




Shannon Norton  
Executive Director

## MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Shannon Norton, Executive Director

**CC:** Kevin Coughlin, Executive Director, MassHire Greater Lowell Workforce Board  
Yovani Baez-Rose, Assistant City Manager, DPD

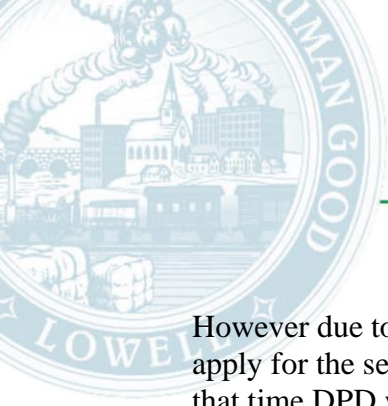
**DATE:** 6/22/23

**SUBJECT: MOTION RESPONSE: 5/9/23 – C. Wayne Jenness and C. Erik Gitschier –**  
Req. City Mgr. Have Proper Department Investigate The Department of Labor's Building Pathways To Infrastructure Job Grant Program And Provide A Report To The Council On Potential Benefit To The City Of Lowell

In April the Department of Labor issued a funding proposal called Building Pathways to Infrastructure Job Grant. MassHire staff from the Career Center and the Workforce Board met with staff from the City's Department of Planning and Development to discuss this grant opportunity. The grant's purpose is to train individuals for good jobs related to projects funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). DPD has applied for a few infrastructure projects that may align with this Building Pathways grant.

- The city, in conjunction with area towns, has applied for a Massachusetts Broadband Institute Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program Grant. Part of this grant will involve a study for possible infrastructure projects to increase connectivity access and coverage.
- DPD has applied for the School Grant Renew project under the BIL. This program would improve energy efficiency at our public schools over a five-year period. Projects would include weatherization, energy management system controls, mechanical retro-commissioning, refrigeration opportunities, roof replacements and other building specific energy conservation measures.
- DPD has applied for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. This grant would provide funding for upgrades and repairs and construction for several bridge projects in Lowell.

Should these projects be funded, it would provide an excellent opportunity for MassHire to apply for this Pathways to Infrastructure grant to train residents in the fields of welding, HVAC, electronics, and weatherization. Working with our training partners such as Middlesex Community College and our area Technical High Schools we feel confident we can put together a successful grant package to provide training in these fields.



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*Executive Director*

However due to the timing of the submission of the proposals from DPD, we have decided to apply for the second round of this grant funding which will become available in March 2024. At that time DPD will have been notified if these infrastructure projects are funded. We will also have time to put together the partnerships and training programs to make our grant proposal a strong and compelling one to DOL.

In the meantime, MassHire, through its Workforce Board, continues to apply for grants to train residents in a variety of occupations. These include occupations in Healthcare, Early Education, Advanced Manufacturing, and Information Technology. Training courses are ongoing and are provided by our partner organizations. More information on available training opportunities, which are provided at no cost to eligible participants, is on our website and our social media channels.