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In CC
packets
10/24/08

Bernard F. Lynch
City Manager

TO: Mayor Edward Caulfield
And
Members of the Lowell City Council

FROM: Bernard F. Lynch, City Manager

DATE: October 23, 2008

SUBJECT: **MOTION OF 10/14/08 BY COUNCILOR A. MERCIER
"REQUEST THE CITY MANAGER UPDATE THE CITY
COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF THE UNIVERSITY AVENUE
BRIDGE REPAIRS".**

Regarding the above-mentioned motion, I have been in contact with TJ McCarthy DPD Director / DPW Commissioner. TJ has a report prepared by Lisa DeMeo, City Engineer with all the updates below.

On August 25, 2008, the University Ave. Bridge was shut down to traffic for repairs. The repairs being performed are intended to keep the bridge in operation until the new bridge is ready in approximately 2014.

The project was advertised and four bids were opened during the summer. James A. Gross, Inc. was the low bidder at \$798,490. The schedule they provided the City has the project being completed by mid December, 2008. The consultant on this project is Ammann & Whitney. They have designed the repairs and are performing weekly inspections.

The work being performed includes removing lead for steel removal, top chord cleaning (floor beams), rivet replacement, steel repairs (stringers and floor beams), and repairing steel grid decking.

The steel for the project was ordered as soon as possible. However, the fracture critical steel members come from manufacturers in Louisiana. The damage caused by this year's hurricanes caused some delays in the steel

deliveries. Some steel was delivered on October 20, 2008 with the remainder scheduled for November 3, 2008.

During the first week of the shutdown, Mass Highway performed this year's annual inspection of the bridge. At the City's request, the inspection report was expedited and new deficiencies were discovered. Since we had a contractor on the bridge already, we were able to have this year's inspection report analyzed and repairs designed.

Ammann & Whitney was able to use the same design for the additional repairs. James A. Gross was able to order more of the same steel. The original and additional repair work is now on their schedule.

The contractor has asked to work some Saturdays for the next few weeks in order to compensate for the additional shifts, there may be a need to extend the closure by two weeks, and impact to the schedule will become more definitive.

The additional costs were reserved in current Ch. 90 funding.

We will advise of the progress as this project comes to a close.

With these additional work days, they feel they will complete all repairs by early January. This is just a few weeks longer than the original schedule. In essence we are getting two years of repair done at one time and this project is on budget.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.