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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, Transportation Engineer

SUBJECT: MOTION RESPONSE: 1/21/2026 - Councilor Noun – Request City Manager work with appropriate departments to address traffic calming measures, including crosswalks, speed bumps or other safety measures needed to improve safety throughout the City

In conformance with the City's Complete Streets policy, both DPD and DPW continue to improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists throughout the City through infrastructure projects. The following highlights prior and ongoing efforts:

Major Projects:

- City Hall (GoLowell) Pedestrian and Bus Stop improvements – construction starting spring 2026
- Acre Crossing sidewalk and traffic signal replacement at Merrimack Street at Cabot Street – construction starting spring 2026

Public schools

Many of the public schools in Lowell have a notable number of students who walk, bike or scooter to school daily. In 2025, the following projects helped address student safety at schools:

- A total of seven pedestrian crossings near parks or schools have been updated with Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons to increase pedestrian and bicycle visibility when crossing major streets.
- Speed humps were installed on Beacon Street near the Robinson and McAuliff Schools.
- Speed humps were installed on Wentworth Avenue near the LeBlanc School.
- Sidewalks were reconstructed on Adams Street near the Murkland and St. Patrick's Schools.
- New sidewalks were installed on Douglas Road near the Reilly and Sullivan Schools.
- Improved bicycle lanes were installed on Boylston Street by the Pyne Arts School.
- Rogers Street and High Street ADA Ramps were replaced at the Moody School.
- Traffic patterns at the McAvinnue School were reconfigured to improve circulation.

- Crosswalks at five schools were painted by local artists to bring awareness to crossing pedestrians.
- The Safe Routes to School grant received for improvements to School Street associated with the Stoklosa School started design with MassDOT designers.
- The Butler School received a MassDOT Safe Routes to School Signs and Lines grant to reduce pedestrian/vehicle conflicts that will be implemented in 2026.

ADA-Compliant crosswalks

The Engineering Department is programming further ADA and sidewalk/crosswalk reconstruction in 2026, focusing on the following locations:

- Father Grillo Park, including the intersection of Central Street at Chapel Street
- Durkin Park, including the intersection of Chelmsford Street at Hutchinson Street
- Eagle Park, including the intersection of West 6th Street at Jewett Street)
- Tyler Park, all abutting streets
- Callery Park, including B Street, Wilder Street and Puffer Street
- Hadley Park, Middlesex Street frontage
- Lowell Housing Authority, including the intersection of High Street at East Merrimack Street

Opportunities to realign or reconfigure intersections with poor sight lines or long pedestrian crossings are under review in these locations.

Traffic calming program progress

The Transportation Department has received traffic calming requests from over 60 streets between September 2025 and January 2026, after the installation of 36 speed humps throughout the City. The requests were received through the 311 system, phone calls, emails, and Councilor motions. Traffic speed and volume data will be collected on the streets that are generally eligible as detailed in the [Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program | Lowell, MA \(lowellma.gov\)](#) guidelines. Due to the large number of requests, a neighborhood petition may be required for the installation of speed humps. Further, as a lesson learned from the 2025 speed hump program, neighborhoods may have to be considered as a whole to avoid relocating vehicles from one street to a parallel street. Traffic data will also be recorded for the streets included in the 2025 speed hump program to reinforce the context of the streets where this type of traffic calming was most effective at lowering vehicle speeds. An online resident dashboard has been created at [Speed Humps | Lowell, MA](#). The dashboard is to the public so every resident can see their neighborhood and street and whether it is eligible for speed humps or other traffic calming elements. All traffic calming requests are recorded and are shown at [Traffic Calming Request Tracker | Lowell, MA](#)

Other traffic calming opportunities will occur during coordination with construction projects being completed by other departments. For example, the Centralville Sewer Separation Program Phase 1 will have the following traffic calming elements implemented during roadway reconstruction:

- Speed humps on Bunker Hill Avenue, Ludlum Street, and Billings Street
- Curb extensions on West 6th Street at Bunker Hill Avenue

- Additional pedestrian crossings on Hildreth Street (RRFB at McPherson Park)
- Curb extensions/sidewalks on Billings Street at Barker Street
- New crossing on Willard Street with RRFB at Market Basket
- Intersection improvements at Willard Street and Beacon Street

The Transportation Department is also coordinating with the Wastewater Utility on Phases 2A and 2B in Centralville and Phase 3 in the Lower Highlands.

Traffic signals and pedestrian beacons

Traffic signal upgrades for pedestrian safety and vehicle efficiency completed in 2025 using Rideshare funding included the following locations:

- Pawtucket Boulevard at Bedford Avenue
- Dutton Street at Broadway Street
- Chelmsford Street at Industrial Avenue/Stevens Street
- Andover Street at Nesmith Street
- Gorham Street at Central Street RRFB
- Boylston Street at Berwick Street RRFB

Rideshare funding will be used for traffic signal upgrades in 2026 at the following locations:

- Gorham Street at Moore Street
- Broadway Street at Fletcher Street
- Chelmsford Street at Plain Street
- Broadway Street RRFB

Non-signalized intersections near schools, parks, and other high-pedestrian areas are continuously under review for intersection realignment, curb extensions, and new/updated crosswalk visibility treatments. Two specific locations are being targeted in 2026:

- Raised crossing on Jackson Street at Lowell Community Health Center (through MassDOT Shared Streets and Spaces Grant)
- Raised crossings on Suffolk Street and Lewis Street near Ecumenical Plaza

Additional state and federal funding opportunities will continue to be identified to ensure progress of the goals of the Lowell Forward Master Plan and the continued safety of all our roadway users, including Complete Streets funding, OneStop Grant funds, and participation in the MassDOT Vulnerable Roadway User programs. As planning for 2026 and into 2027 progresses, Informational Reports will be submitted to City Council.

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