

Ruthanne Fuller Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts

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Barney S. Heath Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 21, 2023

- **TO:**Councilor Deborah Crossley, Chair, Zoning & Planning CommitteeMembers of the Zoning & Planning Committee
- FROM:Barney Heath, Director, Department of Planning and DevelopmentJennifer Caira, Deputy Director Department of Planning and DevelopmentZachery LeMel, Chief of Long Range Planning
- RE: #38-22 Discussion and review relative to the draft Zoning Ordinance regarding village centers ZONING & PLANNING COMMITTEE requesting review, discussion and possible ordinance amendments relative to Chapter 30 zoning ordinances pertaining to Mixed Use, business districts and village districts relative to the draft Zoning Ordinance. (formerly #88-20)

MEETING: April 24, 2023

CC: City Council Planning Board Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer

Village Center Zoning Version 2.0 Map

The Newton Planning Department, under the guidance of the City Council's Zoning and Planning Committee (ZAP) and in close collaboration with our consultant Utile, are excited to present the Version 2.0 Village Center Zoning Maps. The full presentation and maps are attached. Links to the presentation and a citywide map can be found on the Village Center <u>webpage</u>. At the upcoming ZAP meeting on Monday, April 24th, the team will go over the following:

- How We Got Here
 - Community Vision: Village Center Framework
 - o Timeline: Where We Are
- Version 2.0 Updates
 - Input Received: Public Comment and ZAP Workshops
 - Key Updates: Zoning Map and Framework
- MBTA Communities Compliance
 - Key Updates: Parking Requirements and Contiguity
 - Version Comparisons: 1.0 vs. 2.0
- Next Steps

Attachments

Attachment A

April 24, 2023 ZAP Presentation

City of Newton

Village Center Rezoning Phase 4: Version 2.0 Zoning Map

ZAP - April 24, 2023 Docket #38-22

Zoning Redesign



Agenda

1. How We Got Here

- a. Community Vision: Village Center Framework
- Timeline: Where We Are b.

2. Version 2.0 Updates

- a. Input Received: Public Comment and ZAP Workshops
- b. Key Updates: Zoning Map and Framework

3. MBTA Communities Compliance

- a. Key Updates: Parking and Contiguity
- b. Version Comparisons: 1.0 vs. 2.0

Next Steps 4.

How We Got Here

Community Vision: Village Center Framework

Vibrant Village Centers

Climate resiliency through built structures and green spaces

Increase ease to get to Village Centers, especially through alternatives to driving Communal & Public Space + Activation

Increase accessibility to buildings and infrastructure within Village Centers

Make the permitting process easier, clearer and multi-tiered

More Diverse housing options and encourage mixed-use projects

Increasing the ability for small businesses to begin, stay and thrive in Village Centers



