



Nicolás H. Bosonetto, P.E.
City Engineer

Date: January 31, 2018
TO: Kevin J. Murphy, City Manager
VIA: Tom Bellegarde, Assistant City Manager/DPW Commissioner
FROM: Nicolás H. Bosonetto, P.E., City Engineer

SUBJECT: 1/30/18 Councilor Conway – Request City Manager work with proper departments to ensure pedestrian safety and walk-ability at the intersection of Pawtucket Blvd. and the Rourke Bridge

A Road Safety Audit (RSA) was conducted for the intersection of Pawtucket Boulevard and the Rourke Bridge in September of 2017. The lack of pedestrian accommodations was identified as a major safety concern. Recommended safety enhancements included adding ADA wheelchair ramps and crosswalks along with a refuge island for pedestrian at the exiting median. These improvements were ranked as low to medium cost items that could be accomplished in the short term.

In 2016, the Transportation Engineer made the construction of these improvements a condition to the Planning Board approval of the Middlesex Charter School project:

“The applicant shall design and construct a crosswalk, complete with ADA ramps and pedestrian signals, across the western approach of Pawtucket Boulevard at the Rourke Bridge. Said crosswalk shall be push button activated and run concurrent with the east bound left turn phase. All work shall be done per MassDOT and City of Lowell standards and be per the direction and inspection of the City Engineer and/or Transportation Engineer. All work shall be completed within 2 years after occupancy.”

Per this condition, the Middlesex Charter School will be required to construct these improvements this year.