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MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager

FROM: Ting Chang, PE, City Engineer  
Natasha Vance, PE, Transportation Engineer

DATE: August 25, 2020

SUBJECT: INFORMATIONAL UPDATE - CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The following report addresses the current status and anticipated schedule for the construction projects that are currently under construction or design in the City of Lowell.

Streets F&G/Signature Bridge in HCID – Newport Construction remobilized to the site in late May, 2020. They have poured the bridge deck for the signature bridge and completed the new sidewalk bridges flanking the existing bridge off of Dutton Street, including all railings. The sidewalks flanking the bridge are now open. They are now completing site finishes. Construction coordination continues for all of the projects in the HCID, both new and ongoing. The bridge and site work is anticipated to be complete by the end of September 2020.

TIGER Bridges:

1. Merrimack Street over Merrimack Canal – bridge work has been completed. Punchlist work remaining.
2. Merrimack Street over Western Canal – bridge rehabilitation work has been completed. Sidewalk and punchlist work remains to be completed.
3. Pawtucket Street over Northern Canal – currently underway and closed to vehicular traffic. Pedestrians and cyclists can cross the bridge. The rock anchors are installed and final pull testing is completed. Abutment and retaining wall work will commence in August 2020. Bridge completion is anticipated by August 2021.
4. Central Street over Pawtucket Canal – The City, MassDOT, the contractor, the design team, NPS and Central Rivers Power (CRP) worked collaboratively over the winter to determine the most effective dewatering method for the canal. The selected method includes CRP shutting down their operations in this canal, de-energizing the underwater cable and the contractor building a piped bypass system so they can work in the dry. The contractor remobilized to the site on July 13, 2020 and will work on the bridge for the next 6 months. They have installed the upstream sandbags and headwalls and expect to install the bypass piping the beginning of August. The NPS granite artwork will be removed by the contractor and stored by the City. Expected completion date is September 2022, which is also the anticipated date for the entire program completion.
5. Pawtucket Street over Pawtucket Canal –The bridge has been closed to vehicular traffic since February 2020 due to significant deterioration of the existing bridge, which was discovered following the collapse of a small portion of the bridge deck. The revised TMP is in place, closing

Pawtucket Street from the intersection with School Street to Walker Street. Detour signs are in place at the intersections and adjustments have been made to the signal timing. The project continues to move forward. The contractor has almost completed all of the required utility relocations. They have recently completed sidewalk sections and continue to form and pour the bridge approach slabs, moment slabs and BR2 curb for the outbound lane and will begin paving in August 2020. The outbound lane will be open to vehicular traffic by the end of September 2020, as planned. Bridge completion is anticipated by November 2021.

VFW Bridge Replacement over the Beaver Brook (MADOT): This work includes full bridge replacement (both sub and super structure replacements). The contractor is working on the substructure of the bridge. Phase 1, which includes the completion of the first half of the bridge closest to the Merrimack River, is anticipated to be completed by summer/fall 2020. Phase 2, which will include the second half of the bridge replacement, is anticipated to be completed by summer/fall 2021. Lane shifts on VFW are in place for Phase 1 and will be in place for Phase 2.

Lord Overpass: Stage 2 of the construction phasing began mid-May 2020. The underpass fill is nearly complete. Utility relocation is still underway for National Grid and Verizon. Once the utility companies have raised their manholes within the fill section, the contractor can complete the filling operation and begin Stage 2A. Stage 2A involves creating temporary roadways next to the bridges to maintain cross traffic while the bridge demolition is completed. As anticipated, the construction work is being performed between 7am and 3:30pm most days. Night and weekend work is possible over the duration of the project, but is expected to be infrequent. The anticipated project duration is 34 months, with completion in January 2023.

Route 38 Improvements: MADOT's contractor, J. Tropeano, was able to work through most of the winter and through the COVID19 shutdowns and remains slightly ahead of schedule. Completed items include mast arm and pedestrian post foundations, hand holes, traffic cabinet foundations, conduit, relocation of utility poles, hydrants and signs. The traffic channelization island leading to Laurel Street has been closed to install the mast arm foundation. The widening along Nesmith between Chestnut Street and Andover Street is almost complete. The retaining wall at Kittredge Park has been constructed. Next steps will include installing the railing on top of the wall, constructing the sidewalk and resetting the granite wall/edge along the park. The final paving courses, signage and landscaping will be installed in 2021. The anticipated construction duration is 25 months with project completion scheduled for September 2021.

