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ARPA: Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway Construction Easements (\$230,000)

The City of Newton and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division (MassDOT) are working together to redesign and reconstruct Commonwealth Avenue and the Carriage Way in Auburndale from Lyons Field (approximately Higgins Road) to the Newton Marriott Hotel (approximately Auburn Street). This project will improve safety and access for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, create new green space, construct a continuous shared walking and bicycle path along the Carriage Way, as well as improve transit access 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. This requirement is due to the Federal and State funding for this project. The City is required to offer financial compensation to the abutters for the taking of these temporary easements for up to three years (3 construction seasons), per Mass DOT requirements. The City's consulting engineer on the project, Howard Stein Hudson, and their appraisal subconsultant, A.M. Appraisal Associates, have prepared land appraisals for each of the temporary easements.

The total cost of the three-year temporary easements along the entire project area is approximately \$230,000. The City will use a portion of the ARPA funds previously allotted to the Washington Street Pilot Project for this purpose. The State is funding the rest of the \$6.8 million construction project, as part of a larger Route 30 project to reconstruct the bridge over the Charles River and revamp the Auburn Street intersection into a roundabout.