



Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin
Assistant City Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Leahy and Members of the City Council *EMD*

FROM: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager

DATE: April 14, 2020

SUBJECT: Rourke Bridge Update (**Motion by M. Leahy on 11/19/2019 & Motion by C. Nuon 3/10/20** - Req. Update From The State Regarding Rehabilitation Of The Rourke Bridge)

As requested by the City Council, my office has reached out to MassDOT to request an update on the Rourke Bridge replacement project. As reflected in the attached response, Regina Villa Associates, Inc., which is leading public engagement and outreach on the project on MassDOT's behalf, has agreed to provide a presentation about the project during the April 28 meeting of the City Council.

EMD



51 Franklin Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02110
Phone: 617-357-5772
Fax: 617-357-8361

Regina Villa Associates, Inc.

April 9, 2020

Kara Keefe Mullin, Assistant City Manager
City of Lowell
375 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01852

RE: MassDOT Rourke Bridge Replacement Project Briefing

Dear Assistant City Manager Keefe Mullin,

Regina Villa Associates, Inc. is leading the public engagement and outreach program for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division's (MassDOT) Rourke Bridge Replacement Project, at the direction of MassDOT and the project design team led by HNTB. I am writing to request time on the City Council's April 28 meeting agenda to re-introduce the project and provide information on the upcoming design phase, prior to beginning our public engagement process.

MassDOT has begun work on the next phase of the Rourke Bridge Replacement Project. The current phase builds on the NMCOG feasibility study that was completed in 2013. The new Rourke Bridge will replace the temporary structure across the Merrimack River in Lowell to improve mobility for all users and meet current standards, including ADA accessibility. The new structure will connect Middlesex Street to the south and Pawtucket Boulevard to the north. The alignment of the new bridge will be determined during design. The existing bridge was constructed in 1983 as a temporary bridge to serve demand while a new bridge was permitted and constructed. Based on a 2013 feasibility study conducted by the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, MassDOT is advancing the replacement of the Rourke Bridge through preliminary design, environmental permitting and construction. The new, permanent bridge will improve mobility for all roadway users (pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles), include an attractive design that provides a unique pedestrian experience overlooking the Merrimack River, and support water-based recreational activities.

MassDOT has developed a robust public engagement and outreach program for the project to ensure the community's interests are heard and incorporated, to the extent feasible. The program includes establishing a Working Group, scheduling briefings, and holding Working Group and public meetings throughout the design phase. Additionally,

the project team will attend key community events to gather input, prepare and distribute print information materials, and develop a website and online comment form.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you about the April 28 presentation request. I can be reached at 617-999-7912 or kbarrett@reginavilla.com.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kate Barrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "B".

Kate Barrett, Engagement Project Manager