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## MEMORANDUM

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

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

CC: Elizabeth Oltman, PE, City Transportation Engineer

SUBJECT: MOTION RESPONSE: 1/17/2023 – Councilor Jenness - Request City Manager Have Proper Department Study Traffic Patterns And Flows At The Market / Central / Prescott Intersection And Identify Potential Improvements To Traffic Signal Cycle For The Remainder Of The Central Street Bridge Project

MOTION RESPONSE: 1/17/2023 – Councilor Jenness - Request City Manager Have Proper Department Investigate Ways To Make The Crosswalk Across Central Street At The Warren St. Intersection Safer and More Usable

Central Street has been reopened to two-way traffic flow, and the ongoing bridge construction has entered a new phase, with the west side of the bridge closed to pedestrians and one travel lane remaining closed. Previously, the bridge consisted of two northbound (inbound) lanes and one southbound (outbound) lane. At the end of the construction, planned for later this year, the prior lane uses will be returned. During the construction phases, the intersection of Market Street / Central Street / Prescott Street has been modified from its prior operation to restrict northbound left turns from Central Street onto Market Street. This was done to remove a northbound advance left turn signal phase and ease congestion while the northbound approach is constrained. During the construction, while the Market Street / Central Street / Prescott Street intersection is reduced in capacity, the left turns into the Downtown area are better processed at Middle Street and Merrimack Street. At the completion of construction, the left turn phase will be reinstated and the timing of the signal reassessed.

Due to the length of the right turn movement from Market Street onto Central Street at the intersection of Market Street / Central Street / Prescott Street around the new construction barriers, a “No Turn On Red” sign has been added facing Market Street to protect pedestrians crossing the northbound Central Street approach (see below).

MassDOT’s contractor has installed additional pedestrian crossing signs at the crosswalks across Central Street at Warren Street and Hurd Street. These will remain in place during the rest of the construction phase (see below). At the completion of construction, all of the pedestrian signage and crosswalk striping will need to be reassessed and replaced where missing.

A “Businesses open during construction” sign has also been installed to aid the businesses on the west side of Central Street where the sidewalk is closed over the bridge.

EMO

