



Kara Keefe Mullin  
*Assistant City Manager/Acting DPD Director*

Craig Thomas  
*Deputy Director*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Craig Thomas, Deputy Director

DATE: May 6, 2021

SUBJECT: MOTION OF 4/13/21 BY COUNCILOR SAMARAS  
REQUEST CITY MANAGER HAVE PROPER DEPARTMENT CONTACT STATE  
REGARDING THE ISSUES AT THE END OF THE LOWELL CONNECTOR AND  
GORHAM STREET

MOTION OF 4/27/21 BY COUNCILOR CHAU  
REQUEST CITY MANAGER CONTACT MASSDOT REGARDING REMEDIAL  
ACTIONS NEEDED TO ENHANCE THE SAFETY AT THE END OF THE  
LOWELL CONNECTOR AT GORHAM STREET

The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) recently met with MassDOT to discuss the current status of the safety improvements for the Lowell Connector and Gorham Street intersection. MassDOT is moving forward with the designs for a new roundabout at the intersection. Many alternatives were considered, but MassDOT believes that a roundabout will provide the greatest safety improvement at this intersection. A public hearing will occur when MassDOT reaches a level of design referred to as 25% complete, which will help answer several open questions about pedestrian crossings and potential changes to access from Gorham Street for the neighbors. Many of these questions arose during previous public meetings and DPD will post updated Q&A information for neighbors and stakeholders this week. The outcomes of the 25% design public hearing will help clarify the final construction schedule.

In addition, City staff are reviewing remedial safety enhancements for the end of the Lowell Connector and hiring a consultant to help with transportation designs at this intersection and Lowell Connector at Thorndike Street. City staff and MassDOT agreed to continue frequent meetings on this project and remedial improvements will be an important discussion moving forward.

cc: Kara Keefe Mullin, Assistant City Manager/Acting DPD Director  
Christine Clancy, P.E., Commissioner of Public Works  
Ting Chang, P.E., City Engineer  
Alan Heredia, Assistant Transportation Engineer  
Chris Hayes, Neighborhood Planner