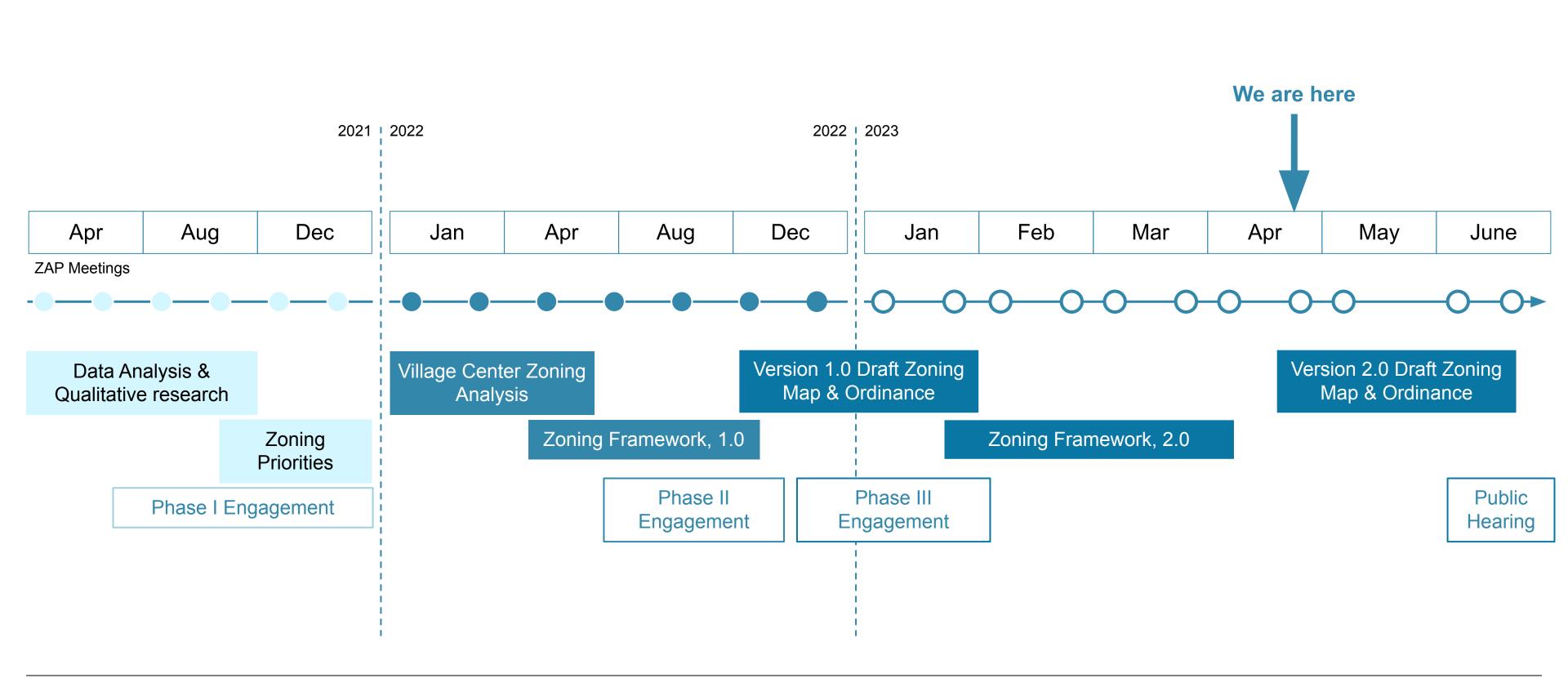


City of Newton

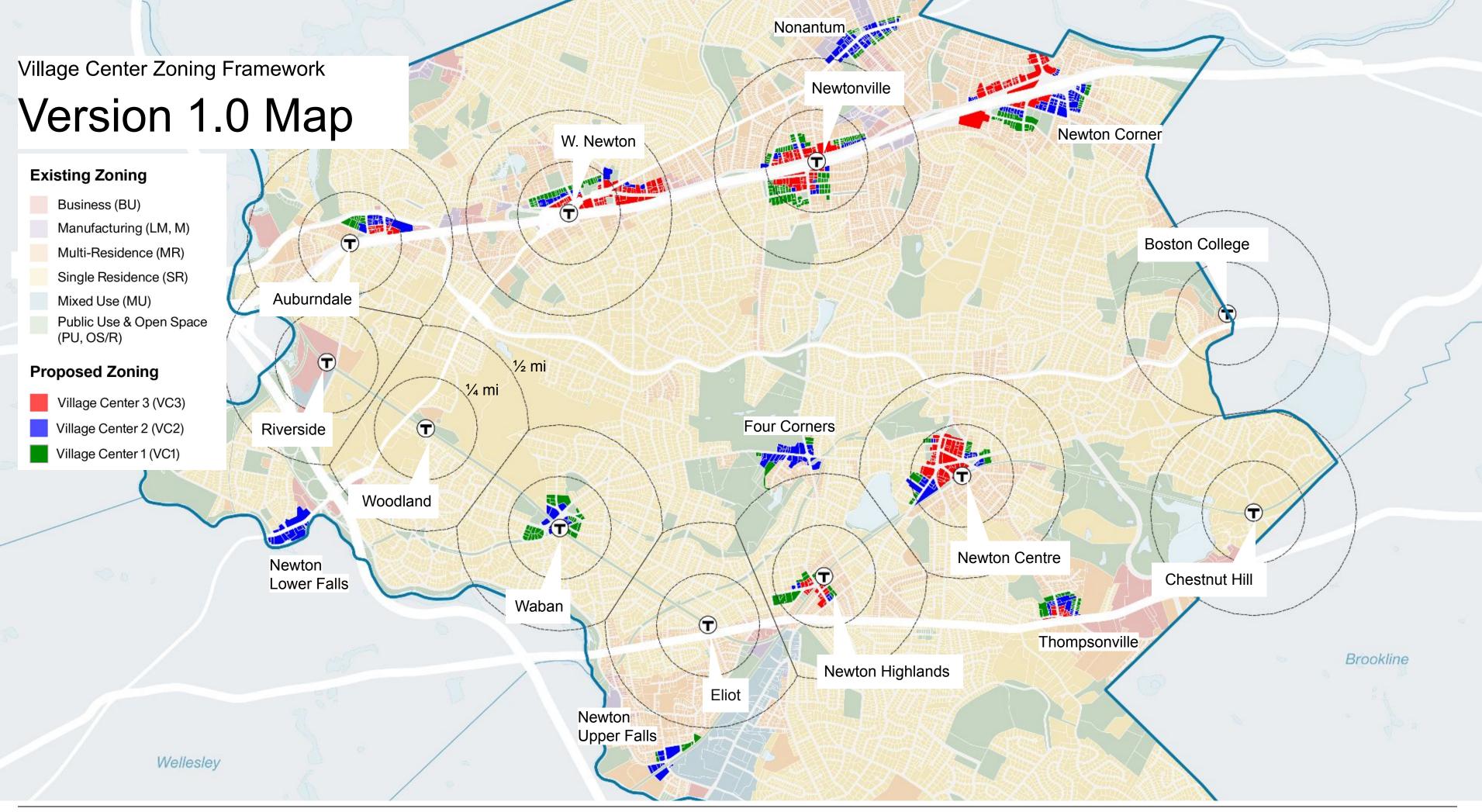


Timeline: Where We Are

Building Upon A Multi-Year Effort



Version 2.0 Updates

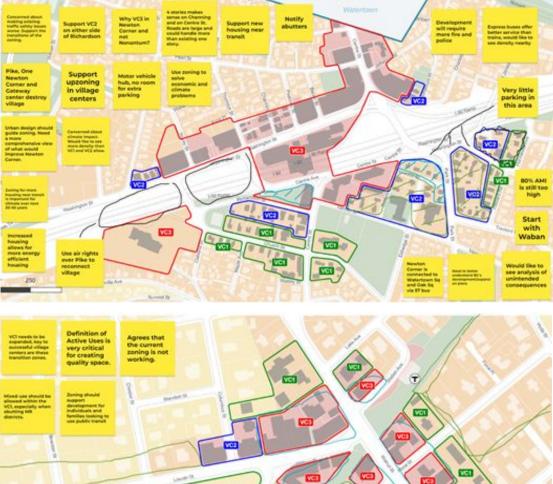


Input Received

Version 1.0 Feedback Main Themes

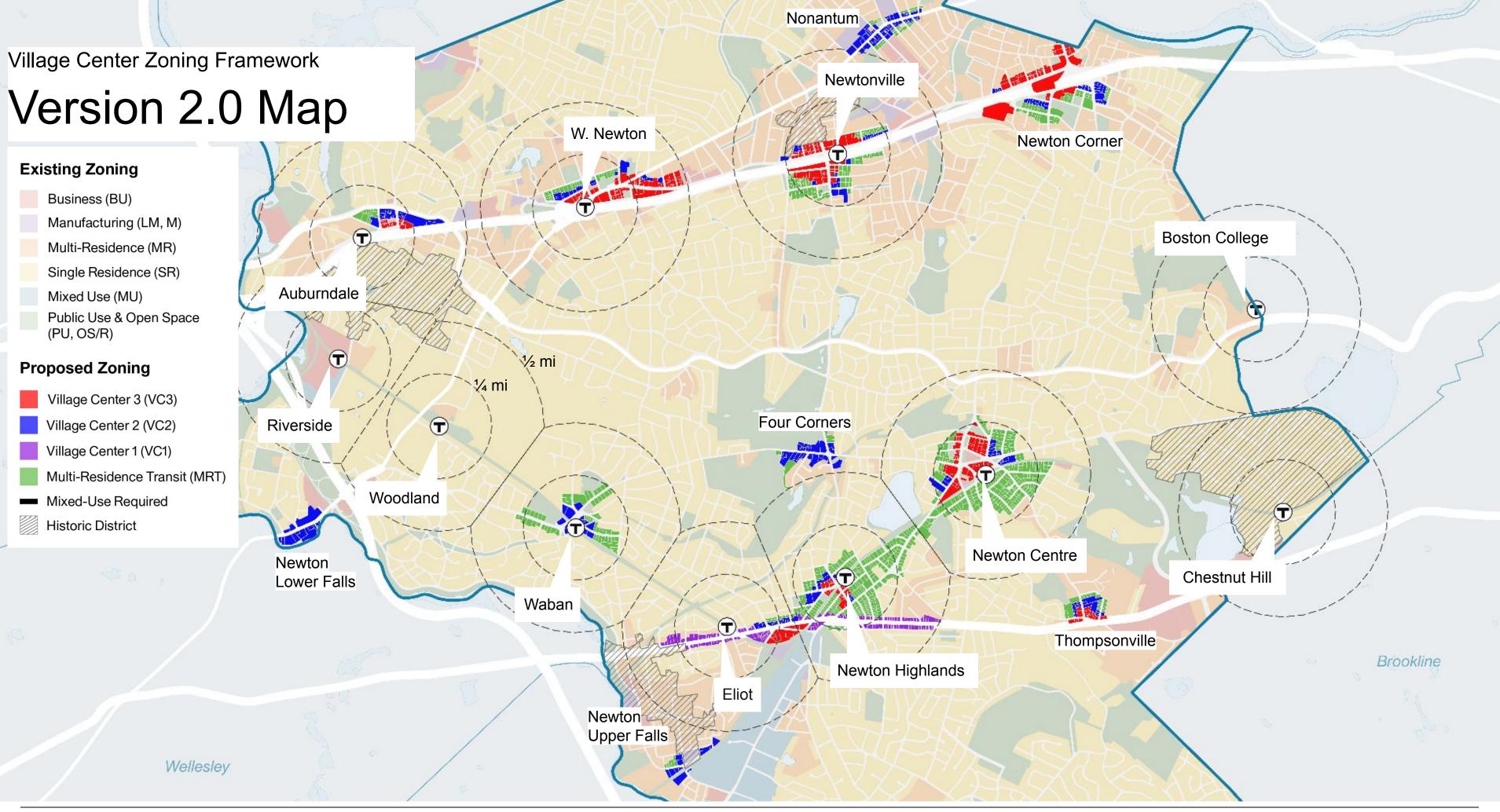
- a. How does version 1.0 comply with MBTA Communities?
- b. Housing support for additional housing of all kinds, particularly affordable and accessible housing. Some concern for tear downs.
- c. Preservation and Reuse strong support for preservation and reuse of existing buildings.
- d. Parking support for further parking reductions and concerns that businesses have access to enough public parking.
- e. Economic Development support for more housing to bolster local businesses and concerns about displacement of businesses
- f. Open Space desire for additional open space, green space, trees, and wider sidewalks
- g. VC1 concerns VC1 allowed too large of buildings, could incentivize tear downs, goes too far in some areas and not far enough in others.
- h. Locations questions about why not all MBTA stations were included and support for higher density along Green Line

Jam Boards from input sessions held at the end of 2022







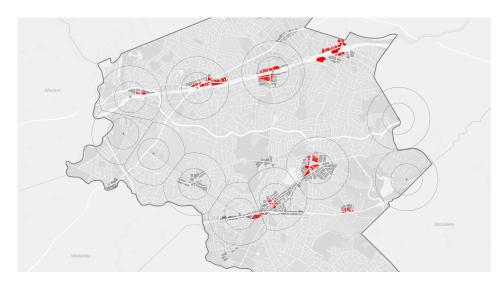


Key Updates - Updated Metrics

Village Center 3 (VC3)

Version 1.0





Special Permit	Lots greater than 30,000 sf	Lots greater than 30,000 sf	
Site Plan Review	Lots between 20,000 - 29,999 sf	Lots between 20,000 - 29,999 sf	
Height, max. (mixed-use)*	4.5 stories; 66' (flat) 72' (pitched)	4.5 stories; 66' (flat) 72' (pitched)	
Height, max. (R adjacent)**	3.5 stories; 54' (flat) 60' (pitched)	3.5 stories; 54' (flat) 60' (pitched)	
Building Footprint, max.	15,000 sf	15,000 sf	
Facade Length, min.	75%, or Lot Width within side setbacks minus 15', whichever is less	75%, or Lot Width within side setbacks minus 15', whichever is less	
Setback: Front	0' min., 10' max.	0' min. , 10' max.	
Setback: Side, min.	 None, unless: Abutting a building without a party wall in a non-R district, then 5' Abutting an R-district, then 15' 	 None, unless: Abutting a building without a party wall in a non-R district, then 5' Abutting an R-district, then 15' 	
Setback: Rear, min.	 If abutting a non-R district, then 5' If abutting an R district, then 15' 	 If abutting a non-R district, then 5' If abutting an R district, then 15' 	
Allowable Uses	Multi-family, Retail, Office	Multi-family, Retail, Office	

*Max height assumes a mixed-use building with residential units on the upper floors.

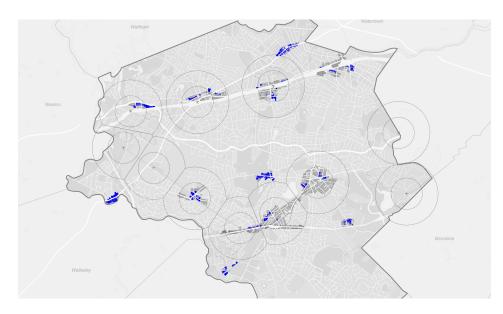
** Height reduction required within 50' of lot line.

Key Updates - Updated Metrics

Village Center 2 (VC2)

Version 1.0





*Max height assumes a mixed-use building with
residential units on the upper floors.

** Height reduction required within 50' of lot line.

Special Permit	Lots greater than 30,000 sf Lots greater than 30,000 sf		
Site Plan Review	Lots between 20,000 - 29,999 sf Lots between 20,000 - 29,999 sf		
Height, max. (mixed-use)*	3.5 stories; 54' (flat) 60' (pitched) 3.5 stories; 54' (flat) 60' (pitc		
Height, max. (R adjacent)**	—	_	
Building Footprint, max.	10,000 sf 10,000 sf		
Facade Length, min.	75%, or Lot Width within side setbacks minus 15', whichever is less	75%, or Lot Width within side setbacks minus 15', whichever is less	
Setback: Front	0' min., 15' max. or average	0' min. , 15' max. or average	
Setback: Side, min.	 None, unless: Abutting a building without a party wall in a non-R district, then 5' Abutting an R-district, then 15' 	 None, unless: Abutting a building without a party wall in a non-R district, then 5' Abutting an R-district, then 15' 	
Setback: Rear, min.	 If abutting a non-R district, then 5' If abutting an R district, then 15' 	 If abutting a non-R district, then 5' If abutting an R district, then 15' 	
Allowable Uses	Multi-family, Retail, Office	Multi-family, Retail, Office	

Key Updates - Updated Metrics

Village Center 1 (VC1)⁺

Version 1.0





+ Zone mapped only along Route 9

Special Permit	Lots greater than 30,000 sf	Lots greater than 30,000 sf	
Site Plan Review	Lots between 20,000 - 29,999 sf	Lots between 20,000 - 29,999 sf	
Height, max. *	2.5 stories; 39' (flat) 45' (pitched)	2.5 stories; 39' (flat) 45' (pitched)	
Building Footprint, max.	4,000 sf	4,000 sf	
Facade Length, min.	75%, or Lot Width within side setbacks minus 15', whichever is less	75%, or Lot Width within side setbacks minus 15', whichever is less	
Setback: Front	10' min., 20' max. or average	10' or average	
Setback: Side, min.	 Abutting a building without a party wall in a non-R district, then 10' Abutting an R-district, then 15' 	 Abutting a building without a party wall in a non-R district, then 10' Abutting an R-district, then 15' 	
Setback: Rear, min.	15'	15'	
Allowable Uses	Multi-family, Limited Retail	Multi-family, Limited Retail	

*Max height assumes a mixed-use building with residential units on the upper floors.

Multi-Residence Transit (MRT)⁺

Version 1.0



+ Formerly called VC1

Special Permit	Lots greater than 30,000 sf	Lots greater than 30,000 sf	
Site Plan Review	Lots between 20,000 - 29,999 sf	Lots between 20,000 - 29,999 sf	
Height, max. (pitched roof)*	2.5 stories; 45'	2.5 stories; 45'	
Height, max. (flat roof)*	2.5 stories; 39'	2.0 stories; 27'	
Building Footprint, max.	4,000 sf	1,500 sf (new construction)	
Number of units, min./max.	N/A	3 / 4 (new construction)	
Facade Length, min.	75%, or Lot Width within side setbacks minus 15', whichever is less	50%	
Setback: Front	10' min., 20' max. or average	10' or average	
Setback: Side, min.	 Abutting a building without a party wall in a non-R district, then 10' Abutting an R-district, then 15' 	7.5'	
Setback: Rear, min.	 If abutting a non-R district, then 10' If abutting an R district, then 15' 	15'	
Allowable Uses	Multi-family, Limited Retail	Multi-family , Limited Retail	

*Only Residential use is allowed

utile

New MRT Metrics (originally VC1)

Newton Examples of Allowed Development



94-96 Madison Street

Newtonville

5 units

Footprint: 1,700 sq ft

Lot Size: 8,590 sq ft



286 Melrose Street Auburndale 6 units Footprint: 1,734 sq ft Lot Size: 5,867 sq ft

*Footprints are estimates using the Newton Assessor Database

utile



- 831-833 Boylston Street
- Newton Highlands
- 4 units
- Footprint: 1,627 sq ft
- Lot Size: 3,399 sq ft

New MRT Metrics (originally VC1)

Newton Examples of Allowed Development



11 Washington Street

Newton Corner

6 units

Footprint: 2,800 sq ft

Lot Size: 60,002 sq ft



384 Newtonville Avenue Newtonville 4 units Footprint: 1,289 sq ft Lot Size: 9,695 sq ft

*Footprints are estimates using the Newton Assessor Database

utile



- 417-421 Auburn Street
- Auburndale
- 7 units
- Footprint: 2,562 sq ft
- Lot Size: 7,750 sq ft

MRT Allows Similar or Smaller to Current Zoning

Proposed Zoning

	MRT	SR2/MR1/MR2*
Useable Open Space	30%**	50%
Front Setback	10'	25'
Side Setback	7.5'	7.5'
Rear Setback	15'	15'
Building Height, Pitched Roof	2.5 stories / 45'	2.5 stories 36'
Building Height, Flat Roof	2.0 / 27'	2.5 / 30'
Building Footprint, max.	1,500 sf (new construction)	None, but new construction typically ranges from 2,000-2,500 sf
Number of Units, max.	4 (new construction)	1 (SR) 2 (MR1/MR2)
Allowable Uses	Multi-family	Single- and Two-family

** Only required for lo

Current Zoning

New MRT Metrics (originally VC1)

MRT Allows Similar or Smaller to Current Zoning

472-474 Watertown St, Nonantum (lot size 9,235 sf)

Existing Zoning Demolished Home (2 units)



Footprint: 1,356 sq ft

Height: 24'

Impervious Area: 17%

Existing Zoning Under Construction (2 units)



Footprint: 2,469 sq ft Height: 34' Impervious Area: 42%

*456-458 Watertown Street, used for illustrative purposes only

utile

Proposed Zoning Allowed Within MRT (4 units)*



Footprint: ~ 1,500 sq ft

Height: 39'

Impervious Area: 23%

Newton Centre

Existing Zoning

. 8

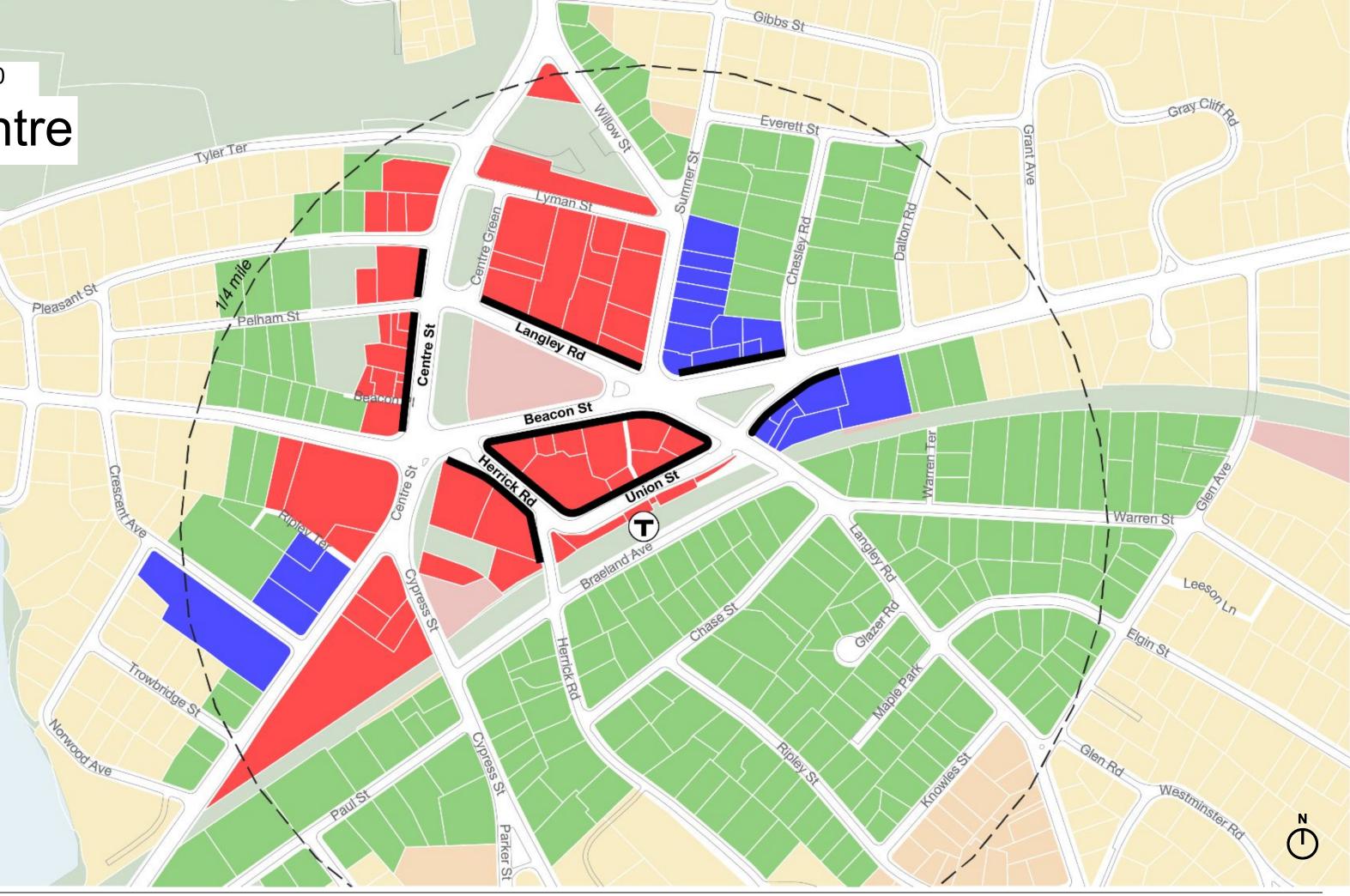
- Business (BU)
- Manufacturing (LM, M)
- Multi-Residence (MR)
- Single Residence (SR)
- Mixed Use (MU)
- Public Use & Open Space (PU, OS/R)

