

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

VOTE

Authorizing the City Manager to Accept, Appropriate, and Expend Funds from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) in the amount of Twenty-One Million Four Hundred Thousand and 00/100 (\$21,400,000.00) Dollars from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants Program.

The City of Lowell is desirous of accepting and expending a Grant called Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT); and

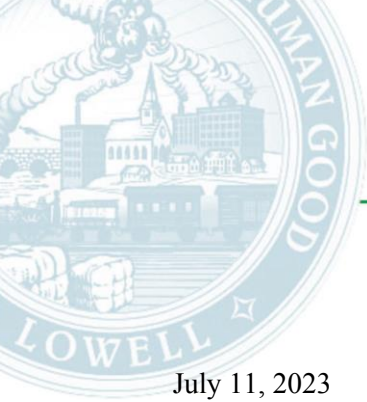
The Grant will make available to the City the sum of Twenty-One Million Four Hundred Thousand and 00/100 (\$21,400,000.00) Dollars to allow for the repair of four bridges within the City of Lowell.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT VOTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL:

That the City Manager be and is hereby authorized to accept, appropriate, and expend funds from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants Program from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) in the amount of Twenty-One Million Four Hundred Thousand and 00/100 (\$21,400,000.00) Dollars to allow for the repair of four bridges within the City of Lowell.

BE IT FURTHER VOTED:

That the City Manager, on behalf of the City of Lowell, be and hereby is, authorized to execute any and all documents necessary in connection with said grant, including the expenditure thereof.



Thomas A. Golden, Jr.
City Manager

July 11, 2023

Mayor Sokhary Chau
And
Members of the Lowell City Council

Dear Mayor Chau and Members of the Lowell City Council,

I respectfully request that the City Council vote to accept, appropriate and expend grant funding received from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) in the amount of \$21,400,000 from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants Program.

Four bridges within the City of Lowell have been identified as in critical need of repair. Three of the bridges carry urban arterials to access Downtown Lowell and the adjacent neighborhoods. The Market Street Bridge over the Merrimack Canal has deteriorated to the point of necessitating weight restrictions and sidewalk closings. The Swamp Locks Bridge over the Lower Pawtucket Canal has been closed to vehicular traffic. Portions of the Broadway Street Bridge over the Western Canal have been closed to pedestrian traffic. The Lawrence Street Bridge over the River Meadow Brook has significant cracking in the substructure. Failure of any of the bridges would adversely impact public safety, commerce, economic development, traffic congestion, National Park tourism, and transportation efficiency in the City to a significant degree.

The City of Lowell has expended funding to begin the design process for all the bridges for which capital funding was requested. Grant funding was awarded to complete the design and permitting process, construct the bridges when designed, and procure construction administration. In all cases, the new bridges will provide enhanced pedestrian and bicycle accommodations and will remove posted weight restrictions to allow emergency vehicles and commercial trucks to continue to utilize the crossings. This project is intended to preemptively address the adverse impacts to public safety, public transportation, economic development, pedestrian safety, environmental justice, national park visitor experience, and the regional transportation network that are generated by the current bridge conditions.

The Department of Planning and Development will be the primary contact of the City, will retain an Owners Project Manager (OPM), and will be working closely with other departments as needed. Funding will be used to first secure an OPM, then secure a design engineer, and finally to reconstruct the bridges. No funding match is required from the City for this Grant.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Golden, Jr.
City Manager

CC: Yovani Rose-Baez, Interim Assistant City Manager / DPD Director
Elizabeth Oltman, PE, Transportation Engineer