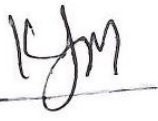





Conor Baldwin
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kevin J. Murphy, City Manager 
FROM: Conor Baldwin, Chief Financial Officer 
CC: Nicolás Bosonetto, Interim City Engineer
DATE: July 19, 2017

SUBJECT: MOTION REQUEST 11.5. 5/16/17 C. Leary - Request the City Manager provide an update regarding sidewalk crossing Chelmsford Street and Inland Street. In addition, provide an update regarding the improvements planned for Inland Street.

As part of each year's capital planning process, the finance department solicits input from all departments for capital project funding requests. While certain funds are allocated per project, the city generally funds paving and sidewalk improvements in a lump sum appropriation. In FY16 and FY17, those amounts were \$1.35 million and \$1.4 million, respectively and the amount approved by the City Council for FY18 is \$1.35 million. The bond proceeds are a local supplement to the allocation of Chapter 90 funds from the state for roadwork and allow the city the flexibility to work on "unaccepted" streets, as well as maximize the impact on curb appeal during construction season.

Three separate requests for work have been received from the Highlands neighborhood in the vicinity of Chelmsford Street and Inland Street. The Washington Elementary School has asked for new sidewalks around the building, residents along Inland Street have asked for new sidewalks, and a crosswalk located at the end of Inland Street across Chelmsford Street has been requested by the City Council.

The school sidewalks will provide safer walking experience for students. According to the Engineering Department, the Inland Street sidewalks are adversely impacted by large trees with root systems that are breaking-up the existing sidewalks. The trees also are causing drainage problems along the gutter line. The proposed scope of the work will alleviate several of these existing issues, as well as provide a crosswalk to get to the LHA neighborhood on the other side of Chelmsford Street. The City Engineer anticipates that there will be a need for public meetings with residents before a final plan can be determined; including discussions on how to deal with the existing trees. These three projects will be grouped together and included in one construction contract.



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The map above highlights the full area for all phases of the project, which will be broken down into three phases. The first phase will improve the section of Inland Street from Blodgett Street to Chelmsford Street, including crosswalks and rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs). The City Engineers Office has already been out to the site to investigate, mark out the area, and compile a scope of work for a bid. As part of the investigation, the City Engineer has recommendations for improvements to neighborhood traffic and parking that would allow for the sidewalks to accommodate the existing trees without the need to remove them. Due to the sensitive nature of the impact that a project might cause, however, the City will meet and work with the neighbors to determine the most appropriate plan of action before construction commences.