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Washington Street Pilot and Design - \$2,770,000

For some time now, we have been exploring how we might make improvements to the stretch of Washington Street from West Newton Square to Newton Corner along the Mass Pike. This is one of the most important transportation corridors in the City, serving many businesses and residents along its route. Currently, the corridor is not very attractive or safe. Along many sections, it is wide with four travel lanes and two parking lanes. Cars and trucks drive at high speeds. It has no bicycle facilities and unappealing pedestrian accommodations.

The City Council approved \$500,000 (from marijuana HCA funds) in May 2022 to design the first phase of a major, long-term “complete streets” redesign of Washington Street. The long-term goals are to:

- Create a vibrant, welcoming and inviting boulevard for customers, businesses, and residents of all ages through streetscape and sidewalk improvements, such as improved street lighting, better stormwater management, more plantings, and the addition of street furniture.
- Improve safety and accessibility for everyone, with a particular focus on vulnerable users such as people with disabilities as well as older and younger users.
- Improve biking and walking, including increasing the number and safety of pedestrian crossings, ensuring accessibility, and providing dedicated bike lanes.
- Support public transit service, optimizing MBTA bus operations and enhancing access for transit riders to the commuter rail and buses.

One of the first steps is to finish the design and then pilot changes of a section of the Washington Street corridor from Chestnut Street to Lowell Avenue in between West Newton Square and Newtonville. Once designed, we will trial a realignment of this portion of the corridor. It is likely to include a redesign from four to two travel lanes, plus turn lanes where needed. The pilot will maintain as much parking as possible and add bikes lanes. After the pilot, the City will move forward, applying complete streets design

principles that work well for this unique street for the entire length of Washington Street along the Mass Pike.

I am allocating \$2.77 million in ARPA funds to advance this key project with construction funding for the pilot. The larger scale project for the entire length of Washington Street will take many years and will require funding from the State.