Proposed Zoning

Village Center 3 (VC3)
Village Center 2 (VC2)
Village Center 1 (VC1)
Multi-Residence Transit (MRT)
Mixed-Use Required
Historic District

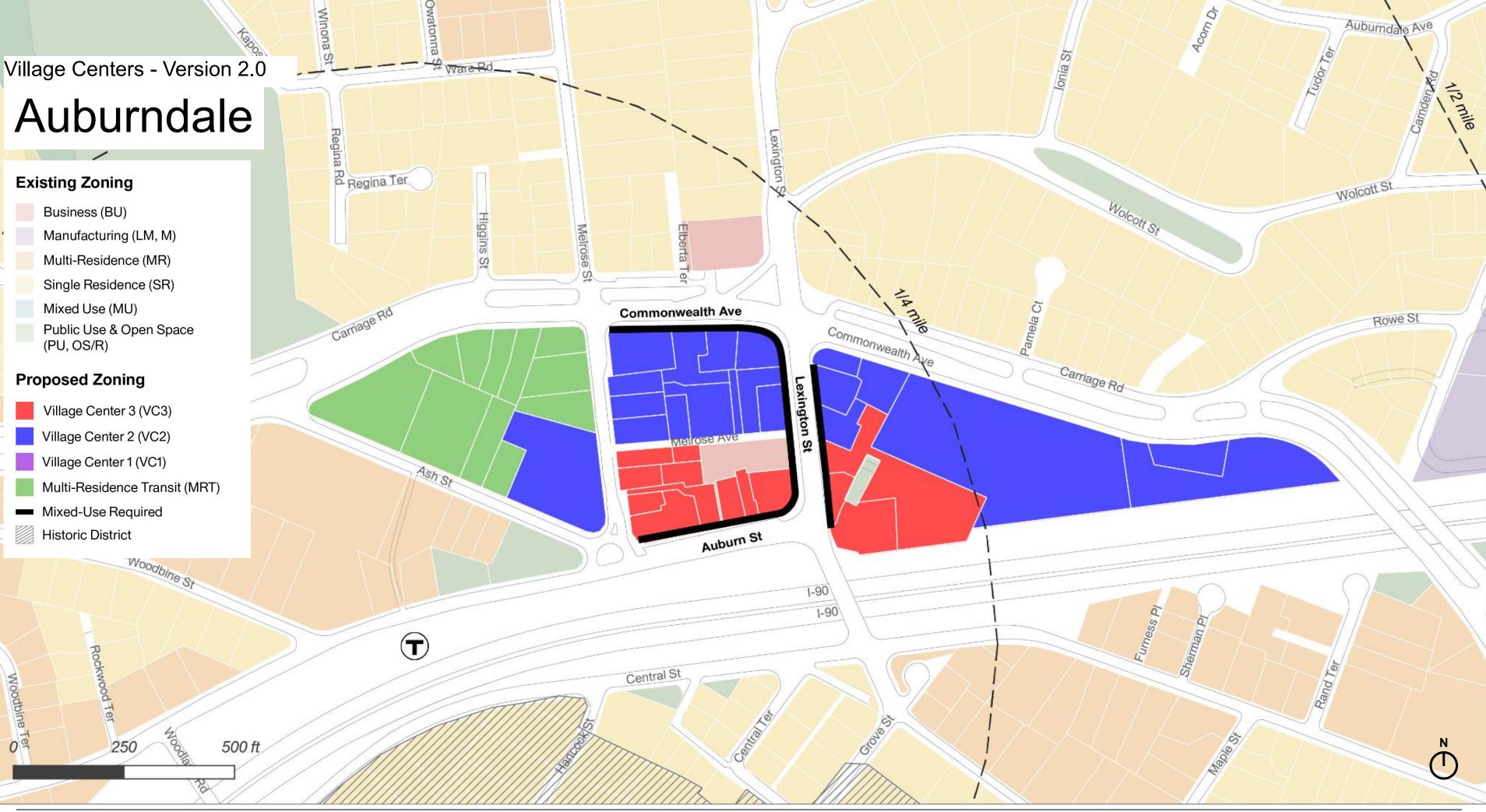
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50Q ft



0

(PU, OS/R)



1.12 mile Auburndale Ave Village Centers - Version 2.0

West Newton

Existing Zoning

1010

- Business (BU)
- Manufacturing (LM, M)
- Multi-Residence (MR)

Single Residence (SR)

Mixed Use (MU)

Public Use & Open Space (PU, OS/R)

Proposed Zoning

Village Center 3 (VC3)

Village Center 2 (VC2)

Village Center 1 (VC1)

- Multi-Residence Transit (MRT)
- Mixed-Use Required

250

Historic District

City of Newton

Simms Cr

Rilen D

Ryan Ct

NA MIL

Webster P

Webster Path

Webster Park

7-90 Ran

500 ft

CuneSt

Prospect St.

Elm Ct

1-90

Putnam St.

-90

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Washington St

1-90 Ramp

Shawst

Henshaw St

Warre

Columbus Pl

Hunter St.

River St

Cherny St

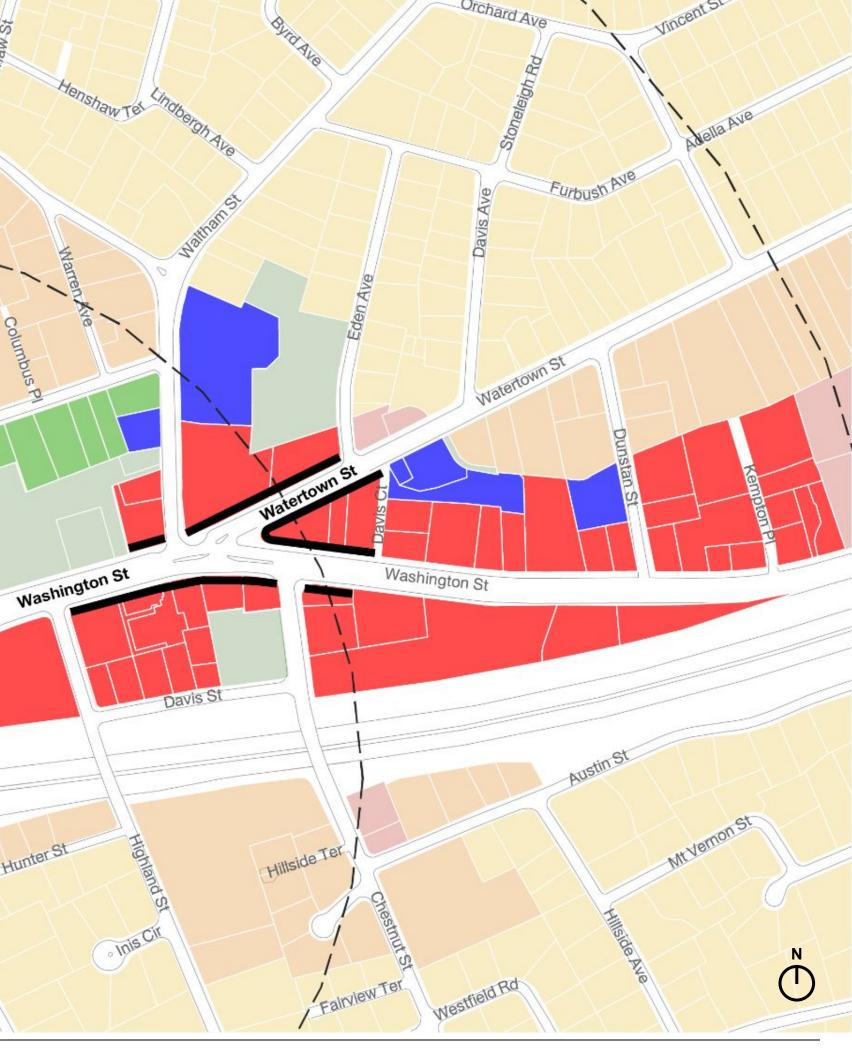
Elm St

WebsterSt

1-90 Ramp

Crescen

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Village Centers - Version 2.0 Newtonville

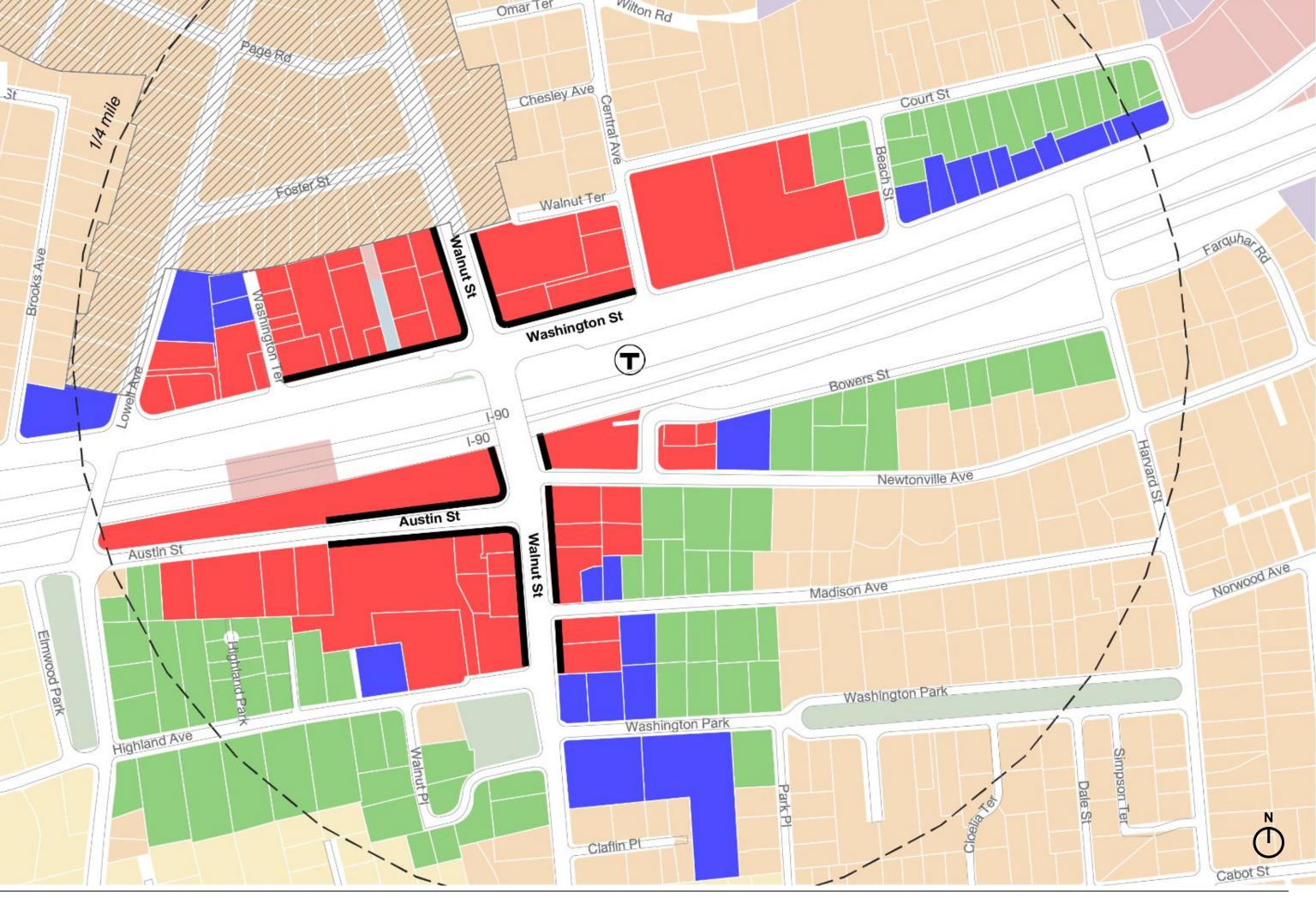
Existing Zoning

Business (BU) Manufacturing (LM, M) Multi-Residence (MR) Single Residence (SR)

