




Yovani Baez-Rose
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

MEMORANDUM

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

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

CC: Elizabeth Oltman, PE, Transportation Engineer

SUBJECT: MOTION OF 12/7/2022 – Councilor Noun – Request City Manager Have Appropriate Department Update Council On The Complete Streets Prioritization Plan.

The MassDOT Complete Streets Funding Program dedicates state funds to plan and implement projects that make travel safe, comfortable, convenient, and accessible for people of all ages, abilities, and travel modes. The City of Lowell adopted a Complete Streets Policy in 2016, and was subsequently awarded funds to construct the South Common Shared Use Path in 2017. At this time, the City's Prioritization Plan is due to be updated with a current set of projects as a result of recent planning efforts throughout the City.

The City was awarded a Technical Assistance Grant from MassDOT in the amount of \$49,993.67 in November 2022. This grant allows the City to secure a design engineer who will create an updated Complete Streets Prioritization Plan for acceptance by MassDOT. Creation of this document will allow the City to apply for up to \$500,000 in construction funding to implement a Complete Streets project (or projects) as identified in the Prioritization Plan.

DPD is in the process of contracting with Howard Stein Hudson, a firm with significant technical experience in preparing Prioritization Plans for Cities throughout the Commonwealth. The timeline to prepare the draft Prioritization Plan will extend through the winter and spring, with a goal of MassDOT approval of the Plan in late summer and an application for construction funding in September 2023. Current traffic calming requests are anticipated to be included in the Plan, and recommendations within recent planning documents will be compiled. Public outreach will be in the form of a crowd-sourcing survey tool and a draft form of the Plan will be circulated for comment.

The Transportation Engineer will continue to update the Council as milestones are reached throughout the process.

EMO