



Thomas A. Golden, Jr.
City Manager

Shawn Machado
Assistant City Manager

Melissa Desroches
Executive Assistant

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Melissa Desroches, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

CC: Conor Baldwin, CFO; Doreen Burgess, Assistant to the City Manager

DATE: January 26, 2023

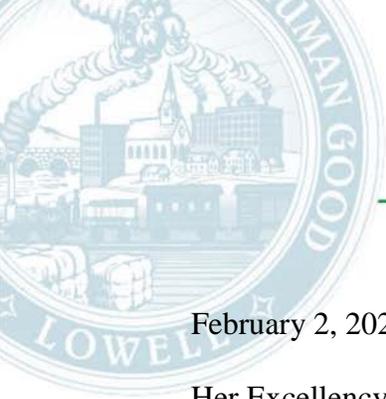
SUBJECT: MOTION RESPONSE: 1/24/23– C. Nuon – Req. City Mgr. Send Letter To Transportation Secretary, Gina Fiandaca, On Behalf Of The City Council Expressing Agreement With And Support Of Rep. Rodney Elliott’s Letter Dated January 17th Stating The Dangerous Conditions Of The Rourke Bridge And Asking For Necessary Repairs To Keep It Functioning Until It Is Replaced.

The City Manager’s office drafted a letter to the Transportation Secretary, Gina Fiandaca, on behalf of the City Council expressing agreement with and support of Rep. Rodney Elliot’s letter stating the dangerous conditions of the Rourke Bridge and asking for necessary repairs to keep it functioning until it is replaced.

In addition, letters have been drafted for Governor Maury Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll regarding the information stated above.

Attached please find the letter drafted by the City Manager’s office. Please let me know if there are any questions on this matter.

Enclosure (3) – *Copies:* Letter to (1) Governor, (2) Lieutenant Governor, and (3) MA Secretary of Transportation



Thomas A. Golden, Jr.
City Manager

February 2, 2023

Her Excellency Maura T. Healey
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 1
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Governor Healey,

I am writing to you today on behalf of Mayor Sokhary Chau and the Lowell City Council regarding the current surface conditions on the temporary Rourke Bridge in the City of Lowell, Massachusetts. This “temporary” bridge was built 40 years ago, in 1983. Current conditions necessitate immediate action, as the steel plates on the bridge need to be once again resurfaced with the requisite epoxy and stone mixture similar to the work performed in 2008 and 2014.

The MassDOT Working Group has a new replacement bridge under design, with construction slated to begin in 2025 and finish in 2028. As a governing body, it is our responsibility to ensure the public’s safety while we await construction and completion of the new permanent structure.

The current substructure of the bridge is showing signs of significant deterioration. A majority of the travel surface exhibits extensive erosion of the asphalt adhesive and exposure of the steel deck panels. The exposed steel plates create hazardous driving conditions.

The Rourke Bridge is a critical regional transportation link over the Merrimack River in Lowell, carrying over 27,000 vehicles per day. In addition to daily traffic, the bridge is one of the main points of access used by emergency vehicles transporting patients to Lowell General Hospital. School buses, police and fire, and construction vehicles travel back and forth across the bridge throughout the day.

Until the commencement of the new construction, and throughout the replacement process, it is imperative we provide safe passage for vehicles while this “temporary” bridge is still operational. We ask that you consider our request for resurfacing the temporary structure to ensure the safety of our residents and visitors to the Lowell area.

I respectfully request your attention to this matter and look forward to your response. Please feel free to contact the Office of the City Manager if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Golden, Jr.
City Manager



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City Manager

February 2, 2023

Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 1
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Lt. Governor Driscoll,

I am writing to you today on behalf of Mayor Sokhary Chau and the Lowell City Council regarding the current surface conditions on the temporary Rourke Bridge in the City of Lowell, Massachusetts. This “temporary” bridge was built 40 years ago, in 1983. Current conditions necessitate immediate action, as the steel plates on the bridge need to be once again resurfaced with the requisite epoxy and stone mixture similar to the work performed in 2008 and 2014.

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Sincerely,

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City Manager



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February 2, 2023

Secretary Gina Fiandaca
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
10 Park Street—Suite 4160
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Secretary Fiandaca,

I am writing to you today on behalf of Mayor Sokhary Chau and the Lowell City Council regarding the current surface conditions on the temporary Rourke Bridge in the City of Lowell, Massachusetts. This “temporary” bridge was built 40 years ago, in 1983. Current conditions necessitate immediate action, as the steel plates on the bridge need to be once again resurfaced with the requisite epoxy and stone mixture similar to the work performed in 2008 and 2014.

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