


Yovani Baez-Rose
Interim Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas A. Golden, Jr., City Manager 

FROM: Yovani Baez-Rose, Interim Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

CC: Elizabeth Oltman, PE, Transportation Engineer
Alan Heredia, Assistant Transportation Engineer

SUBJECT: MOTION OF 8/23/2022 – Councilor Jenness Request City Manager Have Proper Department Evaluate Adding Crossing Lights At The Shattuck/Merrimack Intersection Across Merrimack; Similar To The Lights On East Merrimack By Middlesex College Or On Broadway Near Market Basket.

The City Transportation Engineer evaluated the intersection of Shattuck Street / Merrimack Street for the installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB). RRFBs are pedestrian-activated enhancements to increase pedestrian visibility and are installed at uncontrolled marked crosswalks. There are currently three uncontrolled (not at a traffic signal) crosswalks along Merrimack Street between Dutton Street and Bridge Street: at Shattuck Street, Kirk Street and John Street. All are locations that can be considered for an RRFB installation.

Through the GoLowell project with the LRTA, the bus stops at the intersections of Merrimack Street / Kirk Street and Merrimack Street / John Street are to be upgraded to improve pedestrian and transit rider safety. Installation of RRFBs at these locations can be easily incorporated into the design and construction of these pedestrian and transit enhancements. With these two enhanced crossings, an additional RRFB at Shattuck Street may not be necessary, as the Kirk Street crossing is approximately 175 feet to the east. However, as plans progress for the GoLowell improvements, an additional RRFB at Shattuck Street can be considered.

A contract for a design consultant has been obtained for design this fall/winter with bidding for construction projected for the spring/summer of 2023.

EMO