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MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager

FROM: Christine Clancy, PE, City Engineer  
Natasha Vance, PE, Transportation Engineer

DATE: August 21, 2019

SUBJECT: INFORMATIONAL UPDATE - CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The following report addresses the current status and anticipated schedule for the construction projects that are currently under construction or design in the City of Lowell.

Market Street Bridge - - Work has been completed. All travel lanes are open.

Streets F&G – currently underway and finalizing utility work, sidewalks, and pavement installation. Binder paving was installed on Dutton Street. The majority of the work is anticipated to be completed by the end of September 2019. Some remaining work might continue into October and November pending the progress of final utility work and utility coordination.

TIGER Bridges:

1. Merrimack Street over Merrimack Canal – bridge replaced. Punchlist work remaining.
2. Merrimack Street over Western – half of the bridge has been completed. Work has flipped to the other side of the bridge and the necessary TMP is in place with a lane shift on Merrimack Street. Bridge replacement work is anticipated to be completed by February 2020.
3. Pawtucket Street over Northern Canal – currently underway and closed to vehicular traffic. Students/pedestrians can cross. Bridge completion is anticipated by November 2020.
4. Central Street over Pawtucket Canal – An updated was provided to the City Council on August 13, 2019. The project is experiencing complications with dewatering of the canal and utility coordination. The TMP that was in place for Phase 1 will be demobilized by the September 5, 2019. The City is working with MassDOT, the contractor, design team, and other stakeholders to consider design alternatives to the current design. The current expectation is that construction will start back up in spring 2020. Updates will be provided as they become available.
5. Pawtucket Street over Pawtucket Canal – currently underway for utility relocation. The TMP is in place, closing the lane for one lane of traffic inbound to Lowell. Detour signs are in place at Broadway and Walker Street. Bridge completion is anticipated by April 2022, which is also the anticipated date for the entire program complete.

VFW and Aiken Intersection Improvements: Work includes traffic and pedestrian signal and accessibility improvements at the intersection as well as surface restoration at the intersection. Mill and overlay work is being completed the week of August 19, 2019. Project completion is anticipated by October 28, 2019.

Route 113 and Mammoth Intersection Improvements: Work includes traffic and pedestrian signal and accessibility improvements at the intersection as well as surface restoration at the intersection. Mill and overlay work is being completed the week of August 19, 2019. Project completion is anticipated by October 28, 2019.

VFW Bridge Replacement over the Beaver Brook: This work includes full bridge replacement (both sub and super structure replacements). The contractor has completed demolition for Phase 1 and is beginning to building the sub structure. Phase 1, which includes the completion of the first half of the bridge closest to the Merrimack River, is anticipated to be completed by summer/fall 2020. Phase 2, which will include the second half of the bridge replacement, is anticipated to be completed by summer/fall 2021. Lane shifts on VFW are in place for Phase 1 and will be in place for Phase 2.

Lord Overpass: A bid opening for the project is scheduled for September 5, 2019. Once a contractor has been awarded the project, a detailed schedule and the TMP phasing will be provided. It is anticipated that most of the construction work will be completed at night and project duration is anticipated to be 36-40 months.

Route 38 Improvements: MassDOT's contractor, J. Tropeano, has started utility work. Drainage structures, utility work, and traffic signal conduit will be installed in 2019. The sidewalks, curbing and masonry wall will be built in 2020. The final paving courses, signage and landscaping will be installed in 2021. The anticipated construction duration is 25 months with project completion scheduled for September 2021.

HCID Garage: Shawmut Construction has been selected as the contractor for the garage project. The contractor has mobilized to the site and started preparing the site for foundation work. Foundation work is anticipated to begin in September 2019. Delivery of Reinforced Concrete (RC) panel will begin later in the year. The RC panels are 85' long and will follow a set path into the City that avoids overpasses and tight turns. Expect minimal traffic delays at Dutton and Broadway as traffic will be stopped to allow the truck to use the intersection. The anticipated construction duration is 18 months with project completion scheduled for October 2020.

Beaver Street over Beaver Brook Bridge: Per MassDOT's recommendation, the City has closed the bridge to vehicular traffic as a result of recent findings in a bridge inspection report. The bridge is open to cyclist and pedestrian traffic. The City recently reviewed the inspection report with a design consultant. The middle girder (major structural bridge member) that runs parallel to the bridge is deteriorated to a point where localized repairs are not feasible. The City is coordinating with a design consultant to develop bid documents to bid a superstructure replacement and substructure repair. Depending on the availability of funds, the City anticipates construction beginning in spring 2020 and being completed in spring 2021. The bridge is expected to remain closed in the interim.

Lowell Connector Bridge Deck Replacement over Industrial Ave East: MassDOT's contractor, S&R Construction, will begin bridge deck replacement work this fall 2019. The City will be attending a construction kickoff meeting in early September. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

Lowell High School Roof Project: Through traffic on Kirk Street is anticipated to be reinstated the first week in September. Paige Street two-way traffic will be reinstated as well. The project is anticipated to be completed the first week in September 2019.

Other Miscellaneous ongoing Construction Efforts throughout the City: In addition to above mentioned projects, there are City-wide paving and sidewalk programs that were completed this spring. The City is currently awarding a roadway reconstruction project and a separate paving contract to a contractor. The City is also preparing bid documents for localized paving and sidewalk repairs.

National Grid continues to complete gas main replacement throughout the City. Current streets where gas main replacement is occurring includes Rogers Street, Chelmsford Street, Liberty Street, Middlesex Street, and Stevens Street. (This is not an all-inclusive list).

During this same duration, there is ongoing utility work by municipal and private utility companies. Traffic management considerations for these smaller projects are evaluated in conjunction with the larger projects mentioned above.

NV/ns

cc: Christine Clancy, City Engineer  
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Ralph Snow, DPW Commissioner