

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

VOTE

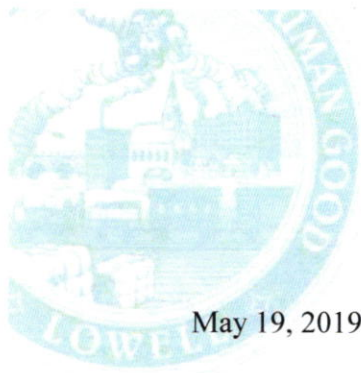
Authorizing the endorsement of the Fiscal Year 2020- Fiscal Year 2024 proposed Capital Improvement Plan ('CIP').

The City Manager has prepared a Capital Improvement Plan, which outlines capital investment expenditures over a 5-year period; and

The Plan is being submitted to the City Council for the purposes of discussion and endorsement.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS VOTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL, as follows:

That the City Council hereby endorses the City of Lowell's Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.



Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

May 19, 2019

Mayor William J. Samaras
And
Members of the Lowell City Council

Dear Mayor Samaras and Members of the Lowell City Council,

I am hereby requesting the Lowell City Council vote to endorse the five-year capital improvement plan for the City of Lowell. The plan covers much of the major capital needs for the city for fiscal years 2020 – 2024. The capital plan submission represents the second year of a revamped five year capital improvement plan (CIP) under my Administration. Some of the projects included in the plan submitted last year have been re-prioritized to better align with the current priorities for investment in the areas of: infrastructure, public safety, and community maintenance/ development.

The capital budget is one of the most significant components of the city's financial plan and a comprehensive five year plan is a best practice in financial management. Decisions made during this process will have an impact on the City of Lowell and its budgets for many years to come. In order to glean the most efficient outcome from this task, the Capital Improvement Committee – which includes the Chief Financial Officer, Assistant City Manager, and the heads of the Finance, Planning and Development, Public Works, Schools, Police, and Fire Departments– have met to ensure that citywide needs are addressed adequately through this plan. The city uses its five-year financial projections for revenue and expenditures, in addition to its five-year capital plan, to formulate budget guidelines for departments. Despite the tight deadline presented to department heads for submitting projects to the finance department, every department submitted projects for consideration in a timely manner.

I am thankful for the diligent efforts of my staff to coordinate this worthy endeavor. Investment in municipally-owned buildings, infrastructure, technology, and major equipment are the physical foundation for providing services to constituents. The procurement, construction, and maintenance of capital assets require careful planning and therefore a prescribed process for prioritization of the many projects must be followed. A properly prepared capital plan—one which contains recommendations from subject matter experts at City Hall and balances fiscal realities with the desires of the residents and the direction of the City Council—is essential to the future financial health of the organization.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager