

Newton Corner Long-Term Planning Study - Draft Evaluation Criteria

Goals / Objectives	Evaluation Criteria ^a
Improve Access, Safety, and Mobility for All	
› Enhance the safety of the transportation system for all users.	› Potential reduction in the frequency and severity of crashes. › Reduction in conflict points
› Facilitate access to transit options.	› Accessible, safe, and direct access within ¼-mile of existing or potential relocated transit options.
› Balance travel delays for all roadway users, prioritizing non-auto modes.	› Shortens vehicle, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian travel times and improve reliability/operations.
› Protect the integrity of the I-90 corridor and parallel railroad tracks as major east-west regional connections.	› Maintains or improves operations and capacity on I-90 and the parallel railroad right of way.
› Leverage and improve upon the transportation system to close social and economic equity gaps.	› Provides equal or improved access, safety, and mobility to environmental justice (EJ) populations relative to public at large.
Reconnect Newton's Neighborhoods	
› Reconnect neighborhoods currently isolated by the Newton Corner interchange.	› New multimodal connections created across Newton Corner and the I-90 corridor and increased placemaking and cohesion with the urban landscape.
› Improve travel experience for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders.	› Quality, location, comfort, safety, and connectivity of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit accommodations.
› Capitalize on the presence of existing regional pedestrian and bicycle facilities and recreational resources.	› New and improved safe and comfortable connections to existing regional facilities and resources.
› Create direct regional north/south connections for all users.	› More direct low-stress connections created.
› Promote placemaking/placekeeping opportunities and support a welcoming urban environment through the lens of equity.	› Increased opportunities for public open space, green space or public art in locations benefiting EJ and/or Title VI populations.

Newton Corner Long-Term Planning Study - Draft Evaluation Criteria (continued)

Goals / Objectives	Evaluation Criteria ^a
Enhance Quality of Life	
› Ensure that the benefits of the study area transportation assets and related resources are distributed equitably.	› Environmental effects (air and/or water quality improvements, noise reduction) and social effects (improved connectivity, increased economic activity, extreme heat mitigation) in EJ populations compared to non-EJ populations.
› Minimize impacts to residential neighborhoods from the externalities of I-90 transportation demands.	› Effects on community cohesion/disruption or division (qualitative). › Increase/decrease of potential cut-through traffic.
› Minimize public health and environmental impacts and take opportunities to improve related outcomes.	› Effects on factors linked to local public health outcomes. › Effects on the quality of local natural resources, historic and archaeological resources, and oil and hazardous materials.
› Enhance economic opportunities within the study area aligned with local, regional, and statewide goals.	› Supports local, regional, and state economic opportunity goals through improved transportation access to jobs, businesses, and other opportunities.
› Support local, regional, and state-wide land use and open space plans.	› Advances local, regional, and state land use and open space priorities through improved transportation access.
Promote Sustainable Transportation Solutions	
› Create solutions that include climate change mitigation measures.	› Extent of potential GHG emissions reduction, green infrastructure, reduction in flood vulnerability (where applicable), and urban heat islands.
› Improve resilience of the transportation network to localized risks associated with worsening impacts of climate change.	› Levels of improvement to the study area's ability to mitigate or adapt to future climate change.
› Further the transition to clean transportation modes to mitigate climate change while enabling improved community health indicators and greater health equity.	› Magnitude of existing and new proposed active transportation or micromobility infrastructure and/or points of connection to transit service. › Provides for new electric vehicle charging stations or other zero-emission fueling stations.
› Align the project with local climate mitigation initiatives as well as the Commonwealth's '2050 Decarbonization Roadmap', associated 'Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030', and '2023 ResilientMass Plan'.	› Degree to which alternative advances local, regional, and state emissions targets.

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Develop Actionable Recommendations	
› Create solutions that have demonstrated support from the public and host communities.	› Public and host communities support for solutions.
› Identify projects that are cost-effective based on return on investment relating to the other study goals and objectives.	› Planning level capital and operating costs.

^a Evaluation criteria that are more qualitative in nature have been identified throughout.