

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

LOAN ORDER
(MSBA Accelerated Repair Program)

To borrow Four Hundred and Ten Thousand Dollars (\$410,000) for the purpose of paying costs of architectural and engineering services related to various school improvement projects, more fully described below,

IT IS ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF ITS MEMBERS, as follows:

Ordered: That the City appropriate the amount of Four Hundred and Ten Thousand (\$410,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs associated with a feasibility study/schematic design for the projects at the following schools, each located in the City of Lowell, Massachusetts:

<u>Project</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Address</u>
Roof	Henry J. Robinson Middle School	110 June Street
Boiler (Partial)	Henry J. Robinson Middle School	110 June Street
Windows/Doors	Henry J. Robinson Middle School	110 June Street
Roof	Dr. An Wang Middle School	365 W. Meadow Road
Boiler	Dr. An Wang Middle School	365 W. Meadow Road
Boiler	Shaughnessy Elementary School	1158 Gorham Street
Roof	S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary School	570 Beacon Street

including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and for which the City may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended under the direction of The City Manager or his/her designee. To meet this appropriation the City Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The City acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the City incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City; and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Feasibility Study Agreement that may be executed between the City and the MSBA. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this loan order, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c.44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

ORDER RECOMMENDED AND INTRODUCED BY:


Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager

LoanOrderAccelerated2021



Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

November 14, 2021

Mayor John J. Leahy
And
Members of the Lowell City Council

Dear Mayor Leahy and Members of the Lowell City Council,

I hereby submit for approval a loan order in the amount of \$410,000 to fund the Schematic Design Study stage of a cadre of new Accelerated Repair Program (“ARP”) projects at various schools in the City of Lowell. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”) Board of Directors voted to invite the city to partner with the MSBA in conducting a schematic design study for a potential roof and boiler replacement project at the Dr. An Wang Middle School, a potential roof, windows/doors and partial boiler replacement project at the Henry J. Robinson Middle School, a potential boiler replacement project at the John J. Shaughnessy Elementary School and a potential roof replacement project at the S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary School. The invitation for the partial boiler replacement project is limited to boiler section 1 as described by the City in its Statement of Interest for the Henry J. Robinson Middle School. This phase of the project was approved for funding through the Massachusetts School Building Authority’s (“MSBA”) Accelerated Repair Program on October 27, 2021. According to the approval letter, the city must approve funding for the Feasibility Study/Schematic Design portion of this potential project by January 28, 2022.

This vote represents yet another step forward in an aggressive capital campaign by the city to make much needed repairs to the city’s aging school facilities. The process began early in my Administration, and at the direction of the City Council, when a comprehensive facility study was commissioned. Armed with data from the EMG study on each school building and a prioritized list of all HVAC systems, roofs, doors, and windows eligible for funding, and after the unanimous approval by both the City Council and the School Committee; the city has since submitted a flurry of applications for funding to the MSBA. The MSBA’s funding is often limited, but this year the city has been able to have a number of projects invited into the process. The funding will focus on the preservation of existing assets by performing energy-efficient and cost-saving upgrades at the approved sites, resulting in direct operational savings for the city and the school district.



Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

The debt service for this loan order has been calculated into the projections used in formulating the city's comprehensive five-year capital improvement plan ("CIP"). An additional loan order will be needed to fund the construction phase of the program but it, like this loan order, will be eligible for reimbursement from the MSBA of up to 79.85% of eligible costs. A great deal of thanks is owed to the State, including the State Treasurer's Office and the MSBA, for the opportunity to participate in such a program. Without it, gateway cities like Lowell would be wholly unable to keep pace with the repair costs of ageing infrastructure.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

cc: Conor Baldwin, Chief Financial Officer