



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Agenda

City of Newton **In City Council**

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

7:00 PM

The Public Safety & Transportation Committee will hold this meeting as a virtual meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87495057405> or call 1 646 558 8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 874 9505 7405

Items Scheduled for Discussion:

Chair's Note: The Committee will meet jointly with the Public Facilities Committee at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the following three items. The link to the Public Facilities Committee Agenda is above.

Referred to Public Facilities and Public Safety & Transportation Committees

- #391-20 Adoption of a Vision Zero Resolution**
COUNCILORS BOWMAN, DOWNS, AUCHINCLOSS, KELLEY, LEARY, MARKIEWICZ, GROSSMAN, LIPOF, NOEL, DANBERG, AND HUMPHREY requesting the adoption of a Vision Zero resolution by the City Council in recognition that no loss of life or serious injury is acceptable on our city streets and that a systematic, data driven approach will achieve higher levels of safety and better ensure equity.

The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.

It is the Chair's intention to entertain a motion to vote No Action Necessary on the following one (1) item:

Referred to Public Facilities and Public Safety & Transportation Committees

#361-20 **Discussion on Vision Zero plan for resident safety**
COUNCILORS BOWMAN, DOWNS, AUCHINCLOSS, HUMPHREY, NOEL, ALBRIGHT, DANBERG, KALIS, GREENBERG AND RYAN requesting a discussion of Vision Zero with the Planning Department, Department of Public Works, Newton Police Department and the Newton Fire Department in recognition that no loss of life or serious injury is acceptable on our city streets and that a systematic, data driven approach will achieve higher levels of safety and better ensure equity.

Chair's Note: The Public Facilities and Public Safety & Transportation Committees will hear from Transportation Director, Jason Sobel about changes within 1500 feet of schools made this summer in response to COVID restrictions on school bus capacity.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacob D. Auchincloss, Chair

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Newton City Clerk

CITY OF NEWTON

DOCKET REQUEST FORM

2020 SEP 28 PM 3:38
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
Newton, MA 02459

Date: 9/22/20

From (Docketer): Councilor Bowman

Address: 19 Chestnut Terr Newton Centre MA 02459

Phone: 617-257-8270

E-mail: abowman@newtonma.gov

Additional sponsors: see below

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

COUNCILORS BOWMAN, DOWNS, AUCHINCLOSS, KELLEY, LEARY, MARKIEWICZ, GROSSMAN, LIPOF, DANBERG, NOEL, and HUMPHREY requesting the adoption of a Vision Zero resolution by the City Council in recognition that no loss of life or serious injury is acceptable on our city streets and that a systematic, data driven approach will achieve higher levels of safety and better ensure equity.

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 type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Property |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning & Planning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Committee |
| <input checked="" 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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> One half hour or less | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Up to one hour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More than one hour | <input type="checkbox"/> An entire meeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More than one meeting | <input type="checkbox"/> 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)

☐ Jason Sobel☐ _____☐ Nicole Freedman☐ _____☐ Chief Mintz☐ _____☐ Chief Lucchetti☐ _____☐ _____☐ _____

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. *

Vision Zero policies of other communities

(*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.

Alicia Bowman

Signature of person docketing the item

[Please retain a copy for your own records]

A proposal for a Vision Zero Resolution by The Newton City Council

What is Vision Zero? *"Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. First implemented in Sweden in the 1990s, Vision Zero has proved successful across Europe — and now it's gaining momentum in major American cities. Vision Zero starts with the ethical belief that everyone has the right to move safely in their communities, and that system designers and policy makers share the responsibility to ensure safe systems for travel."* - from Vision Zero Network website

Why is Vision Zero important? Traffic deaths and serious injuries are mostly preventable. **Vision Zero is commitment to a systematic, data driven approach to achieve higher levels of safety and ensure equity.** Saving lives is not expensive especially when compared to cost of crashes in terms of life and property damage. On this last point, the numbers are shocking. According to the US Department of Transportation, nearly 40,000 people died from vehicle crashes in 2019. (<https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/early-estimates-2019-motor-vehicle-traffic-data-show-reduced-fatalities-third>) In 2014 there was an \$871 billion economic and societal impact faced by U.S. citizens because of vehicle crashes alone.

<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812013> Of particular concern is the increase in pedestrian and cyclist deaths in the U.S. over the last five years. A recent report from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found more pedestrians and cyclists were killed in the US last year than in any year since 1990; approximately 17 pedestrians and two cyclists were killed each day. While overall traffic deaths may be declining, pedestrian fatalities are up 3.4 percent year-over-year and cyclist fatalities are up 6.3 percent. <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812826>

Adopting a Vision Zero resolution is a key next step in moving forward with people-oriented transportation in Newton. We would be joining the Massachusetts communities of Boston, Cambridge and Somerville in formally adopting Vision Zero policies. In addition, being a VZ community may qualify Newton to apply for additional grants, ones specifically aimed at VZ communities.

Lastly, it is important to understand the connection of safer streets to meeting climate and sustainability goals. Implementing Vision Zero is a way to improve safety, healthy activity and air quality, while also lessening traffic, traffic noise and reducing green gas house emissions. It also allows the city to better budget for scarce resources.