Mixed Use (MU) Public Use & Open Space (PU, OS/R)

Proposed Zoning

Village Center 3 (VC3) Village Center 2 (VC2) Village Center 1 (VC1) Multi-Residence Transit (MRT) Mixed-Use Required **Historic District** Gray Birch Tel 500 ft 250 0 AllIRA



Nonantum

Existing Zoning

16

- Business (BU)
- Manufacturing (LM, M)
- Multi-Residence (MR)
- Single Residence (SR)
- Mixed Use (MU)
- Public Use & Open Space (PU, OS/R)

Proposed Zoning

- Village Center 3 (VC3)
- Village Center 2 (VC2)
- Village Center 1 (VC1)
- Multi-Residence Transit (MRT)

250

Nevada St

500 ft

- Mixed-Use Required
- Historic District

CrutomSt

Silver Lake Ave

Collage Ct

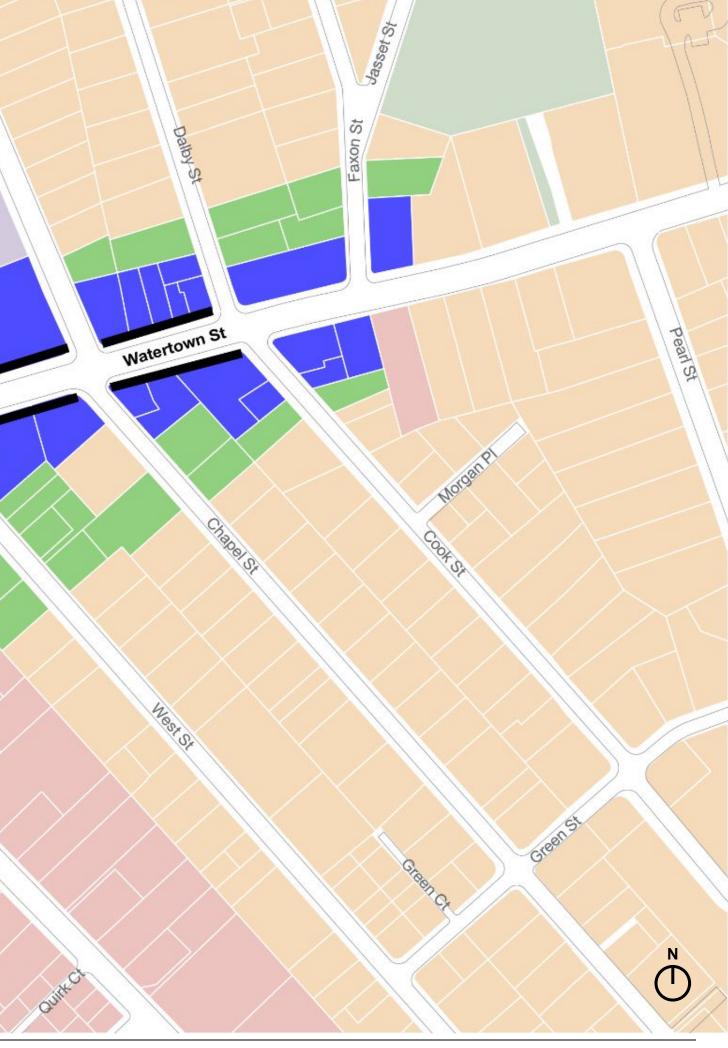
Bridge St

-Chandler St

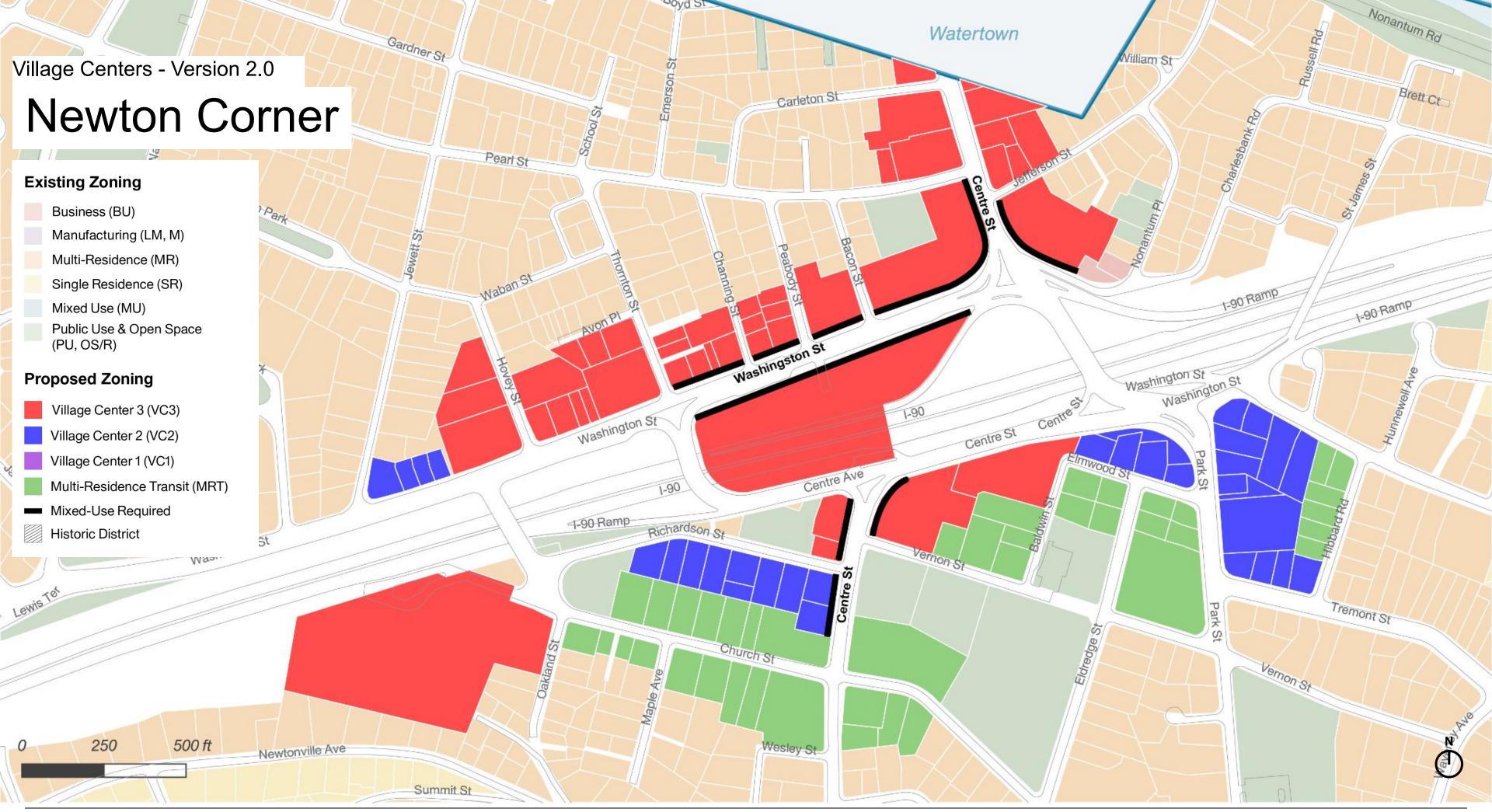
WatertownSt

Hawmonst

Oros







utile

Newton Lower Falls

Existing Zoning

- Business (BU)
- Manufacturing (LM, M)
- Multi-Residence (MR)
- Single Residence (SR)
- Mixed Use (MU)
- Public Use & Open Space (PU, OS/R)

Proposed Zoning





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tacomera Village Centers - Version 2.0

Waban

Existing Zoning

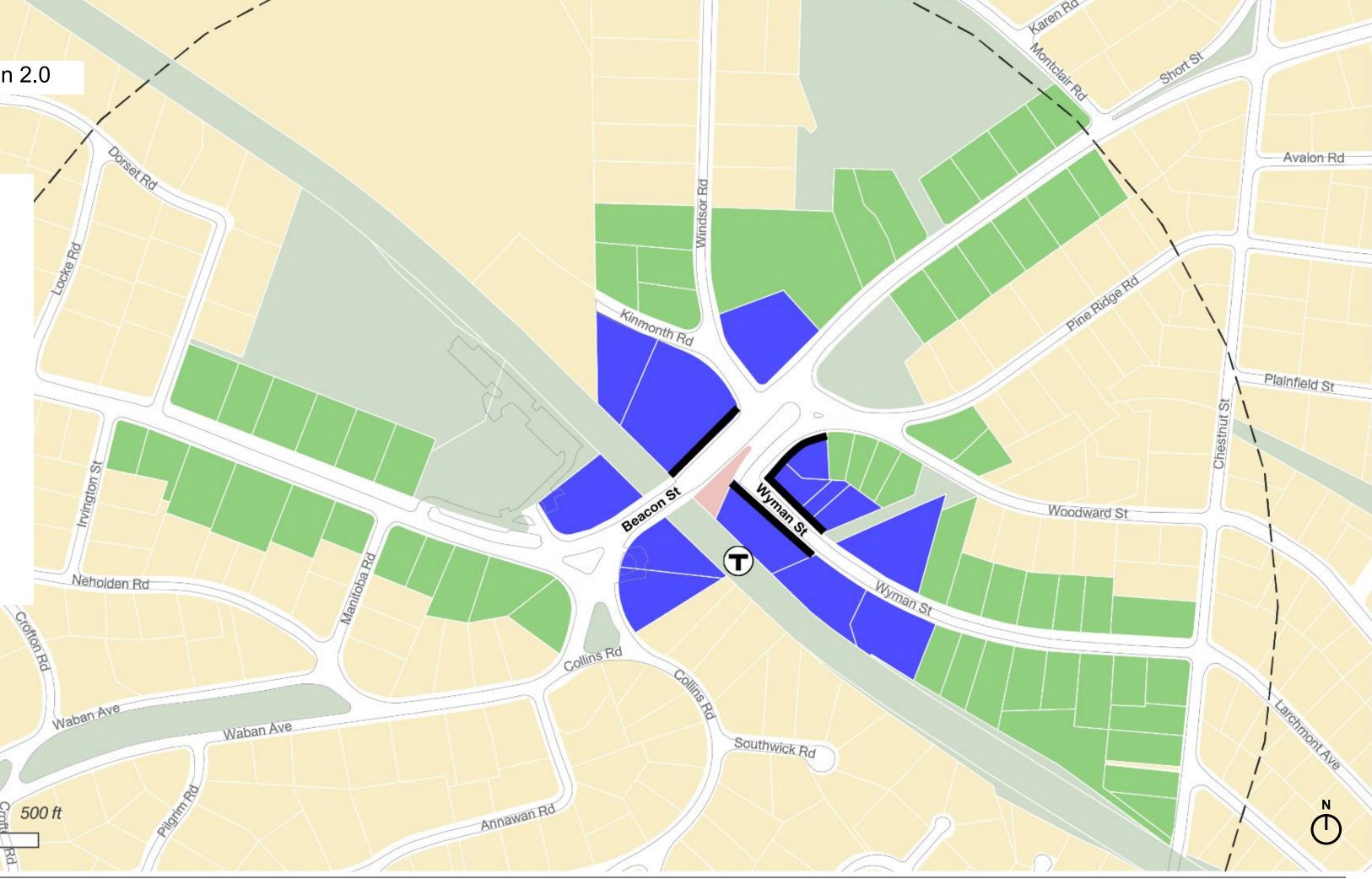
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Business (BU) Manufacturing (LM, M) Multi-Residence (MR) Single Residence (SR) Mixed Use (MU)

Public Use & Open Space (PU, OS/R)

Proposed Zoning

Village Center 3 (VC3) Irvington St Village Center 2 (VC2) Village Center 1 (VC1) Multi-Residence Transit (MRT) Mixed-Use Required Historic District Nehoiden Rd Cridition Rd Waban Ave Nilling Contraction Croft 250 500 ft Ro



