Transportation in Newton

April 3, 2014
Relevant LWV Positions

• Land Use
  Smart Growth

• Planning
  Comprehensive Plan, Open Space Plan, etc

• Environmental
  GHG emissions, climate change
Concurrence Proposal 1

• Safety First

Safe travel should be the first priority in transportation policies. City investments and enforcement strategies should be based on the principle of “safety first” so that everyone (from children to seniors, and including pedestrians, bicyclists and scooter riders) feels safe, and so that all road users practice safe travel behavior.
Concurrence Proposal 2

- Consistency
  
  Newton transportation practices, policies, investments, and decisions, will be consistent with and support the City of Newton’s public plans and goals, including the 2010 Comprehensive Plan.
Transportation = 30% of our carbon footprint
Mode of Transport

National Household Travel Survey (2009)

- Car, truck: 84.40%
- Transit: 10.40%
- Walk: 4.20%
- Bike: 1.00%

http://nhts.ornl.gov
Trends in Mode of Transport

2001
- Car, truck: 87.76%
- Transit: 1.41%
- Walk: 9.11%
- Bike: 0.44%

2009
- Car, truck: 84.4%
- Transit: 10.4%
- Walk: 4.2%
- Bike: 1%

http://nhts.ornl.gov
Cars & trucks

- Streets built for one use
- Many short trips driven

Trip Purpose (US)

- Social/Rec
- Work
- Family/personal business
- School/church
The population has been stable for decades, while the number of cars on our roads has increased significantly.
Vehicle Traffic is High Throughout the Day

Figure 12. Distribution of Vehicle Trips by Trip Purpose and Start Time of Trip
2009 NHTS.

Transportation Costs Are High as a % of Disposable Income

- Housing, $1,540
- Transportation, $1,020
- Health Care, $350
- Student Loans, $280
- Entertainment, $175
- Food, $145
- Clothing, $120
- Other, $170

Sources: Various sources including 2012 report by Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2013 Gallop Poll, 2012 Driving Cost Study by AAA
How many people can fit in a road?
Adding safe transportation options
Enhancing Village Centers

After redesign:

49% ↑ in retail sales on 9th Ave in Manhattan.

Safer walking and bicycling mean more customers for local business.
National Trends

- Millennials are driving less
- Transit use is rising rapidly
- Bicycling (and bike share) is growing
30% of Newton residents do not drive
All vehicle crashes in Newton 2007-12
\[ n = 368 \]

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Bicycle/Pedestrian Crashes in Newton

May 1, 2010 – May 1, 2011
• 52 Pedestrian
• 38 Bicycle

May 1, 2011 – May 1, 2012
• 47 Pedestrian
• 27 Bicycle

Source: Newton Police Department
Where do bicycle crashes occur?
Speed & Safety

Slowing traffic improves safety for ALL road users

![Graph showing the probability of pedestrian fatality vs. vehicle speed]
Options
Non-Motorized Transportation
(FWHA funded Pilot Program, 4 communities)

• Four years after improvements made:
  • 22% ↑ in walking
  • 49% ↑ in bicycling
Choices:

This?

Or this?
Thanks

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• Jackie Douglas
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Questions?