



Watertown City Council

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Committee on Public Works

**Councilor Piccirilli, Chair, Councilor Feltner, Vice Chair, Councilor Palomba,
Secretary**

Report of October 28 Committee Meeting Presented at the November 26 Meeting of the City Council

The Committee on Public Works met on Monday, October 28 in the City Council Chambers at 6:00 PM. It was a hybrid meeting so residents could attend the meeting on Zoom. Also, comments could be directed through email to apalomba@watertown-ma.gov.

The purpose of the meeting was to review and make recommendations on the **2025 Local Road Construction Program**.

Present at the meeting were the three members of the Committee, Councilors Piccirilli, Chair, Councilor Feltner, Vice Chair, Councilor Palomba, Secretary. Also present were Tyler Glode, City Engineer and on zoom, Michael Albano, Director of Administration and Finance from the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Councilor Piccirilli began the meeting at 6:05 PM and introduced himself and the members of the Committee. He invited Mr. Glode to give the 2025 Road Construction Program slide presentation. The Secretary recommends that one review the slide presentation to learn about the Road Construction Program's goals, steps taken to maintain and repair streets, what is involved in a complete road reconstruction, and related information. The presentation can be found at file:///C:/Users/Family/Downloads/FY2025%20Road%20Program%20Presentation_Final.pdf

Also a recording of the meeting can be found on WCATV's website.

Here are some key items presented by Mr. Glode.

1) During the construction season of April 2025 to November 2025 the City anticipates completing about 3,500 feet of water main replacement and about 3,000 feet of sewer main replacement, as well as approximately 1,000 feet of drain replacements and over 75 infiltration trenches. There will be 19,000 feet of gas main replacements by National Grid and about 2,000 feet of water main replacement by the MWRA. It should be noted that some utility companies work throughout the year.

2) Unfortunately, though not surprising given the level of utility work that is being done this year, the City-wide *Pavement Condition Index* (PCI) decreased from 65 to 60.

3) Some streets begun in previous fiscal years are nearly completed or in punch list stage, including Highland Avenue (continued from FY23) and Belmont Street (continued from FY23). There are some mitigation projects (which are the responsibility of developers) that have been completed or are nearly completed, such as Arsenal Street, Technology Way, Coolidge Avenue, and the Cypress, Lincoln, and Walnut Streets project. It should be noted the Arsenal Street project was also funded by city and federal monies.

4) DPW has plans to replace water mains on Cottage Street, Cottage Lane, Sawin Street, Molloy Street, Lyons Street, and Sexton Street in FY25.

5) The proposed full reconstruction of the streets selected by DPW and approved by the Committee and the Council for Fiscal Year 2024 were not bid out thus no work was done on **George Street, Bromfield Street, Mangano Court, Grandview Avenue and Dwight Street**. The reason for this was the lack of staff in the Procurement Department and DPW.

6) As in the past, DPW looked at a number of factors to determine which streets will undergo full reconstruction in Fiscal Year 2025. Some of these factors include a review of the pavement condition index (PCI), what utilities (water, sewer, and drain) are planned to be replaced, and the plans of public utilities (National Grid and Eversource). Based on these factors, DPW is proposing full reconstruction on the following streets – **Poplar Street, Partridge Street, Pequosette Street, north and south Irving Park and Royal Street, and Green Street**.

7) It is DPW's plan to complete the 5 streets funded for FY24 and the 5 streets proposed for FY25 during the construction season of April 2025 to November 2025. Councilor Palomba noted that this seemed optimistic, though with a fully staffed Procurement Department and the hiring of two additional City engineers it might be possible.

8) There were no recommendations for full reconstruction of streets in *the Long Street and Connector Program* since streets selected earlier, and for which funds have been allocated, have not been completed.

- As mentioned, Highland Avenue is in the punch list stage.

- The borrowing for Morse Street was done in FY22 with construction to begin in spring of 2023. Completion is now expected in the fall of FY24 or the spring of FY25.

- The borrowing for Fifth Avenue was done in FY23 with construction to begin in spring of 2024.

At this time the street is in the 75% design development/coordination phase.

- The borrowing for Springfield Street was done in FY24 with construction to begin in spring of 2025

At this time the street is in the 75% design development/coordination phase.

