

City of Newton, Massachusetts

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May 30, 2023

Honorable City Council Newton City Hall 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

Honorable City Councilors:

I respectfully submit this docket item to this Honorable Council requesting the approval of the taking of temporary construction easements for the Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway construction project in Auburndale.

The City of Newton Department of Public Works, Department of Planning and Economic Development, and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division (MassDOT) are working together to redesign Commonwealth Avenue and the Carriage Way from Lyons Field (approximately Higgins Road) to the Newton Marriott Hotel (approximately Auburn Street). This project will improve safety and access for all users, create new green space and create a continuous shared walking and bicycle path along the Carriage Way as well as improving transit access in the area by upgrading bus stops.

As part of the reconstruction project, the city is required to take temporary construction easements from abutting properties along their frontage to the construction zone. A temporary easement plan has been prepared by A Plus Construction Services, as a subconsultant to Howard Stein Hudson. The easement plan shows all temporary easements for the project on one plan, and the plan, once approved, will be filed at the Registry of Deeds.

The city is also required to offer financial compensation to the abutters for the taking of these temporary easements. This requirement is due to the Federal and State funding for this project. Our consulting engineer, Howard Stein Hudson, and their appraisal subconsultant, A.M. Appraisal Associates, has prepared land appraisals (offers of financial compensation) for each of the temporary easements for each abutter. Law Department has verified the owners of the properties. Land appraisals are based on use of the temporary easements for up to three years (3 construction seasons), per Mass DOT requirements.

The total potential cost of the three year temporary easements along the entire project area is approximately \$229,000. The City will use a portion of the ARPA funds currently allotted to the Washington Street Pilot Project for this purpose.

Attached is a memo from Jim McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Works on the matter.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449

Ruthanne Fuller Mayor

Date:

May 23, 2023

To:

Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer

Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer

From:

James McGonagle, Commissioner Public Works

Subject:

Commonwealth Ave and Carriage Way Reconstruction Project

Taking of Temporary Easements for Construction

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Please forward this request as a docket item to the Honorable City Council for Consideration. Docket item includes the taking of the temporary easements.

Attachments: Temporary Easement Plans

cc: Andrew Lee, Law Department
Barney Heath, Director of Planning and Economic Development
Shawna Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works
Louis M. Taverna, P.E., City Engineer
Jason Sobel, P.E., Director of Transportation Engineering

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