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City of Lowell Receives Housing Choice Community Capital Grant To Fund Parking Study

The City of Lowell has been awarded \$225,000 through the Department of Housing and Community Development's Housing Choice Community Capital Grant Program. The grant will fund a comprehensive study of parking in the City.

The citywide study will assess every aspect related to parking in Lowell. Specific areas that will be evaluated include downtown parking, the City's residential dwelling program, residential parking areas, shared parking, municipally owned parking garages and overnight residential parking in City lots. The study will also consider the impact of new housing development in the City and methods to address the increased demand for parking stimulated by recent development successes. It is anticipated to present actionable recommendations based on best practices to guide efforts to modernize parking operations and programs in a manner that supports planned development in the long-term. The City's Department of Planning and Development intends to hire a consultant to oversee the study, which will entail substantial input from residents and stakeholders.

Lowell was among 30 communities across the Commonwealth awarded funding totaling \$5 million through the Housing Choice Community Capital Grant Program at an announcement ceremony held in Brockton last week. Grants awarded through the program are intended to support local projects that enhance quality of life for residents, including studies to plan for long-term development. Communities that have been designated as a Housing Choice Community are eligible for funding through the program. Lowell previously earned the designation based on a demonstrated commitment to implementing housing best practices and participating in the statewide initiative's goal of advancing sustainable housing production.

“The study enabled by this funding will allow the City to conduct an exhaustive review of all existing parking programs and considers measures to accommodate the evolving demands of the community,” **said City Manager Eileen Donoghue.** “This study will come at a critical moment for the City. Given the recent growth of market-rate housing in Lowell and the anticipation of major development projects in the coming years, a comprehensive plan to make parking more efficient for current residents and businesses and that supports the City’s long-term development goals is much needed. We are grateful that the Administration has recognized the strategic value of this study.”

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