

The Reformer

A Community Newspaper from Ken Parker for Newton Mayor

Mayoral Candidate Ken Parker Addresses Newton



ALDERMAN PARKER addressing Newton residents

Inside this
Edition:

Ken Parker advocates
for Newton's
Commuters.

Commuter Rail

Suggested Mass Pike Corridor Commuter Rail Improvements

NEWTON'S EXISTING commuter rail access can be improved by enhancing the frequency of service and by improving our commuter rail stations. New stations can be planned for Riverside and for Newton Corner, both important transportation nodes and intermodal hubs of activity.

Newton Corner has the potential for becoming a more transit oriented and pedestrian friendly village by extending electric trolleybus service from Cambridge and Watertown into Newton Corner and by adding a stop on the commuter rail line.

In addition, the currently dysfunctional, high-speed automobile roadways that encircle the Turnpike at Newton Corner can be redesigned to improve safety and access for pedestrians and for those using bicycles and public transportation. ●

Making Our Voice Heard

THE CITY of Newton needs to advocate for our transportation interests at the state and regional levels. A Parker Administration will work actively with state agencies so that they prioritize Newton when making transportation decisions. And we need to work towards enhancing our relationships with surrounding communities so that we can better address common transportation goals. ●

A Letter to Newton

Ken Parker

Dear Neighbor,

Like you, I am a strong believer in public transportation. It is a cost-effective, safer and cleaner way to travel around the Boston area. Here in Newton we are close to Boston and fortunate to have access to fantastic transportation resources. Yet, as you likely can appreciate, there are many ways we can improve access to resources like the one you are using today.

That is why I have introduced the Commuter Edition of the Parker for Mayor Reformer. Throughout my 17-year career as an elected official, I have made it a priority to engage Newton residents in the discussion about our community's future. Indeed, our city's greatest natural resource is its people; their ideas and input are invaluable to our future success.

Here in this short paper you will find ideas I have proposed in A Blueprint for Newton's Future to improve public

transportation, bicycle accommodation and pedestrian access in Newton. The Blueprint is a detailed plan for our city drafted in partnership with over 100 Newton residents. It addresses a wide range of topics including finance and management, education and environment and sustainable growth and is available on-line and in print.

The most important part of sharing ideas like those contained in this paper, however, is your feedback. I hope you will visit my website, read more about our ideas for controlling costs and improving services in Newton, and let me know what you think. You may contact me directly any time at (617) 965-3723 or ken@kenparker.org.

If you're on the train or bus right now, give me a call from your cell, or visit www.parker2009.org/get-in-touch, fill out the form with your mobile device,

and share your ideas for our city. I would love to hear from you.

If you like what you see, please get involved with my campaign. We have a unique opportunity to reinvent local government in Newton, and I need your help.

May your commute today be pleasant, fast and efficient. I hope to hear from you soon.

Regards,

Ken Parker

Newton Alderman
Candidate for Mayor of Newton
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Ken Parker
for Mayor of Newton

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Parker2009
.org

GETTING AROUND NEWTON

Needham Street

A Smart Growth Opportunity



NEEDHAM STREET Making way for pedestrians and public transit

THE NEEDHAM Street corridor is a major source of economic activity for Newton and represents a significant portion of our City's commercial tax revenues. However, its further development has been constrained by issues of traffic congestion and lack of adequate transportation resources.

By implementing light rail in the unused railway corridor paralleling Needham Street, the City can realize

new transit-oriented development that is environmentally sensitive and pedestrian-friendly. Light rail in the Needham Street corridor will provide Newton with a classic opportunity to develop "smart growth" in the corridor and create a new and vibrant mixed-use community.

This public transportation investment will not only help to improve transportation access to the Need-

ham Street corridor, it will also have important economic benefits for Newton. Building a new light rail line in the Needham Street corridor is a cost-effective and realistic opportunity for Newton to stimulate appropriate modest development that will significantly enhance our commercial tax base. ●

A Blueprint for Newton's Future

Real Solutions for our Future



OVER THE past year Alderman Parker and his supporters engaged Newton residents in a discussion about the City's future. Through that process over 100 community members actively helped research and write a plan for the City called A Blueprint for Newton's Future. In short, that plan outlines a vision to:

- Be sure our tax dollars are used carefully by reinventing Newton government so that it is efficient and responsive, and seeking out and implementing alternative revenue sources keep your taxes low.

- Make our schools the best in America through small class sizes, great core math, science, language and arts curricula, a strong vocational program, a more effective school day and updated classrooms;

- Keep our city clean and safe by reducing noise, pollution and traffic, increasing recycling, protecting our trees and parks, promoting smart growth and access to public transportation and important services you need like grocery stores and playgrounds;

To learn the "what and how" of Ken Parker's vision to address Newton's financial challenges, prioritize public education and promote our environment and sustainable growth please visit www.Parker2009.org/Blueprint and let Ken know your thoughts. ●

"All Newton families value our city's village character. As Mayor, I will work to make our streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists, and improve access to public transportation."



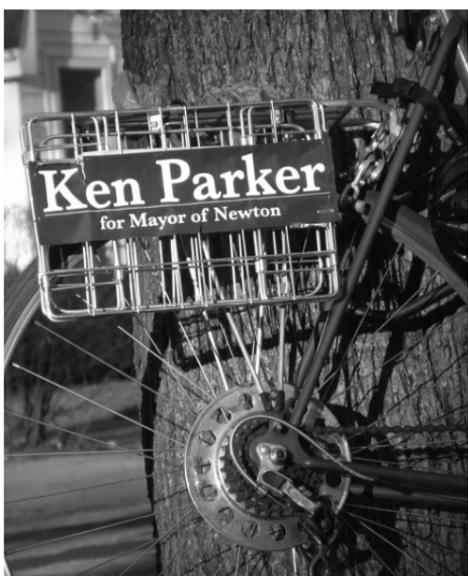
Ken, Kelly, and Benjamin Parker

No Car Needed

Easier Access to the T

ARTERIAL ROADWAYS leading to key public transit access points should incorporate clear pedestrian walkways, bike lanes, share-the-road signage and ample bike parking. Newton can also develop a shared bicycle system to reduce vehicle use and encourage public transit.

In addition, the City of Newton should support measures to improve the efficiency and utilization of our



Promoting better bike and pedestrian access to T

bus system. Key north-south and east-west bus routes can be strengthened by improving service frequency. New routes can be explored that provide interconnections between the Route 9 corridor and adjacent commercial and residential areas. The Washington Street corridor that runs between Wellesley and Watertown can also be studied for new bus service. ●

Ken Parker

for Mayor of Newton

Vote September 15

*Making sure your tax dollars are used carefully
Making our schools the best in America
Keeping our city clean and safe*

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www.Parker2009.org