



Diane Nichols Tradd
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

MEMORANDUM

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

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

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MOTION OF 5/8/18 BY COUNCILOR NUON
REQUEST CITY MANAGER DIRECT PROPER DEPARTMENT (DPD, NEIGHBORHOOD
SERVICES, LRTA) TO ORGANIZE A PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION TO INFORM RESIDENTS
ABOUT CHANGES TO BUS ROUTES AND BUS STOP LOCATIONS RESULTING FROM
TEMPORARY CLOSURES AND REPAIR OF CANAL BRIDGES

As construction of the Lowell Canal Bridges (TIGER) project begins next month, it is the City's intent to provide comprehensive, up-to-date information on the project; to ensure that community coordination is ongoing and that necessary impacts associated with construction are understood and minimized, and that lines of communication are open between all parties. To that end once the schedule of construction activities for this project is finalized within the next few weeks, the Department of Planning and Development will regularly maintain and update the project website lowellbridges.com with project schedules, details and updates, and any potential traffic impacts. With specific regard to this motion, there are currently no anticipated alterations to LRTA bus routes related to construction of the project.

A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) was developed for each of the five bridges included in the scope of the project. Generally, at least one travel lane will be maintained over each of the bridges throughout construction with the exception of the bridge at Pawtucket Street over the Northern Canal, which will be closed to vehicular traffic. Pedestrian access routes compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act will be maintained at all bridges. On 10/10/2017, members of the Lowell TIGER Bridges Project, including the City project team and MassDOT staff as well as engineering and public involvement consultants, met with representatives of police, fire, and EMS services for the City of Lowell, UML, and the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA) to discuss the Traffic Management Plans for the project. The TMP for each bridge was reviewed and vetted by the group.

The Lowell Canal Bridges (TIGER) project Traffic Management Plan summary for each bridge is as follows:

Pawtucket Street over Northern Canal: The bridge will be closed to all vehicular traffic. Pawtucket Street will be converted to temporary two-way traffic from the bridge to Aiken Street, to allow for local traffic to access sites including the UMass campus. Signage including 'Road Closed, Local Traffic Only' will be installed at the corner of Aiken Street, and detour routes utilizing Aiken and Father Morissette Boulevard are proposed during closure.

Pawtucket Street over Pawtucket Canal: No full closures of this bridge are anticipated; outbound (west) traffic flow will be unrestricted while inbound (east) traffic will be re-routed. A detour route along Broadway Street is proposed. As outbound traffic flow will be unrestricted, the LRTA bus routes that utilize this corridor will not be affected. Those routes include: route 6, and combined routes 6&9 on Saturdays.

Merrimack Street over Western Canal: No bridge closures are anticipated; traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction in order to create a work zone. No formal detour for Merrimack Street is proposed, however; Suffolk and Hanover Streets will be closed for construction staging. The project team expects informal re-routing to occur among regular users of the bridge in order to avoid delays often associated with reduced capacity.

Central Street over Pawtucket Canal: No closures of this bridge are anticipated, and no formal detour route is proposed. It's expected that informal re-routing may occur as people wish to avoid the delays often associated with reduced capacity and determine routes that work for their particular trips. It is anticipated that traffic will move significantly more slowly over this bridge while it is under construction due to reduced capacity.

Merrimack Street over Merrimack Canal: Work at this bridge is very minimal and will involve no closures to the roadway.

Additionally, once the project has progressed to site construction and implementation of the TMPs, the City will submit road access changes to a national database of traffic changes used by Google and other mapping services, to complement posted detour routes and aid users of navigational smartphone apps and GPS units in real time.

DNT/ns

6/20/18

Attachment

cc: Claire Ricker, Chief Design Planner

**LOWELL
TIGER GRANT BRIDGES**

STATE	FED. AID PROJ. NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
MA	TRG-003S(071)	6	224
PROJECT FILE NO.		608420	

KEY PLAN

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BR# L-15-049
PAWTUCKET ST. OVER
NORTHERN CANAL BRIDGE
SHEET 103 THRU 172

BR# L-15-047
MERRIMACK ST. OVER
WESTERN CANAL BRIDGE
SHEET 69 THRU 102

BR# L-15-050
PAWTUCKET ST. OVER
PAWTUCKET CANAL BRIDGE
SHEET 173 THRU 236

BR# L-15-046
MERRIMACK ST. OVER
MERRIMACK CANAL BRIDGE
SHEET 48 THRU 68

BR# L -15-035
CENTRAL ST. OVER LOWER
PAWTUCKET CANAL BRIDGE
SHEET 01 THRU 47

