To: Members of the Newton School Committee

From: Newton South School Council

Date: January 28, 2019

Subject:The Newton South High School (NSHS) School Council requests a study of the on-site circulation of traffic to improve safety on NSHS campus

**Safety Issues on NSHS Campus**

* Traffic circulation on campus is largely unrestricted for pedestrians, cyclists, and motor vehicles
* Campus design require students to cross active parking lots and roads to enter
* South has one road in and out, limiting emergency vehicle access
* The lack of traffic regulation increases confusion in the parking lots and congestion on Brandeis Road

**Goals of the NSHS Campus Study**

* Reduce conflicts between pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles
* Clearly mark vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic paths on NSHS campus
* Increase pedestrian and cyclist transportation to/from NSHS campus
* Increase adherence to traffic regulations on NSHS campus

Our goal is to increase safety on NSHS campus. Improved safety should increase walking and biking, thereby reducing motor vehicle congestion. Safety is the second largest barrier to walking to school cited by parents of students aged 12-18 in a national CDC survey (distance was first).

**Background**

Newton South High School (NSHS) has 1,900 students and over 300 staff members. 23% of the students have bus passes. We have no counts of students arriving by bike or on foot. The school has sidewalks with 9 striped crosswalks south of the campus on Brandeis Road. Two of these crosswalks cross 60’ of roadway (5 lanes). Parking lots have 155 numbered spots for high school senior drivers.

**Summary**

NSHS School Council is requesting a study to take a global look at the current campus circulation, noting conflict points in the network, and finding alternatives that create safe and direct routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

NSHS School Council will use this analysis work with NPS and the City of Newton to implement required changes to infrastructure and traffic regulations as well as to educate students and parents on how to safely navigate the NSHS campus.