Four Corners

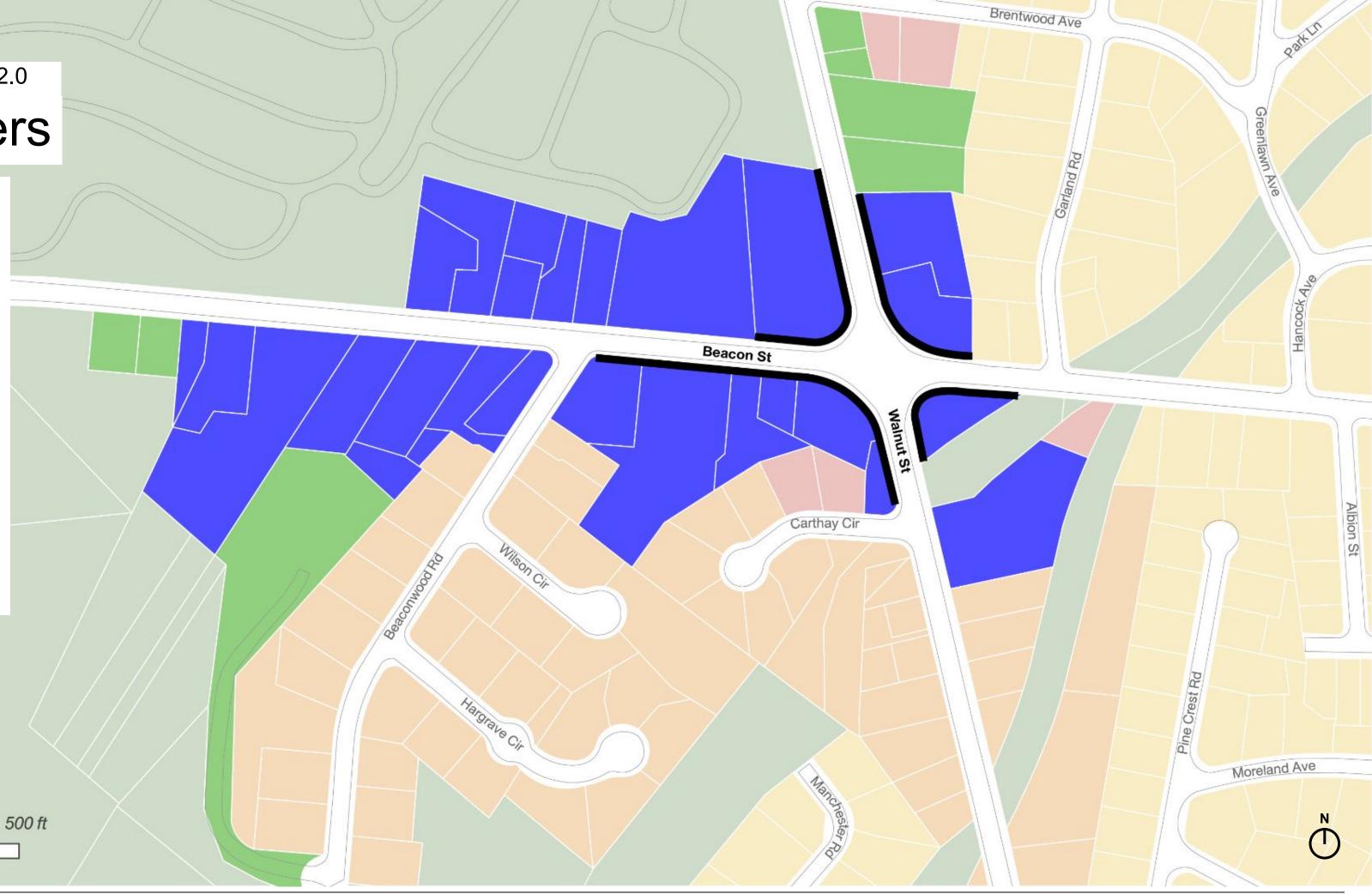
Existing Zoning

- Business (BU)
- Manufacturing (LM, M)
- Multi-Residence (MR)
- Single Residence (SR)
- Mixed Use (MU)
- Public Use & Open Space (PU, OS/R)

Proposed Zoning

Village Center 3 (VC3)
Village Center 2 (VC2)
Village Center 1 (VC1)
Multi-Residence Transit (MRT)
Mixed-Use Required
Historic District

250



0

Upper Falls (Pettee Square)

Ohio

P

Existing Zoning 655 Pee Bd Business (BU) Manufacturing (LM, M) Multi-Residence (MR) Single Residence (SR) Mixed Use (MU) Indiana Ter Public Use & Open Space (PU, OS/R) Indiana Ct **Proposed Zoning** Village Center 3 (VC3) Village Center 2 (VC2) Chestnut St Village Center 1 (VC1) Chestnut St Multi-Residence Transit (MRT) Mixed-Use Required **Historic District** Saco St Williams St Abbott St 500 ft 250 0 Butts St

5

Cheney St



Newton Highlands

Existing Zoning

Business (BU) Manufacturing (LM, M) Multi-Residence (MR)

Single Residence (SR)

Mixed Use (MU)

Public Use & Open Space (PU, OS/R)

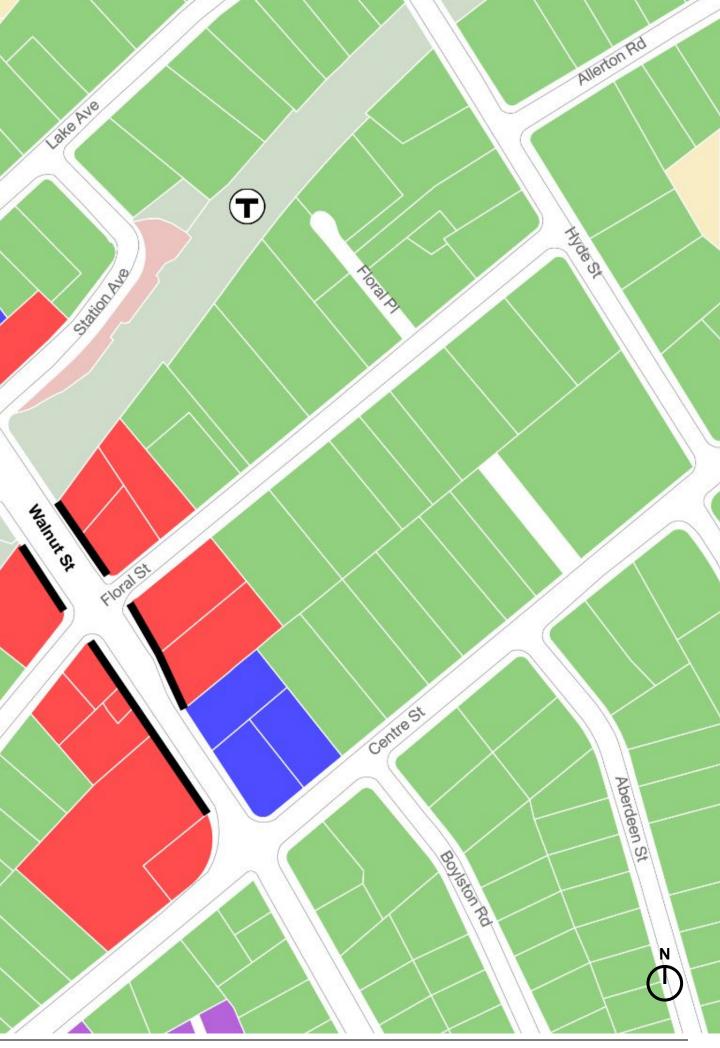
Proposed Zoning

Village Center 3 (VC3) Village Center 2 (VC2) Village Center 1 (VC1) Multi-Residence Transit (MRT) Mixed-Use Required Historic District

Standish St

Columbus St

Chester St



Thompsonville

P

Existing Zoning

- Business (BU)
- Manufacturing (LM, M)
- Multi-Residence (MR)

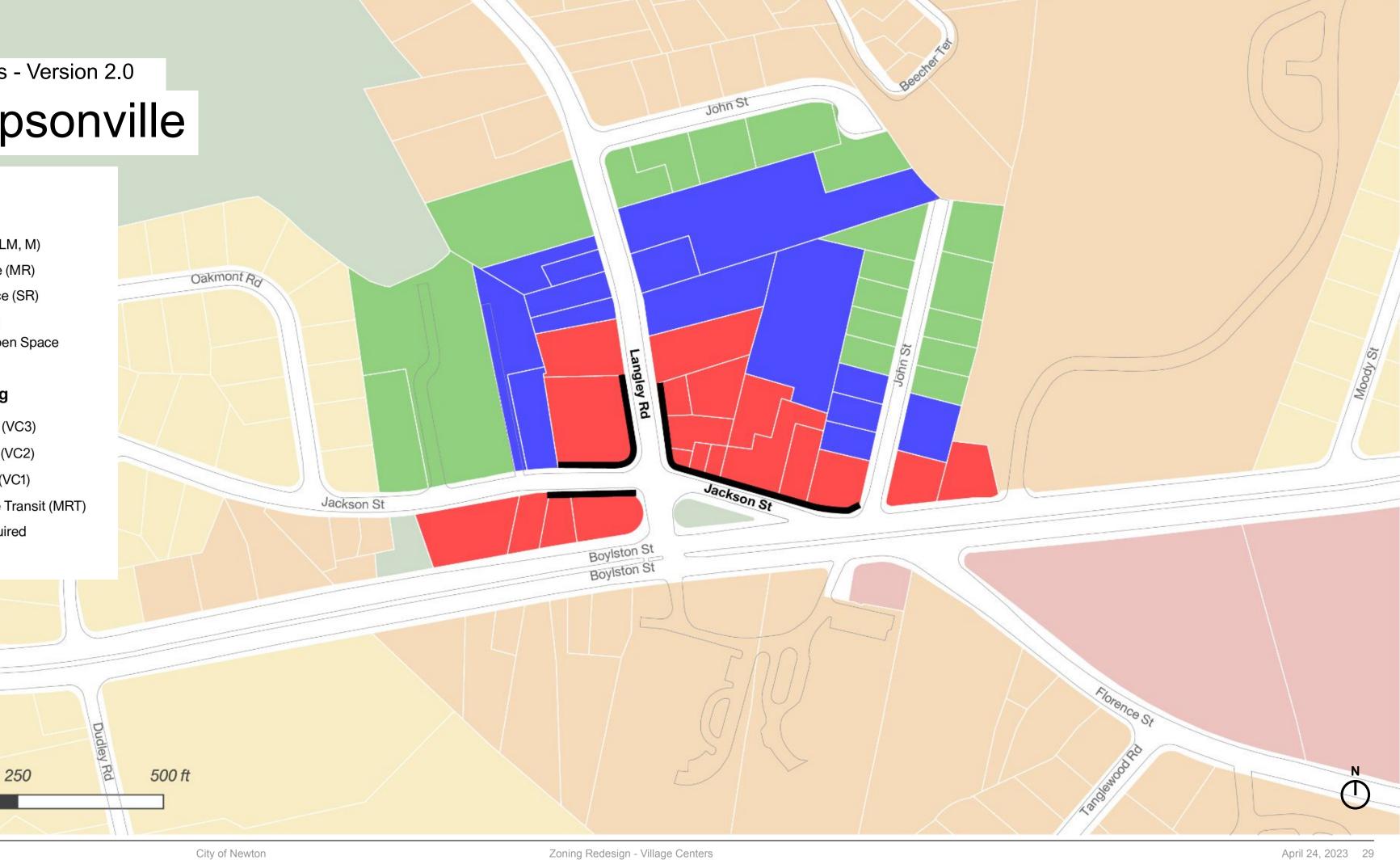
Single Residence (SR)

Mixed Use (MU) Public Use & Open Space

(PU, OS/R)

Proposed Zoning

Village Center 3 (VC3) Village Center 2 (VC2) Village Center 1 (VC1) Multi-Residence Transit (MRT) Mixed-Use Required Historic District Rt 9 Ramp



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Village Centers - Version 2.0 Eliot Street T

Existing Zoning

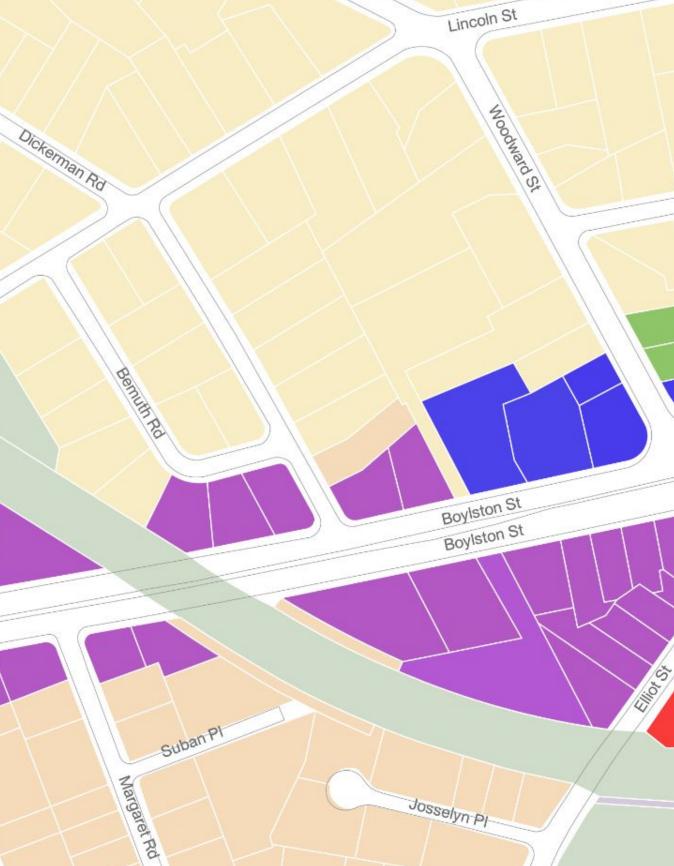
- Business (BU)
- Manufacturing (LM, M)
- Multi-Residence (MR)
- Single Residence (SR)
- Mixed Use (MU)
- Public Use & Open Space (PU, OS/R)