-The borrowing for Riverside Street is expected in FY25 and construction to begin not until the spring of 2026. At this time the street is in the 50% design development/coordination phase.

9) There was brief mention of the Arsenal Street Corridor Study for Watertown Square and the MassDOT design and funding for Galen Street/Nonantum Road/Watertown Street intersection.

ACTION ITEM:

Councilor Feltner made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Palomba,

The Committee recommends that the City Council approve the Department of Public Works recommendations for the 2025 Local Road Construction Program as presented using the FY25 \$2.75 million loan order for Poplar Street, Partridge Street, Pequosette Street, north and south Irving Park and Royal Street, and Green Street The motion passed 3 – 0.

There was considerable discussion about issues related to road maintenance and construction in the City. Some of these included:

1) A general concern about the state of the streets in Watertown and the fact that based on the PCI there are too many streets that are in need of full reconstruction.

2) Councilor Feltner voiced concern about the very poor patch work done by National Grid on the streets after they have completed their work.

3) Councilors Feltner and Piccirilli strongly noted the poor design of the bump out at the corner of Walnut Street and School Street, just north of the intersection of School Street and Arsenal Street. The Councilors felt that it both increased congestion and raised serious safety issues. *Councilor Piccirilli requested that DPW provide the Committee an update on the situation.*

4) There was concern that the work being done on Common Street, Russell Avenue and Bellevue Street by the MWRA, which is due to be completed in March of 2026, is moving slowing. Councilor Palomba hoped that the sections of the streets that are completed could be repaved rather than waiting for all the work be completed before repaving takes place.

5) Councilor Piccirilli raised a question about the care and maintenance of open area that occurs when a bump out is constructed. He often sees these areas full of trash and wondered if DPW could allocate staff to clear the areas on a regular base until they are seeded or planting has taken place. *He asked that DPW prepare a memo on what could be done to address this issue.*

Council Palomba made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilor Feltner and passed 3 – 0. The Committee adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM. Minutes were prepared by Councilor Palomba.

Note: In preparing the minutes of the meeting, the Secretary reviewed the minutes of the Committee’s meeting on the 2024 local road construction program held on November 16, 2023. He noted that the Committee asked DPW “to prepare a document that shows the step-by- step process, including the time required for each step, which is followed from the time a street is approved for reconstruction to when it is completed and inspected”. This request has not been fulfilled.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Chair

Lisa J. Feltner,
Vice Chair

Anthony Palomba,
Secretary

FY2025 Road Program



Public Works Subcommittee Presentation
October 28, 2024

Agenda

- Road Program Goals
- 2024 Road Reconstruction Update
- 2025 Road Reconstruction List
- Capital Projects and Planning
- Complete Streets Update
- Planning, Design & Construction
- Summary



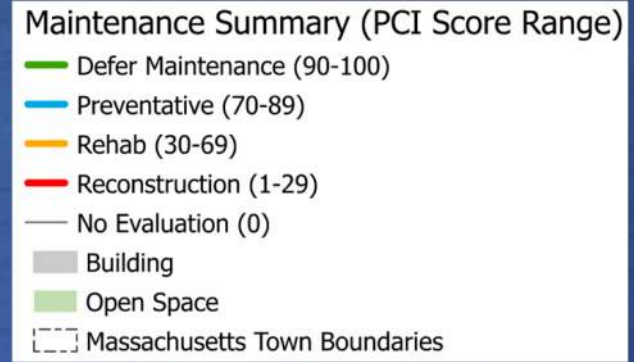
Road Program Goals

Key Facts & Considerations

- 72 centerline miles of City roads
 - 55 miles of residential roads
 - Average width of residential roads is 25 feet
- Anticipated Construction Season Impacts
 - ~3,500 feet of water main replacement (City)
 - ~3,000 feet of sewer main replacement (City)
 - ~1,000 feet of drain replacement / Over 75 Infiltration Trenches (City)
 - ~19,000 feet of gas main replacement (National Grid)
 - ~2,000 feet of water main replacement (MWRA)
- Pavement Management
 - ~3,000 feet of road reconstruction (+~5,000 feet FY25 Plan)
 - ~4,000 feet of sidewalk rehabilitation (+~4,000 FY25 Plan)
 - ~5,000 feet of mill & overlay (+~5,000 feet FY25 Plan)
- **City-Wide Pavement Condition Index: 60**
- **Total Work Backlog: \$80+ million**