EXAMPLES of Vision Zero Resolutions

Alexandria VA adopts VZ and calls for city staff to develop an action plan and provide regular reports

https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/localmotion/info/16-5940_Attachment%201%20Resolution.pdf

San Francisco CA: Adopts VZ and resolves for City action to implement VZ

<https://visionzerosf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/BOS-VZ-Resolution.pdf>

Los Angeles CA: Executive Directive to Adopt VZ and setting up task force and short- and long-term actions

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/mayorofla/pages/17070/attachments/original/1440454405/Mayor_Garcetti_File_Executive_Directive_10_Vision_Zero.pdf?1440454405

Portland OR: Adopts VZ and establishes a VZ committee that reports to City Council

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/545880>

DRAFT Vision Zero Resolution

WHEREAS, the life, health and safety of Newton's residents are our utmost priority; and

WHEREAS, "Vision Zero" refers to the concept that there is no acceptable number of traffic deaths and serious injuries on our roadways; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newton recognizes that no one should die or be seriously injured while travelling on our city streets; and

WHEREAS, children and seniors face a disproportionate risk of traffic injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities face many impediments and serious safety concerns in traveling through Newton; and

WHEREAS, the number of seniors and people with disabilities along with the number of people who do not drive are expected to increase in coming years; and

WHEREAS, people walking and bicycling represent a disproportionate number of traffic injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, people who traverse some sections of the city face a disproportionate risk due to street networks designed to move large volumes of traffic at higher speeds and higher speeds are directly correlated to higher crash rates and higher death and injury rates; and

WHEREAS, racial justice and economic justice demand equity for those who rely on sidewalks, bicycles and public transportation and

WHEREAS, Newton has had an active Safe Routes to Schools Task Force since 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Newton Public Schools encourage walking, bicycling, school bus/van, car pool, and other means of mass transit to access school buildings as part of their wellness policies, and

WHEREAS, the City of Newton has adopted increasing bike/pedestrian travel as a goal in the Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newton's Open Space and Recreation Plan lists better bicycle and pedestrian access to Newton's open space resources "CONNECTIVITY" as a key goal especially for populations with limited access to open space; and

WHEREAS, safer streets have been shown to significantly increase walking and biking; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newton lists SAFETY and ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION as key goals in the Newton Leads 2040/A Transportation Strategy with adopting Vision Zero as a key action, and

WHEREAS, adopting a systematic and data driven approach will achieve higher levels of safety and ensure equity and

WHEREAS, the City of Newton adopted a Complete Streets policy and has an active Complete Streets Working Group since 2016 and has developed a process to evaluate traffic calming requests; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newton has adopted a lower statutory speed limit of 25 mph to reduce crashes and severity of crashes; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a Vision Zero Resolution in 2015 citing overwhelming support for such policy according to a AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety 2014 survey of drivers and in support of USDOT Safer People, Safer Streets program; and

WHEREAS, cities across the country are taking significant action on improving the safety of transportation networks for all people, including those who walk, bike, take public transportation and drive, including adopting formal Vision Zero policies.

WHEREAS Lastly, it is important to understand the connection of safer streets to meeting climate and sustainability goals. Implementing Vision Zero is a way to improve safety, healthy activity and air quality, while also lessening traffic, traffic noise and reducing green gas house emissions. It also allows the city to better budget for scarce resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Newton adopts the goal of Vision Zero - that no loss of life is acceptable on our city streets and that Vision Zero plays an important part in Newton becoming more equitable, accessible and sustainable;

and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that

The Mayor and City Council will appoint a Vision Zero Task Force comprised of city staff, City Council members and key stakeholders including Transportation Advisory Group, Council on Aging, Commission on Disability, Safe Routes to School, Bike Newton and other residents

The Task Force will develop the Vision Zero Policy and Vision Zero Action Plan

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2020 AUG 26 PM 3:34

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: 8/24/2020From (Docketer): Councilor BowmanAddress: 19 Chestnut Terr Newton Centre MA 02459Phone: 617-257-8270E-mail: abowman@newtonma.govAdditional sponsors: Councilors Downs & Auchincloss

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

COUNCILORS BOWMAN, DOWNS AND AUCHINCLOSS requesting a discussion of Vision Zero with The Planning Department, The Department of Public Works, Newton Police Department and the Newton Fire Department in recognition that no loss of life or serious injury is acceptable on our city streets and that a systematic, data driven approach will achieve higher levels of safety and better ensure equity.

*King, Norton, Noel, Albright, Danberg, Kalis
Greenberg, Ryan*

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- | | |
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Citizens (include telephone numbers/email please)

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Thank you.

Alicia Bowman

Signature of person docketing the item

[Please retain a copy for your own records]

Danielle Delaney

From: Danielle Delaney
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 1:52 PM
To: Danielle Delaney
Subject: FW: NAN item?

From: Alicia Bowman <abowman@newtonma.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 1:15 PM
To: Danielle Delaney <ddelaney@newtonma.gov>
Subject: Re: NAN item?

361-20 can be NAN Thanks.



Alicia Bowman
Councilor at Large, Ward 6 (Newton Centre & Newton Highlands)
City of Newton, Massachusetts
abowman@newtonma.gov
617-257-8270

From: Danielle Delaney <ddelaney@newtonma.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 11:55 AM
To: Alicia Bowman <abowman@newtonma.gov>
Subject: NAN item?

Hi Alicia,
This is the older item....can PS&T and PF vote NAN on this item?

#361-20

Discussion on Vision Zero plan for resident safety

COUNCILORS BOWMAN, DOWNS, AUCHINCLOSS, HUMPHREY, NOEL, ALBRIGHT, DANBERG, KALIS, GREENBERG AND RYAN requesting a discussion of Vision Zero with the Planning Department, Department of Public Works, Newton Police Department and the Newton Fire Department in recognition that no loss of life or serious injury is acceptable on our city streets and that a systematic, data driven approach will achieve higher levels of safety and better ensure equity.

Thank you
Danielle

Danielle Delaney
Committee Clerk
City Council