Proposed Zoning

- Village Center 3 (VC3)
- Village Center 2 (VC2)
- Village Center 1 (VC1)
- Multi-Residence Transit (MRT)

Roundwood Rd

- Mixed-Use Required
- Historic District

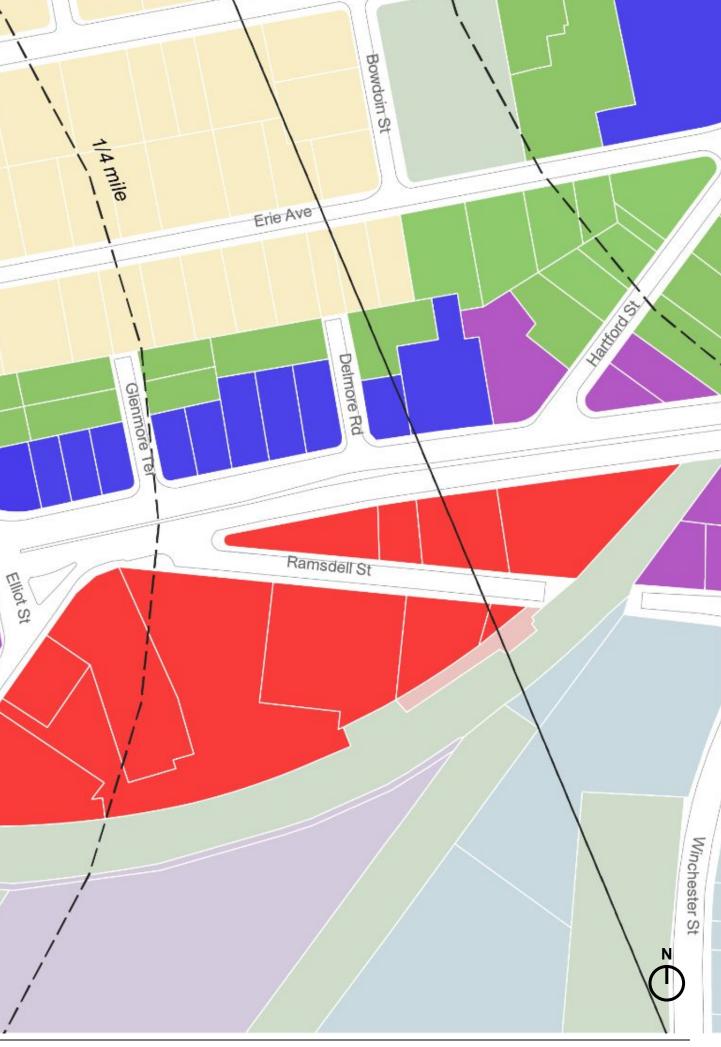


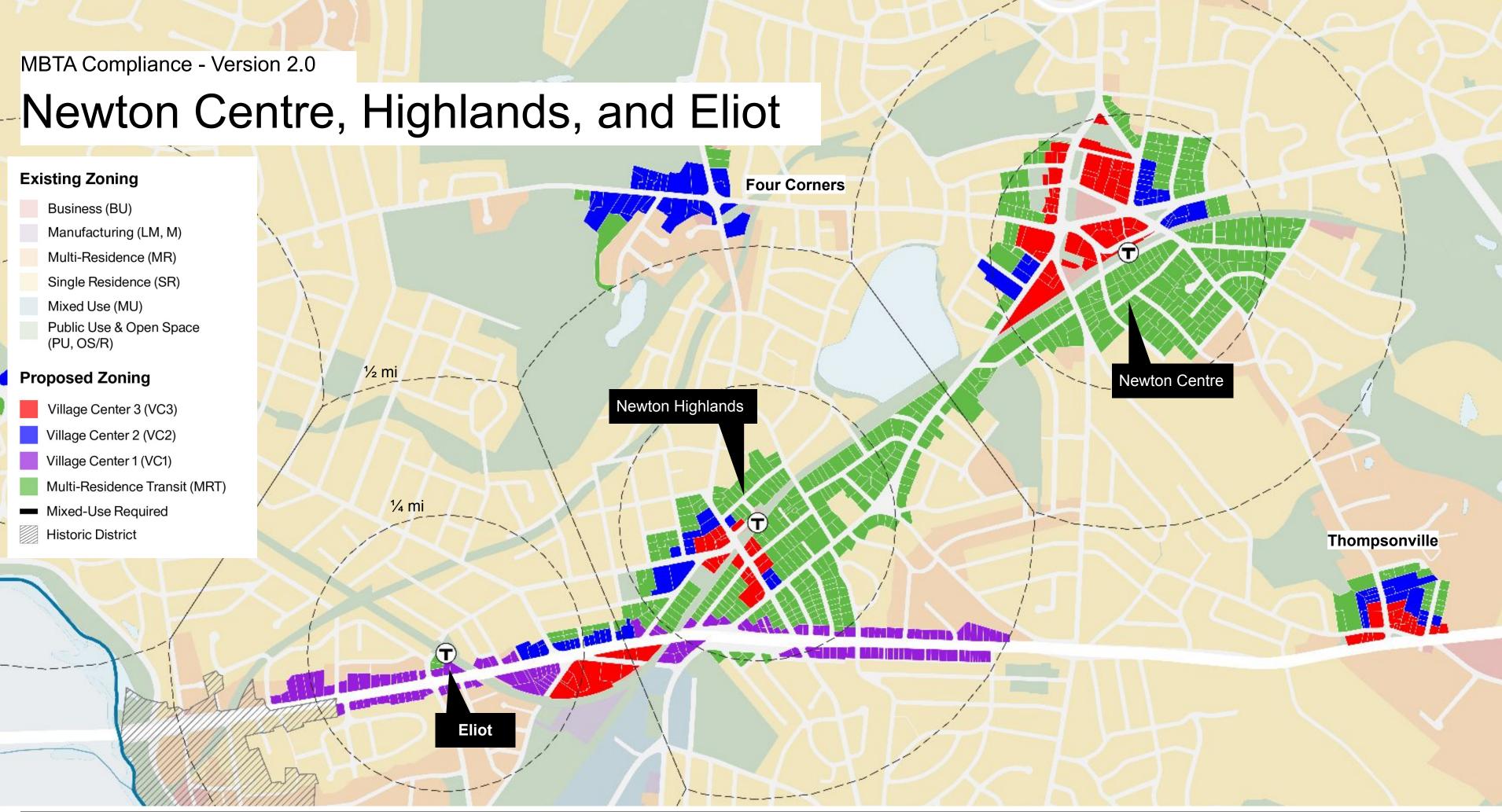
Frances St

Circuit Ave

RandolphSt

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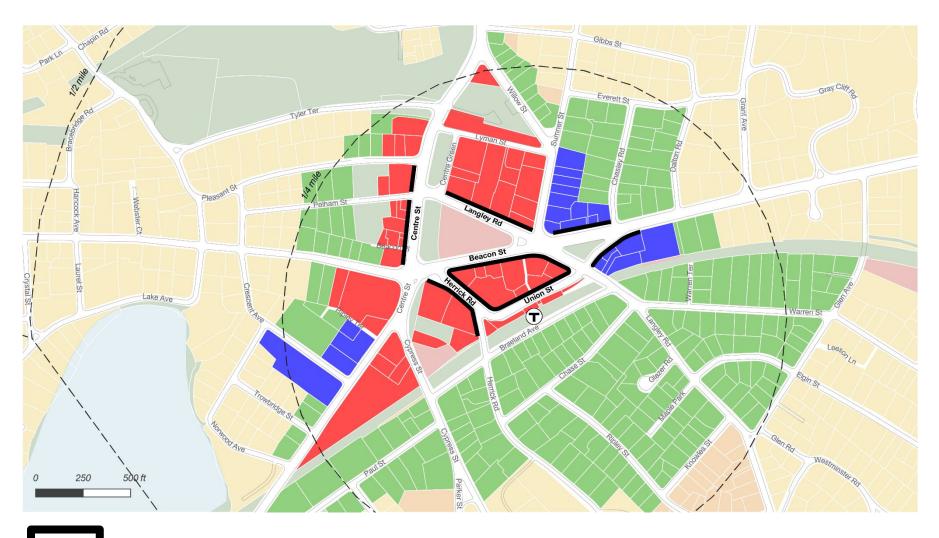




Priority Streets - Ground Floor Commercial is Required

Newton Centre

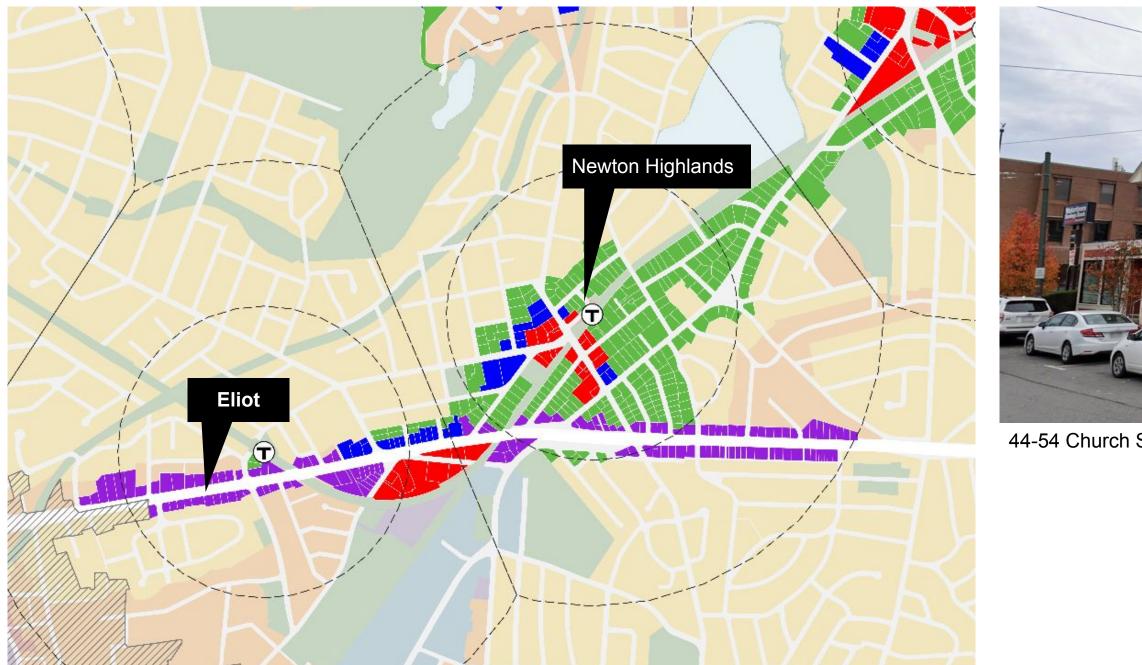
Nonantum



- Priority Streets



VC1 () Only Along Route 9



VC1 Mapped along Route 9 Between the Eliot Street T-stop and Newton Highlands

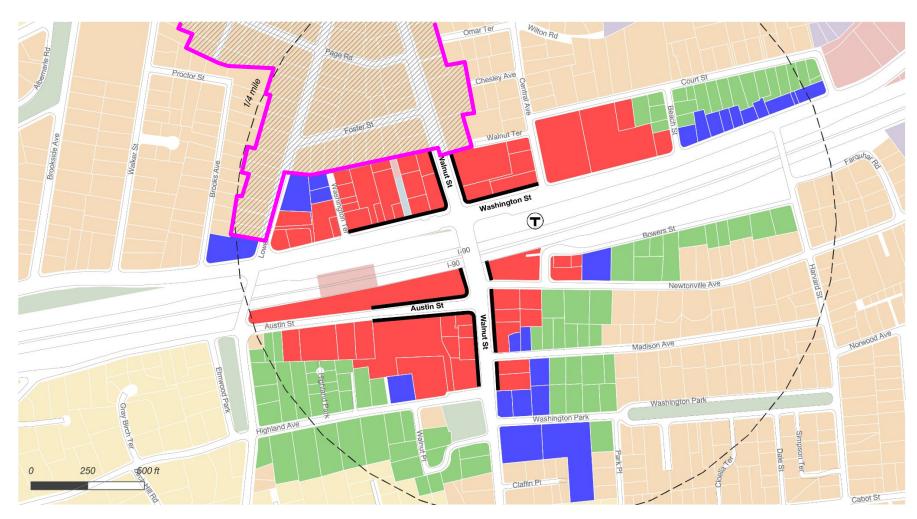


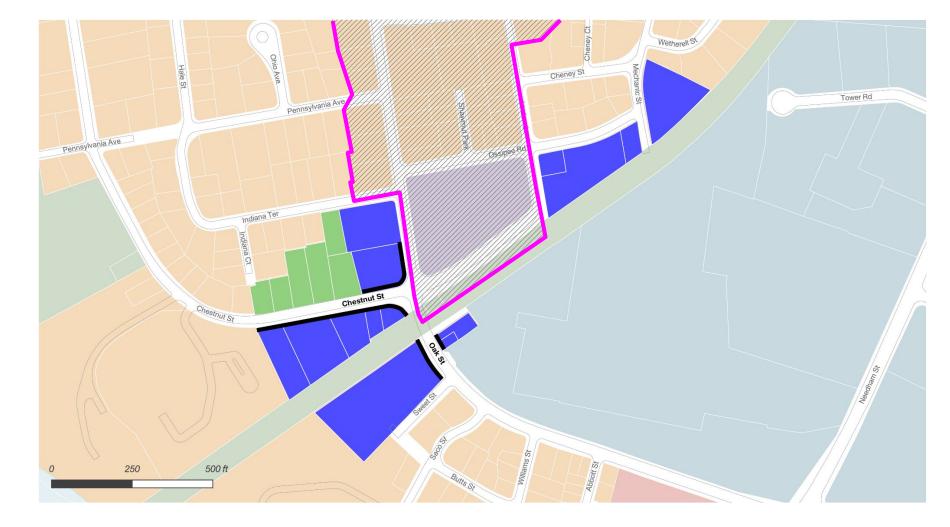
44-54 Church St, Belmont, MA - Ground floor retail with office above

