



Diane Nichols Tradd
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

Craig Thomas
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

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

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

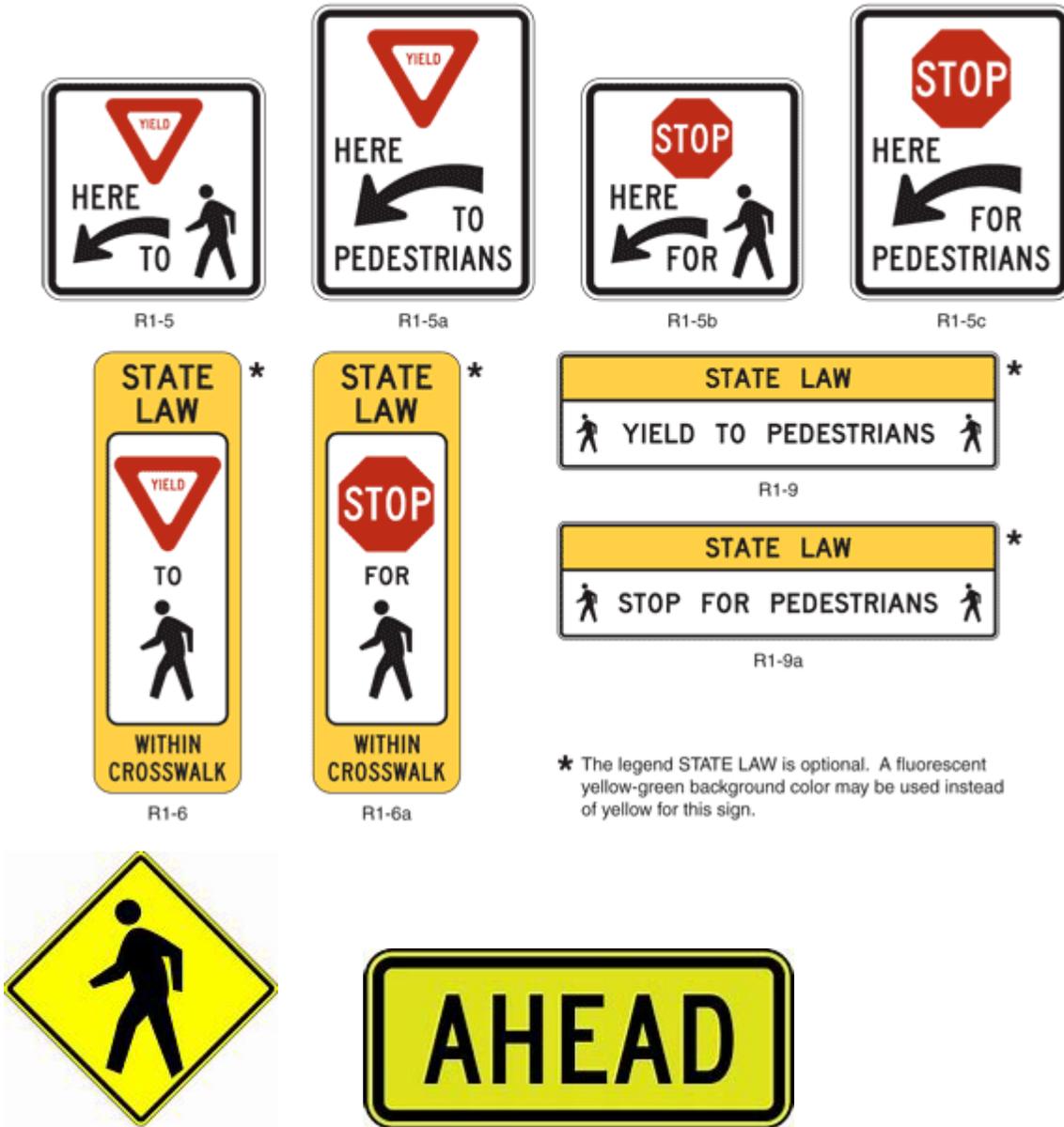
SUBJECT: MOTION OF 10/9/18 BY COUNCILOR MERCIER
REQUEST THE CITY MANAGER FIND WAYS AND MEANS TO INCREASE SAFETY MEASURES FOR
PEDESTRIANS CROSSING IN FRONT OF CITY HALL ON MERRIMACK STREET

The Transportation Engineer has investigated this location and agrees that safety improvements are in order for this location. Currently pedestrians can cross in front of City Hall at two different unsignalized crosswalks originating on either side of Cardinal O'Connell Parkway. These crosswalks are in a stretch of Merrimack Street that has no stop lights from the intersection with Dutton all the way down to the intersection with Cabot Street, resulting in fast-moving traffic and drivers who are not expecting pedestrians to cross the road. There is also an issue with solar glare at one of the crosswalks. Several pedestrians have been struck by vehicles when crossing Merrimack in front of City Hall.

As detailed previously in response to Councilor Leahy's motion from 7/24/18, DPD has a project in the design phase that would address the issue. DPD has applied for a MassWorks grant for the Merrimack Street Roadway improvement project which would create a signalized crossing at Cardinal O'Connell Parkway, among other things. We expect to hear about that funding by mid-November. However, that construction would not begin until fall of 2019 at the earliest. In the meantime, there are several options to improve safety for pedestrians.

- Remove parking spots closest to the crosswalks to increase visibility of pedestrians waiting to cross (Sign/Parking Department labor to remove parking signs/markings or add no parking signs)
- Campaign to educate the motoring public of the State Law requiring that they yield to pedestrians trying to cross (\$2,500 for flyer insert into a mailer)
- Add warning signs before the crosswalk, indicating a crosswalk ahead (\$30/sign – figure 2B-2)
- Add overhead signage (cost to be determined)
- Add more visible signage for traffic indicating they must yield to pedestrians (\$30/sign – figure 2B-2)
- Add flashing lights to indicate when a pedestrian is crossing (\$3,000 per crosswalk)

Figure 2B-2. Unsignalized Pedestrian Crosswalk Signs



There are options that would involve curb bump-outs and/or pedestrian refuge islands, which would require review of available ROW, design and construction. Costs could range from \$3,000-\$15,000, depending on the design and construction costs. Those options can be investigated more fully if we do not receive the MassWorks funding.

The Transportation Engineer recommends installing the additional advance warning signs and investigating the impact of removing parking spots next to the crosswalks.

NV/ns

10/25/18

cc: Natasha Vance, Transportation Engineer
 Lt. Stephen Gendreau, LPD
 John Cooper, Sign Division
 Steve Coutu, City Electrician