

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

VOTE

Authorizing the City Manager, acting through the Department of Planning and Development, to accept and expend Fiscal Year 2020 earmarked funds in the amount of \$200,000.00 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts via the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, Massachusetts Marketing Partnership/Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.

The City of Lowell desires to accept and expend said earmarked funds for a comprehensive Lower Locks Structural Evaluation, Design Feasibility, and Visioning Study; and

The City was able to obtain this funding as a result of the efforts of Senator Edward Kennedy, who secured earmarked funds for a study for improvements and repairs to the Lower Locks and surrounding area in the City of Lowell; and

The Department of Planning and Development and the Department of Public Works is working closely with landowners and stakeholders including Central Rivers Power, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust, Lowell National Historical Park, Lowell Waterways Vitality Initiative, Middlesex Community College, and University of Massachusetts Lowell. These stakeholders will be consulted throughout the study. The study's goal is to enable future phases of design and repair to this critical resource.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT VOTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL:

That the City Manager, acting through the Department of Planning and Development, is hereby authorized in the name of the City of Lowell to accept and expend Fiscal Year 2020 earmarked funds in the amount of \$200,000.00 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts via the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, Massachusetts Marketing Partnership/Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism for a comprehensive Lower Locks Structural Evaluation, Design Feasibility, and Visioning Study.

BE IT FURTHER VOTED:

That the City Manager, on behalf of the City of Lowell, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary in connection with said grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts via the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, Massachusetts Marketing Partnership/Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism referenced above.

V:earmarkfunds/fy20lowerlocks



Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin
Assistant City Manager

May 12, 2020

Mayor John J. Leahy
and
Members of the City Council

SUBJECT: Request for Approval to Accept and Expend Fiscal Y2020 Earmarked State Funds for a comprehensive Lower Locks Structural Evaluation, Design Feasibility, and Visioning Study

Dear Mayor Leahy and Members of the City Council:

I respectfully request that the City Council vote to approve and accept Fiscal Year 2020 earmarked funds in the amount of \$200,000, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts via the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, Massachusetts Marketing Partnership/Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism. The City was able to obtain this funding as a result of the efforts of Senator Edward Kennedy, who secured earmark funds for a study for improvements and repairs to the Lower Locks and surrounding area in the City of Lowell.

Despite Lower Locks' centrality and historical significance, it is in severe disrepair, not universally accessible, and underutilized. With this earmark funding, the City will procure a design and engineering firm to undertake a comprehensive Lower Locks Structural Evaluation, Design Feasibility, and Visioning Study. The study will include both structural analysis and public visioning, resulting in a program of repair and rehabilitation, cost estimates, full-color renderings, and phasing. Specifically, the earmark will fund a structural analysis of canal walls, river walls, lock chambers, canal/lock infrastructure including valve, bridges, ramp structures, and spillway; detailed recommendations for emergency/temporary measures and permanent measures; rough concept drawings for repairs and for the overall landscape; interim sketches and at least two full-color three-dimensional renderings of the area suitable for public viewing and future fundraising; programmatic cost estimates for design and construction of recommendations and concepts; and a phasing/prioritization plan for design and construction of recommendations and concepts.

The Department of Planning and Development and the Department of Public Works is working closely with landowners and stakeholders including Central Rivers Power, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust, Lowell National Historical Park, Lowell Waterways Vitality Initiative, Middlesex Community College, and University of Massachusetts Lowell. These stakeholders will be consulted throughout the study. The study's goal is to enable future phases of design and repair to this critical resource.

These funds have already been secured by the City and are ready for use, subject to the City Council's approval of acceptance. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

EMD/ns
Attachment

cc: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director
Christine Clancy, P.E., Public Works Commissioner
Christine P. O'Connor, City Solicitor
Chris Hayes, Neighborhood Planner