Remove Parcels in Local Historic Districts

Newtonville

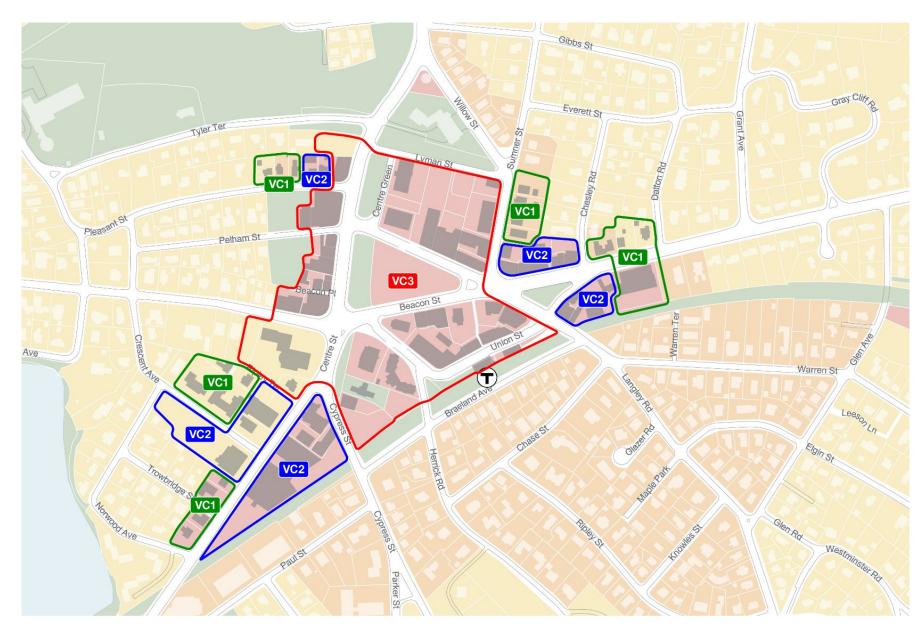
Upper Falls

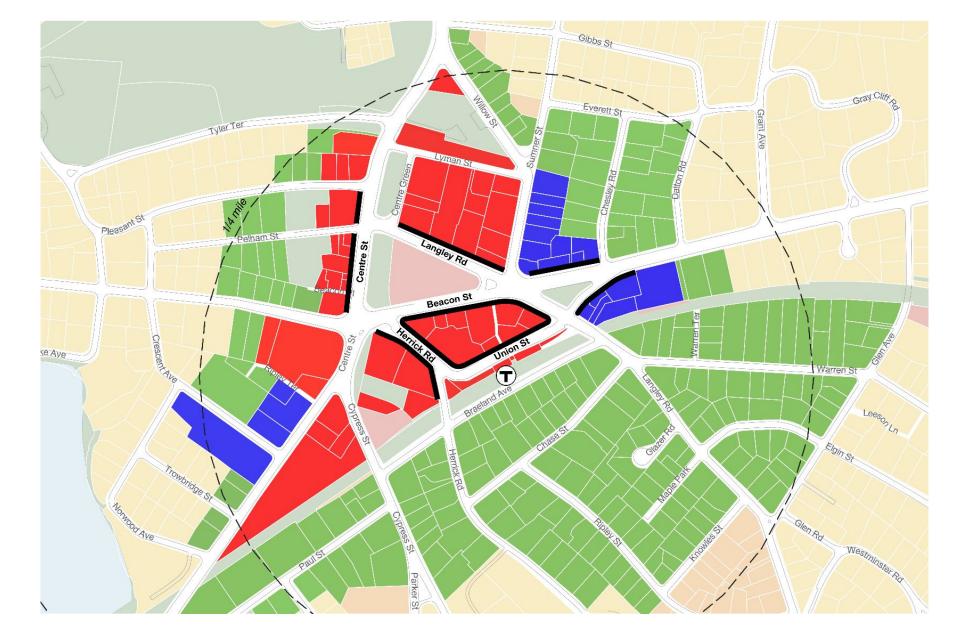




Remove City-Owned Parcels

Version 1.0





Vehicular Parking May Be Provided On-Site, But Not Required

	Version 1.0		Version 2.0	
	Bicycle Parking (min.)	Motor Vehicle Parking (min.)	Bicycle Parking (min.)	Motor Vehicle Parking (min.)
Residential (multi-family)	Required	1 per unit	Required	Not Required
Commercial	Required	Ground floor - exempt 5,000 sf of upper floor - exempt, 1 per 700 sf	Required	Not Required

Greater Affordability Required with Building Bonus (optional)

		Current Zoning	Proposed Zoning (VC2 and VC3)	Proposed Zoning (VC3 only)
		Base Conditions	Option 1*	Option 2**
	Height Bonus (stories)	N/A	+1	+2
Allows For	Building Footprint Bonus (sq ft)	N/A	+2,500	+2,500
	Required Affordable Units (min)	17.5%	25%	30%
Must Provide	Required AMI for Affordable Units (avg)	65%		
	* Denue connet he wood within 50 feet of a let line abutting a			

* Bonus cannot be used within 50 feet of a lot line abutting a MRT or residential district.

** Only VC3 lots can opt in to Option 2. VC3 lots abutting a VC1, MRT, or residential district cannot opt in.

+ Both options has been analyzed for financial feasibility with no additional City funding/resources

l district. ential district cannot opt in. Key Updates - Version 2.0

No Change to SP Threshold

All Village Center Zones

Lot Size (By-Right / Special Permit)			
_	Less than 30,000 sf / Greater than or equal to 30,000 sf		
Site Plan Review (By-Right / Special Permit)			
Lot Size	Greater than or equal to 20,000 sf but less than 30,000 sf		

Notes:

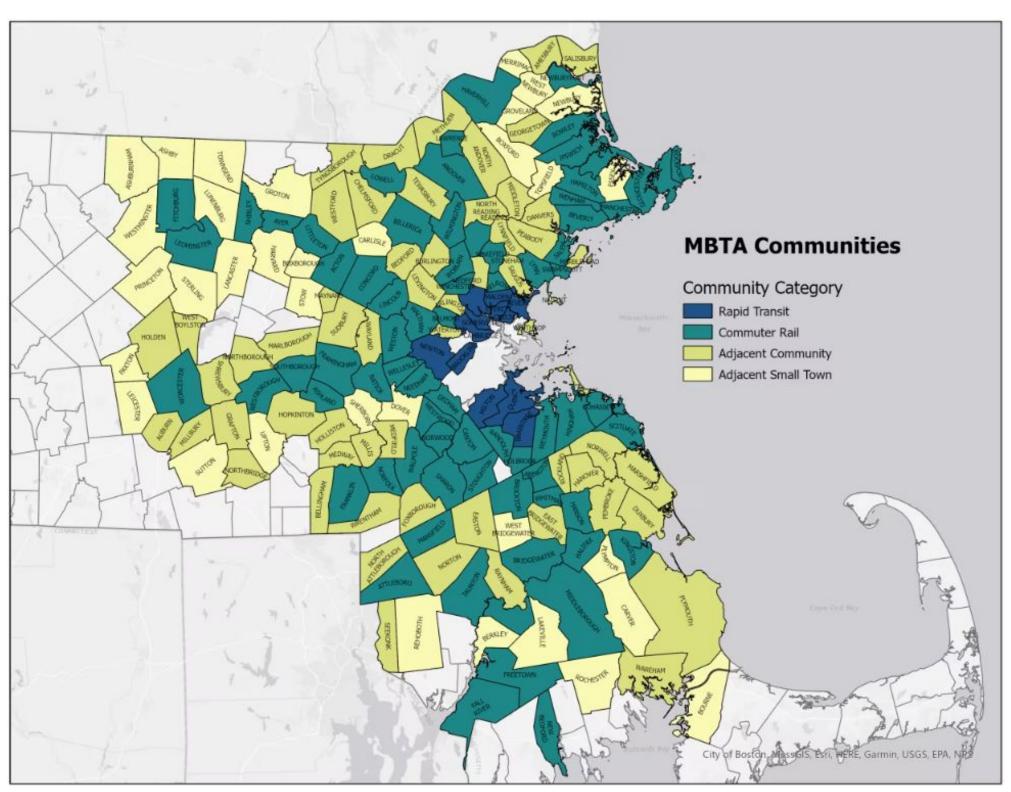
- There was discussion at ZAP workshops of increasing the Special Permit threshold as a tool for MBTA Communities compliance, but this was not necessary
- The Planning Board will conduct Site Plan Review at the proposed threshold. The Site Plan Review process will review conditions related to site layout, pedestrian safety, internal circulation, and other public safety considerations.

MBTA Communities Compliance

Newton is One of 176 MBTA Communities

Appendix I: MBTA Community Categories and Requirements (top 20 communities)

Community	Community category	Minimum multi-family unit capacity*
Cambridge	Rapid Transit	13,477
Worcester	Commuter Rail`	12,642
Quincy	Rapid Transit	11,752
Somerville	Rapid Transit	9,067
Newton	Rapid Transit	8,330
Brookline	Rapid Transit	6,990
Malden	Rapid Transit	6,930
Lowell	Commuter Rail	6,522
Medford	Rapid Transit	6,443
Revere	Rapid Transit	6,135
Brockton	Commuter Rail	5,596
Lynn	Commuter Rail	5,517
Everett	Rapid Transit	4,552
Lawrence	Commuter Rail	4,501
Framingham	Commuter Rail	4,355
Haverhill	Commuter Rail	4,189
Waltham	Commuter Rail	3,982
Weymouth	Commuter Rail	3,813
Braintree	Rapid Transit	3,769
Taunton	Commuter Rail	3,745



The total unit capacity across all MBTA Communities is over 280,000 residential units

MBTA Compliance

What this means for Newton

District(s) size

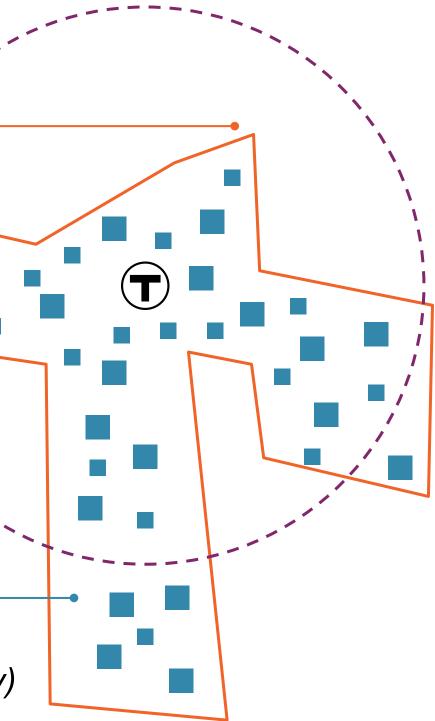
 ≥ 50 acres (can be split across multiple districts) (regardless of the size, 50% of the total district needs to be in one contiguous district and all sub-districts must be at least 5 acres)

