

West Suburban Veterans District

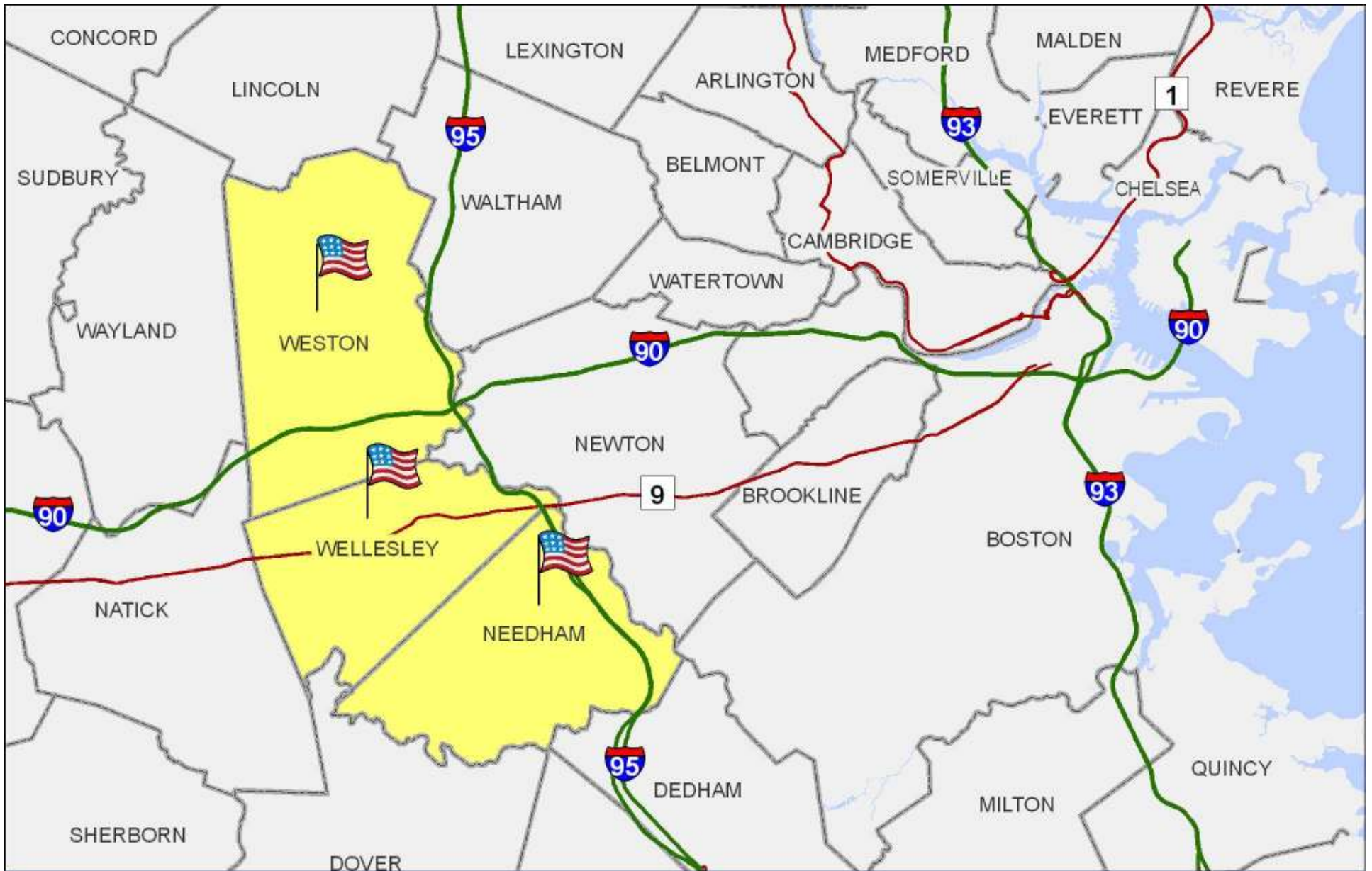
Needham – Wellesley – Weston

Presented by:

Christopher Coleman – Assistant Town Manager
Town of Needham

Christopher Ketchen – Deputy Director of General Gov't
Town of Wellesley

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West Suburban Veterans' District

WSVD Background

- Organized Summer 2010
- Chief municipal executive from each Town serves as a member of the District Board
- Board appoints a full-time Director; employs Administrative Assistant
- Financial administration provided by the Town of Wellesley

Community Details (pre-District)

Needham (2,620 civilian veterans)

- Full-time Veterans Agent serving both Needham and Dover

Wellesley (1,983 civilian veterans)

- Full-time Veterans Agent serving Wellesley only

Weston (848 civilian veterans)

- Volunteers

Goals

- Improve Services for veterans in the District
- Ensure continuity of operations
- Increase social and outreach services
- Expand services to town that did not have full-time agent (Weston)
- Allow for the hiring of a highly qualified director

Goals (continued)

- Enable towns to better respond to a new and often younger population to meet evolving needs
- Allow towns to leverage limited resources to create a stronger delivery of services
- Allow for a wider experience base from which to draw for the management of veterans services

Goals (continued)

- Build a high level of expertise in the District so that individual towns do not have to struggle to replicate the same delivery of services
- A District is in a better position than an individual town to increase staffing if needed in the future

Lessons Learned

- Timing plays a role
- Someone has to start the conversation
(Needham)
- Someone has to be the host community
(Wellesley)
- Everyone has to be honest about what will/will not work for their community

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QUESTIONS???