HCID Garage: Shawmut Construction completed the installation of all the outer reinforced concrete panels and is currently working on finishing the interior of the garage. The anticipated construction duration is 18 months with project completion scheduled for October 2020.

Beaver Street over Beaver Brook Bridge: Per MADOT's recommendation, the City closed the bridge to vehicular traffic as a result of recent findings in a bridge inspection report. The bridge is open to cyclist and pedestrian traffic. Localized or short term repairs are not feasible. The design consultant completed 100% bid documents for a bridge superstructure replacement and substructure repair. MADOT has approved the design. The cost to replace the bridge is \$3Million. The bridge is expected to remain closed until a funding source is determined.

Lowell Connector Bridge Deck Replacement over Industrial Ave East: MADOT's contractor, S&R Construction, began bridge rehabilitation work in January 2020. Work began on the substructure and has shifted to the superstructure. The current traffic management plan has lanes closed on the Lowell Connector. Construction activities may mandate the closure of the exit ramp. If so, MADOT will

notify the City prior to the closure and will set up signage for a short detour. The project is anticipated to be completed by the summer of 2021. .

City-Wide Roadway and Sidewalk Improvement Projects: In addition to above mentioned projects, the City has two roadway and sidewalk improvement contracts underway. The City's contractor, P.J Keating, has completed work the following streets: Belmont Avenue, Butler Drive, Carriage Drive, Clithroe Street, Evergreen Road, Heritage Drive, Mansur Street, Nob Way, Old Canal Drive, O'Neil Street, Sanborn Street, Starr Avenue, Vaughn Street, Warren Court, and Wyman Street.

The City's contractor, Newport Construction, has completed sidewalk construction or is underway and now is preparing for paving the following streets: Highland Street, Perkins Street, Hildreth Street, Williams Street, Arthur Street, Hutchinson Street, and Liberty Street. Sidewalk construction will commence in the upcoming months on: Dummer Street, Suffolk Street, Birch Street, Sycamore Street, Wentworth Avenue, and Hovey Street.

National Grid Gas Main Replacement: National Grid continues to complete gas main replacement throughout the City. This work will continue into the fall 2020. Current streets where gas main replacement is occurring includes Chelmsford Street, Plain Street, Mammoth Road, Cedar Street, Agawam Street, South Whipple Street, Pine Street, Belmont Street, Marlborough Street (this is not an all-inclusive list).

Merrimack Riverwalk Phase II: This project will extend the Merrimack Riverwalk under the Bridge Street Bridge, behind Massachusetts Mills, and over the Concord River to a new terminus in front of Lowell Memorial Auditorium. The contractor, MAS Building and Bridge, mobilized to the site in August and began vegetation removal and other prep work. MAS is anticipated to begin work on an ADA-compliant ramp, a cantilevered overlook, and abutments for a new footbridge over the Concord River in early September. It anticipates bridge truss erection in winter 2020/21. MAS plans to break for the season and then complete the bridge deck, landscape, and hardscape work in spring and early summer of 2021.

Concord River Greenway: This project will connect two existing portions of the Concord River Greenway from the Jollene Dubner Park and over the Concord River to the Lawrence Street portion of the greenway. The contractor, MAS Building and Bridge, is currently doing some initial site inspections in preparation for a full mobilization in September. The construction of this portion of the Greenway will include 2 footbridges and an extended walkway. The contractor intends to work on site this fall, take a break over the winter, and resume work in the spring. The project, including bridge erection, and all landscaping will be complete in the summer of 2021.

Other Miscellaneous Infrastructure Projects: In addition to the above mentioned projects, there is ongoing utility work by municipal and private utility companies. Traffic management considerations for these smaller projects are evaluated in conjunction with the larger projects mentioned above.

NV/ns

cc: Christine Clancy, DPW Commissioner  
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