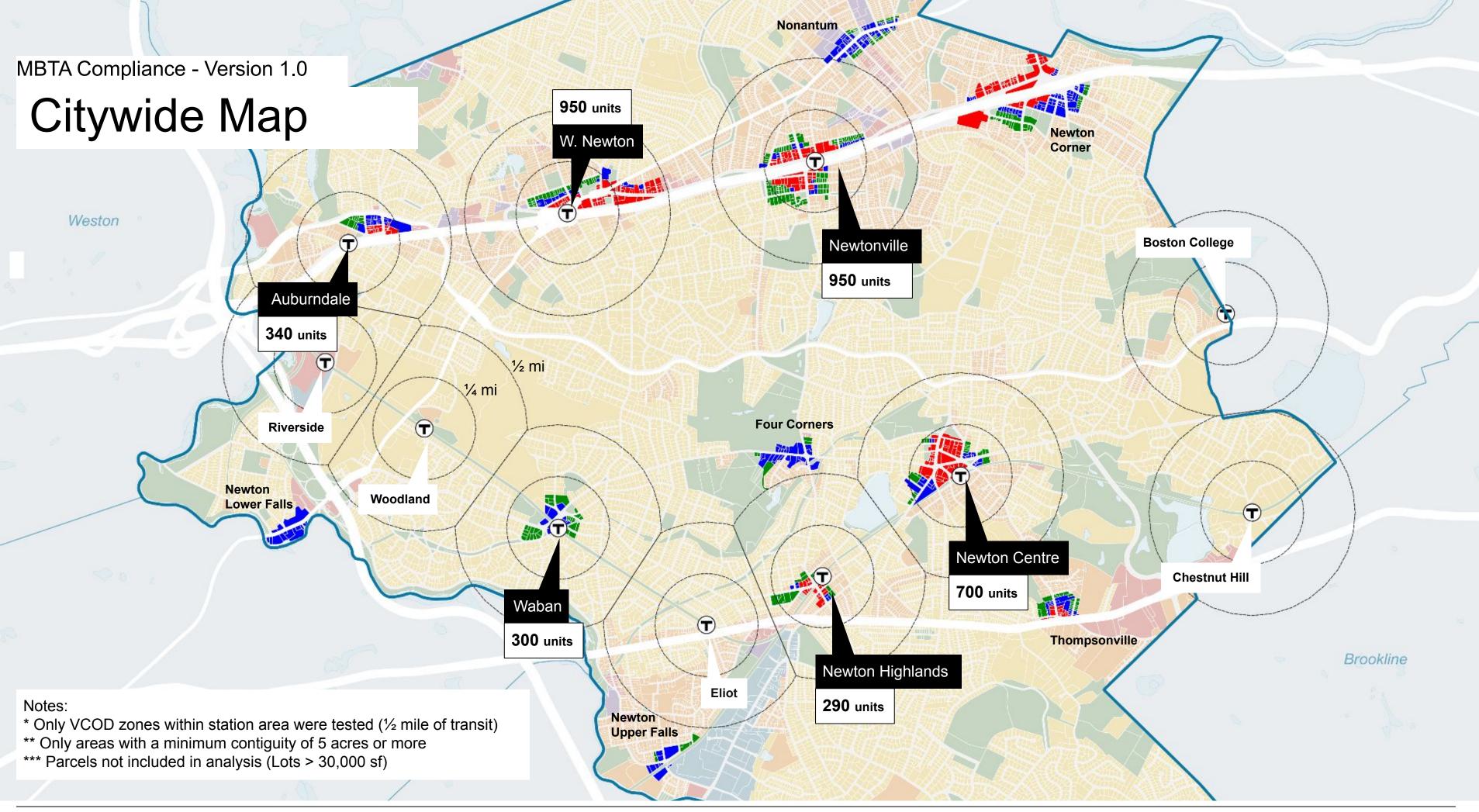
District location(s)

- ≥ 90% of district land area within ½ mile of Commuter Rail or Green Line stations
- Up to 10% of district(s) land area(s) can be outside the station areas

District density

- ≥ 15 units per acre (subdistricts can be less dense than 15 units/acre as long as the districts as a whole hit this overall density)
- A total unit capacity of 8,330 units





Version 1.0 VCOD Does Not Meet MBTA Compliance

MBTA Compliance Summary (rounded)

	MBTA Requirements (min.)	Version 1.0 VCOD Results	MBTA Compliant
Unit Capacity	8,330 units	3,500 units	NO
Aggregate Gross Density	15 units/acre	22 units/acre	YES
Total Land Area	50 acres	170	YES
% of District to be Located in Station Area	90%	100%*	YES
% of Contiguous Land for Multi-Family Zoning District(s)	50%	35%**	NO
Notes: * Only VCOD zones within station area were tested ** Newtonville is the largest contiguous VCOD and is used as the contiguous percentage		Must meet every requirement to reach compliance	

MBTA Compliance - Version 1.0

On-Site Parking Requirements are Biggest Barrier to Compliance

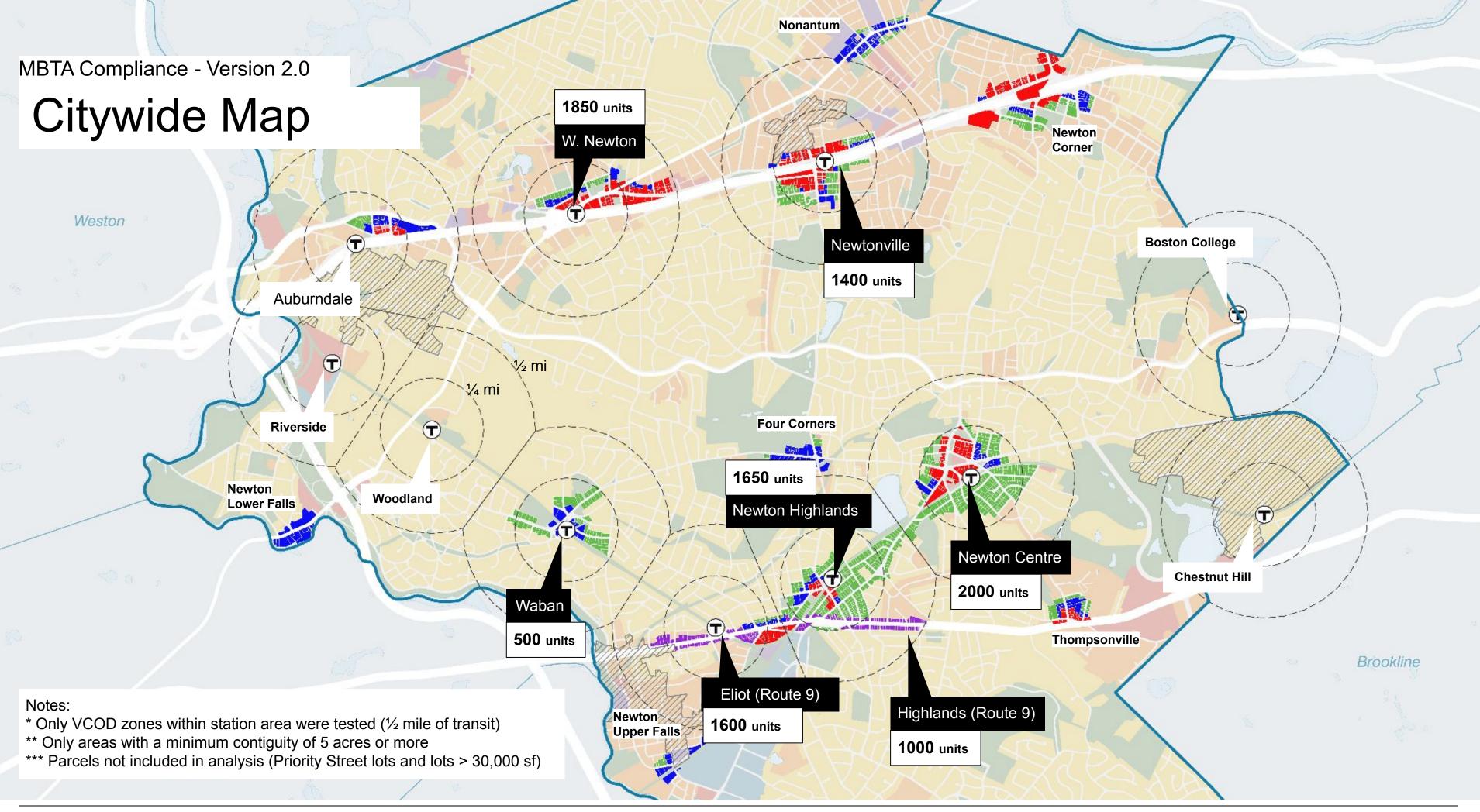


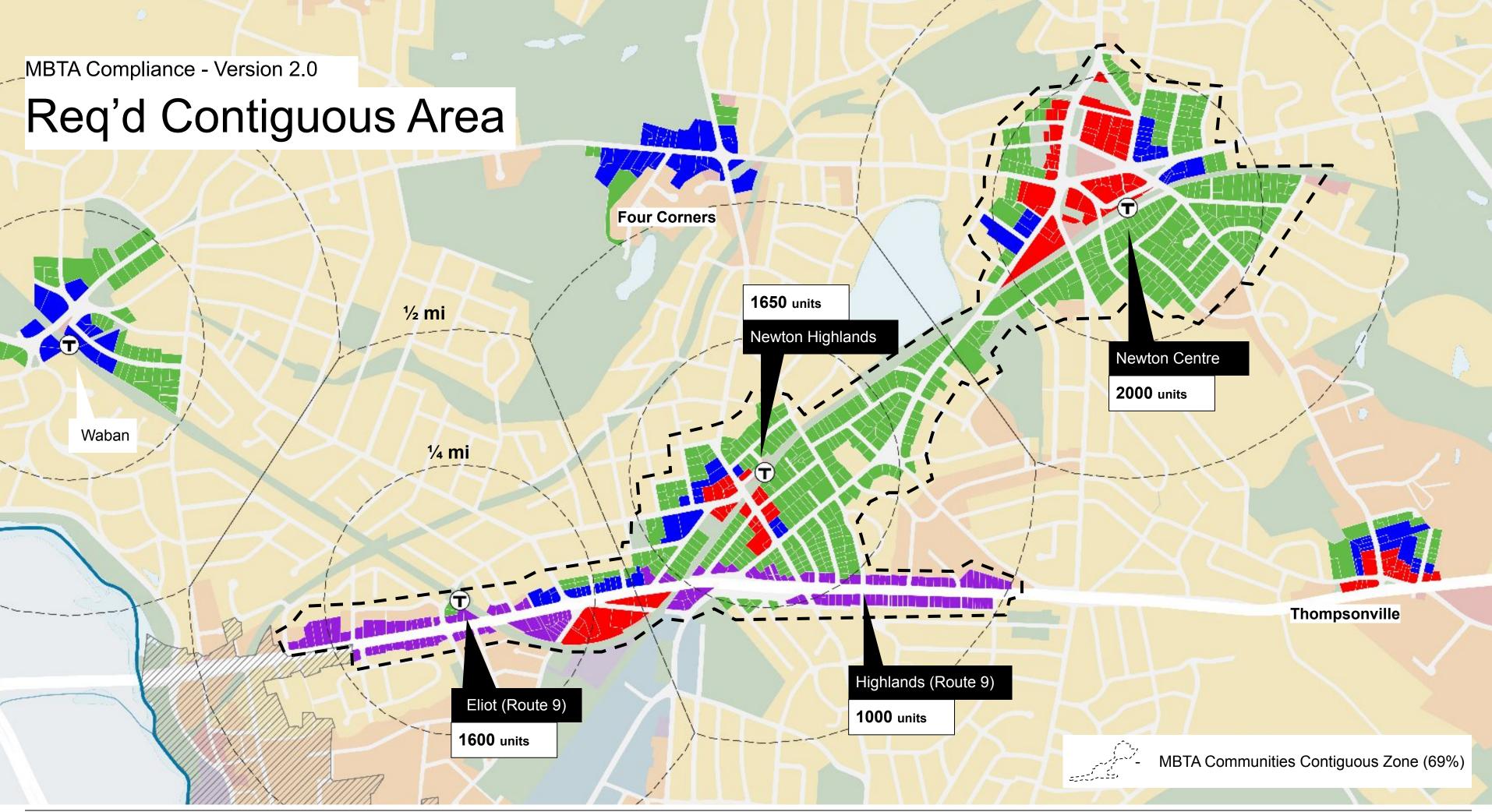
No curb cuts or garage entryways along Main Street - Brattleboro, VT

NOCH	

Version 1.0			
Parking Req'd	1 Space per Unit	0 Spaces per Unit	
Unit Capacity	~ 3,500 units	~6,000 units	

No map changes





Version 2.0 VCOD Meets MBTA Compliance

MBTA Compliance Summary (rounded)

	MBTA Requirements (min.)	Version 2.0 VCOD Results	MBTA Compliant
Unit Capacity	8,330 units	10,000 units	YES
Aggregate Gross Density	15 units/acre	35 units/acre	YES
Total Land Area	50 acres	288	YES
% of District to be Located in Station Area	90%	100%*	YES
% of Contiguous Land for Multi-Family Zoning District(s)	50%	69%	YES
Notes: * Only VCOD zones within station area were tested ** Parcels not included in analysis (Priority Street lots and lots greate *** Assumes no minimum parking requirements	Must meet every		

MUSI MEELEVELY requirement to reach compliance

Next Steps

1. May 8 ZAP Meeting

- a. Version 2.0 Village Center Overlay District (VCOD) Zoning Ordinance
- b. Continued discussion on Version 2.0 maps

2. Early June

- a. Continued refinement of VCOD Zoning Ordinance and maps
- b. Committee of the Whole

3. Late June

a. Public Hearing at ZAP