

LOCATION:

Newton, MA

CLIENT:

City of Newton

Planning & Development Department

PROJECT TYPE:

Peer Review

PROJECT SUMMARY:

- ▶ Transportation Planning

On behalf the Board of Aldermen, the Department of Planning and Development retained Traffic Solutions to conduct a peer review for the proposed expansion of the Newton-Wellesley Hospital, including the construction of a new Emergency Department and a significant expansion of surface and structured parking. Traffic Solutions was retained to review a traffic study and site plans for this proposed project.

Traffic Solutions prepared a report for use by the Board of Aldermen, the Planning Department, and the public in evaluating the project with regard to its conformance with the City's Zoning Ordinances. The report included a review of the data, the extent to which the traffic counts were collected, and the appropriateness of the data collection methods. It also included a review of all assumptions utilized by the applicant's traffic engineer in the study. It further assessed the adequacy of the study area.

Traffic Solutions prepared an evaluation of the proposed vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle routes to and from this site, as well as within the site.

Traffic Solutions also conducted a thorough, independent review of the anticipated impacts of the project on the surrounding streets and intersections. Based on the analyses submitted by the applicant's traffic engineer, Traffic Solutions evaluated any potential safety issues associated with the traffic generated from the proposed development. Traffic Solutions made recommendations regarding proposed mitigation measures.

This project was complicated by the fact that the Arbor Point Project at Woodland Station, located just north of the hospital site, was also recently approved. While the Arbor Point project was summarily analyzed by the applicant's traffic engineer, there were overlapping considerations between the two projects. However, every effort had to be made to incorporate the effects of the transit oriented development project on the hospital project.

