



**Diane Nichols Tradd**  
*Assistant City Manager/DPD Director*

**Kevin E. Coughlin**  
*Deputy Director*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kevin J. Murphy, City Manager

FROM: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MOTION OF 8/22/17 BY COUNCILOR LEARY  
 REQUEST CITY MANAGER PROVIDE AN UPDATE TO THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING  
 THE LORD OVERPASS PLAN AND THE TIME FRAME FOR FINAL PUBLIC INPUT

The Lord Overpass project is currently proceeding according to schedule. The project is fully funded through various grants, state and local funds. The project has been broken up into three segments:

- Segment I – Lord Overpass from Fletcher Street to Gallagher Station
- Segment II – Thorndike Street Widening from Gallagher Station to YMCA
- Segment III – Lowell Connector Ramps

|             | Design Stage | Design Budget                 | Construction Start Date | Construction Budget   |
|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Segment I   | 25%          | \$1,680,177<br>MassDOT Grant  | September 2018          | \$12,664,181 – MassDOT Grant<br>\$ 2,324,922 – Chapter 90/Capital                 |
| Segment II  | Final        | \$ 177,400<br>MassWorks Grant | November 2017           | \$ 1,822,600 – MassWorks Grant  |
| Segment III | Preliminary  | \$ 173,400<br>MassDOT Grant   | 2019                    | \$ 2,000,000 – MassDOT project combined<br>with Lowell Connector terminus project |
|             | Total        | \$2,030,977                   | Total                   | \$18,811,703  |

The conceptual design of this project was explored over a multi-year participation process which involved at least 13 meetings with the public, city departments, UML, NPS, LRTA, NMCOG, MassDOT, state delegation, neighborhood groups, and state agencies. Community comments and survey responses to three concept plans led to the development of the final concept plan, Concept 4, which incorporates community and stakeholder responses in order to address as many community concerns as possible. Concept 4 is as a multi-modal boulevard concept featuring sidewalks, multi-use paths, bike lanes, bus stops, vegetated buffers, ornamental lighting and an exclusive transit lane. The transit lane will facilitate the travel of 47 LRTA buses per hour as well as school buses, UML shuttles, and emergency vehicles through the corridor. The exclusive lane also offers two transit stops to service the HCID and may be used in the future to support supplemental transit options such as corporate shuttle services for HCID employees. Concept 4 was presented to the City Council Transportation Subcommittee on January 17, 2017 and then received a unanimous vote from City Council in support of the overall concept design of the Lord Overpass.

After the vote, the City received approval from MassDOT to proceed with Concept 4 last March. Subsequently, a \$1,853,577 contract was executed between the City and VHB to further the design of Concept 4, now roughly 25% complete. A public meeting to present Concept 4 at 25% design will be held in the **Pollard Memorial Library basement meeting room at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 13, 2017**. Further project presentations and meetings will continue throughout the design process.

DNT/ns  
 Attachment  
 10/20/17

cc: Nicolas Bosonetto, Transportation Engineer  
 Claire Ricker, Chief Design Planner  
 Joseph Giniewicz, Urban Renewal Project Manager

## **Lord Overpass Public and Stakeholder Participation Process**

- February 24, 2015 – City Council Transportation Subcommittee public meeting.
- November 16, 2015 – Community discussion at Senior Center including State Delegation, City Councilors and over 100 residents.
- Winter 2015/2016 – Conducted public survey with over 115 responses.
- March 16, 2016 – City Department Head meeting including City Manager’s office, DPW, DPD, LPD, LFD, Parking, Engineering, LRWWU, LRWU, and others. Overwhelming support for the filling in the Lord Overpass and including separate transit/emergency vehicle lanes.
- March 18, 2016 – Road Safety Audit with LPD, LFD, MassDOT, DPD, LRTA.
- March 21, 2016 – Meeting at UML with University and NPS staff.
- March 25, 2016 – Meeting with CBA board.
- March 28, 2016 – Public Outreach meeting #2.
- April 5, 2016 – Lowell Sun published front page story on Lord Overpass realignment.
- August 9, 2016 – Meeting with NMCOG and MassDOT District 4.
- November 17, 2016 – Meeting with LRTA to discuss bus lanes.
- December 8, 2016 – Public meeting at Western Avenue Studios.
- January 17, 2017 - City Council Transportation Subcommittee public meeting recommended Option 4.
- January 17, 2017 - City Council public meeting unanimous 9-0 vote to proceed with Option 4 design.
- March 3, 2017 – MassDOT Secretary and Lieutenant Governor visit Lowell and Option 4 is given the green light to proceed.
- April 12, 2017 – Meeting with MassDOT front office in Boston. Approved Option 4.
- May 31, 2017 – Contract executed with MassDOT for \$1,853,576.77 to proceed with Option 4.
- August 12, 2017 – Meeting with public and private utilities to coordinate all utilities during filling in of Lord Overpass.
- November 13, 2017 – Public presentation of Concept 4 at 25% design.



Thorndike St Corridor Projects  
Lowell, Massachusetts



**LEGEND**

- THORNDIKE ST RECONSTRUCTION DESIGN FUNDED THROUGH MASSDOT CONTRACT NO. 85176
- THORNDIKE ST RECONSTRUCTION DESIGN FUNDED THROUGH MASSWORKS GRANT & PRIVATE DEVELOPER
- EXISTING / FUTURE PROJECTS IN THE THORNDIKE ST SURROUNDING AREA

