be unwarranted by MassDOT. In working with the residents and MassDOT, the City needed to design a new alternative for Ash Street, as well as carry two alternatives through the 25% design process. This has been important, but unexpected work that is critical to maintaining and ensuring community support for the project. The requested additional funding will cover services required to perform the out-of-scope work performed on the additional alternatives and will enable the City to finish the design process and be constructed on time. The project is currently scheduled to start construction in Spring 2023.</p> <p>Project Summary - The project will redesign a critical compromised segment of the Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway from Lyons Field to the Marriot driveway. 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 and Weston's planned shared use path on Commonwealth Ave from Newton to Natick, c) increase visibility and access to the Charles River at the historic boathouse d) 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. Between Lyons Field and the Charles River bridge, however, the Carriageway assumes a compromised form, carrying the westbound vehicular traffic as it approaches Highway 195 and 190. The project will reroute the westbound vehicular traffic south of the median, allowing the Carriageway to again support biking and walking.</p> <p>MassDOT has fully funded construction of this project with \$5,900,000. Construction has been moved up to FY23 from FY25 with construction planned to start in spring 2023. The project will be constructed in coordination with MassDOT's \$23.8M Project 110980 Newton-Weston-Bridge Rehabilitation South Avenue (Rt. 30) over the Charles River which abuts our project. Both share a project limit of the Marriot Driveway. Constructing these projects in tandem means the Carriageway bike and pedestrian facilities and green space will be carried from Lyons Field, past our project limit at the Marriott, to the bridge over the Charles River. MassDOT has also initiated a new project to look at continuing the bike and pedestrian west beyond the Charles River over 195.</p>			

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

<b>Project TITLE</b>		<b>Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Redesign Additional Funding</b>	
<b>USE of CPA FUNDS</b>		<b>RECREATION</b>	
	create	x	
	rehabilitate/ restore		
<b>COMMUNITY NEEDS</b>	From each of at least 2 plans linked to the <i>Guidelines &amp; Forms</i> page of <a href="http://www.newtonma.gov/cpa">www.newtonma.gov/cpa</a> , 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>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 completed 25% design. The City had previously committed \$24,000 for concept design, which has since been completed. B) MassDOT has committed more than \$5,900,000 to construction in FY2023 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"> <li>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 complete 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”</li> <li>2. MassDOT State Prioritized Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects, FY 2025, Project construction funded. Project ID 610674. (To be posted shortly on MassDOT/MPO website. Project approved by vote at MPO meeting on 5/25)</li> <li>3. Metropolitan Area Planning Council Landline Vision Plan, 2018, Shown on map. <a href="https://trailmap.mapc.org/">https://trailmap.mapc.org/</a> The LandLine is a vision for a continuous trail network throughout the metro-Boston area.</li> <li>4. Newton Open Space and Recreation Plan 2020-2027, 2020, page 153, “81. Create a safe, low-stress bike lane on Commonwealth Avenue Carriage Lane.”</li> </ol>			
<b>COMMUNITY CONTACTS</b>	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.		
	<b>Name &amp; title or organization</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
	Mayor Ruthanne Fuller City of Newton	<a href="mailto:rfuller@newtonma.gov">rfuller@newtonma.gov</a>	617-796-1108 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459
	Herb Nolan Founder Solomon Foundation	<a href="mailto:herbnolan@solomonfoundation.org">herbnolan@solomonfoundation.org</a>	617-875-6861 10 Laurel Ave, Wellesley, MA 02481
	Mike Halle Transportation Advisory Group	<a href="mailto:m@halle.us">m@halle.us</a>	617-721-8585 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 Additional Funding			
<b>SUMMARY CAPITAL/DEVELOPMENT BUDGET</b>					
<b>Uses of Funds</b>					
Concept Design – Complete. 50% paid for by City of Newton. 50% paid for by Solomon Foundation			\$47,900		
25% Design – Complete. Paid for by City of Newton. City is under contract with HSH.			\$200,000		
Final Design – In Process with CPA funding.			\$390,000		
Final Design Amendment – Request of CPA			\$133,002		
Construction – Assigned MassDOT construction funds, FFY2025 via MassDOT’s Bike/Ped program			\$5,900,000		
			\${amount}		
<b>D. TOTAL USES (should equal C. on page 1 and E. below)</b>			<b>\$6,670,902</b>		
<b>Sources of Funds</b>		<b>Status</b> (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)		Confirmed	\$390,000		
CPA Funding (Amendment)		Request	\$133,002		
MassDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program (Construction)		Confirmed	\$5,900,000		
<b>E. TOTAL SOURCES (should equal C. on page 1 and D. above)</b>			<b>\$6,670,902</b>		
<b>SUMMARY ANNUAL OPERATIONS &amp; MAINTENANCE BUDGET (cannot use CPA funds)</b>					
<b>Uses of Funds</b>					
			\${amount}		
			\${amount}		
			\${amount}		
			\${amount}		
<b>F. TOTAL ANNUAL COST (should equal G. below)</b>			<b>\${amount}</b>		
<b>Sources of Funds</b>					
			\${amount}		
			\${amount}		
<b>G. TOTAL ANNUAL FUNDING (should equal F. above)</b>			<b>\${amount}</b>		
<b>Project TIMELINE</b>		<b>Phase or Task</b>		<b>Season &amp; Year</b>	
Concept Design				Complete	
25% Design				Complete	
Final Design				In Process	
Construction				2023	



Project TITLE		Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Redesign Additional Funding	
↓ 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		
		<b>Development pro forma/capital budget:</b> 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) <b>Operating/maintenance budget, projected separately for each of the next 10 years</b> (CPA funds may not be used for operations or maintenance)	
		<b>Non-CPA funding:</b> commitment letters, letters of inquiry to other funders, fundraising plans, etc., including both cash and est. dollar value of in-kind contributions	
		<b>Purchasing of goods &amp; services:</b> briefly summarize sponsor's understanding of applicable state statutes and City policies	
REQUIRED for all full proposals.	SPONSOR FINANCES & QUALIFICATIONS, INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT		
		<b>For sponsoring department or organization, most recent annual operating budget</b> (revenue & expenses) & <b>financial statement</b> (assets & liabilities); each must include both public (City) and private resources ("friends" organizations, fundraising, etc.)	
		<b>For project manager: relevant training &amp; track record</b> of managing similar projects	
REQUIRED for all full proposals involving City govt., 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
	DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION		
	X	Professional design & cost estimates: include site plan, floor plans & elevations	
OPTIONAL for all proposals.		LETTERS of SUPPORT	from Newton residents, organizations, or businesses