



James Donison, P.E.
Commissioner of Public Works

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Jim Donison, P.E., DPW Commissioner
Sarah Brown, Environmental Officer -DPD

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MOTION OF 5/8/18 BY COUNCILOR CONWAY
REQUEST CITY MANAGER PROVIDE UPDATE ON ROAD CONSTRUCTION AT THE VFW HIGHWAY
ACROSS THE STREET FROM TOP DONUT AND THE AIKEN STREET BRIDGE

MassDOT and their general contractor, S&R Construction (S&R) are currently undertaking the replacement of the bridges that carry the VFW Highway over Beaver Brook. The project impacts property owned by the University of Massachusetts Lowell (UMass Lowell), the City of Lowell, and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The project began in the fall 2016.

During excavation work, composite soil samples were collected in preparation for soil management and disposal activities. As a result of this soil sampling and the subsequent laboratory analysis, it was determined that Oil and Hazardous Materials (OHM) are present in soil on both the UMass Lowell and City of Lowell parcels. Additionally, asbestos-containing debris was observed in some of the soil material south of the VFW Highway on both the east and west sides of Beaver Brook. The project was therefore suspended until further soil investigation could be completed.

On Monday, May 7, 2018, MassDOT and S&R began an environmental sampling program on the MassDOT right-of-way, City of Lowell property (432 W. Sixth Street and 644 Aiken Street), and University of Massachusetts Lowell property. The sampling program is scheduled to be complete by Wednesday, May 23, 2018.

Results of the testing program should be received from the laboratory by MassDOT and their contractors on or about Wednesday, June 6, 2018. Within two (2) to three (3) weeks, the data will be compiled and reported to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP's) Asbestos Enforcement Section. It is expected that follow-up discussions will be held between all involved parties and MassDEP regarding the acceptability of the previously submitted MassDOT Non-Traditional Asbestos Abatement Work Plan (Plan) and any other proposed soil remediation plans. Assuming that the MassDEP fast tracks their review of the Plan, MassDOT should receive approval to begin soil removal relative to their bridge replacement project on or around the July 4th holiday. If approval is received, MassDOT and their contractors are expected to mobilize and commence soil removal operations in mid-July.

At this time, the estimated completion date for the VFW Highway bridge replacement at Beaver Brook is Oct 2019, a one (1) year delay from the original timeline, based on the Contractor's latest schedule update. Updated estimates for the project completion date will be available once the extent of required remediation measures is known.

JD/SB/ns
5/18/18

cc: Diane Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director