Road Program Goals

Road Reconstruction Progress



Road Program Goals

Program Activities

- Maintenance and Repair
 - Mill and overlay repairs
 - Full depth patch repairs
 - Crack sealing
 - Sidewalk reconstruction
- Road Reconstruction
 - Road reclamation
 - Mill and overlay



Road Program Goals

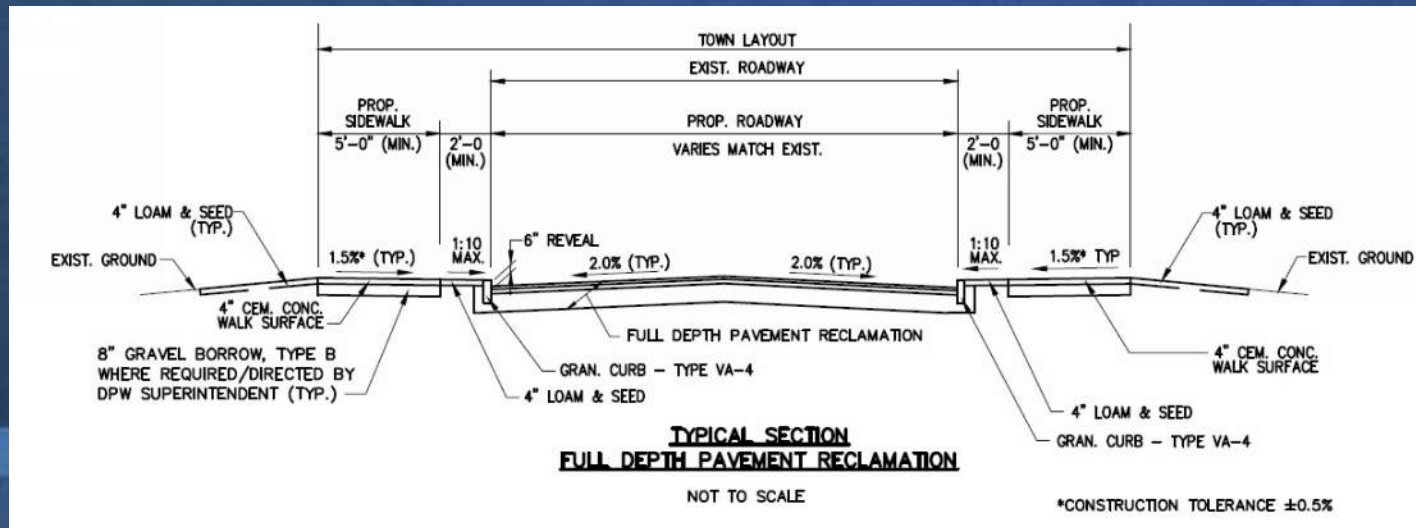
Maintenance, Repair & Reconstruction

- Provide a variety of maintenance treatments to prolong the useful life of less deteriorated roadways
- Coordinate road reconstruction activities with capital planning and utility work
- Seek long term planning and alternative funding for large-scale projects
- Improve accessibility and safety for all users by using “Complete Streets” principles

Road Program Goals

Typical Elements of Road Reconstruction

- Road reclamation and paving
- Drainage repairs
- Curbing
- Concrete sidewalks
- ADA Accessibility
- Grass borders and street trees



2024 Road Reconstruction Recap

Completed Streets and Remaining Construction

- Highland Avenue (Continuation from FY23)
- Belmont Street (Continuation from FY23)
- Arsenal Street Phases A, B, D, & F – Mitigation
 - Arsenal Street Phase A
 - Arsenal Street Phase B
 - Bus Lane Addition on Arsenal St
 - School St & Dexter Ave
- Cypress St, Lincoln St & Walnut St – Mitigation
- Technology Way Completion – Mitigation
- Coolidge Ave – Mitigation

2024 Road Reconstruction Update

Highland Avenue



Highland Ave - Before



Highland Ave - After

Complete – Punch list under review

2024 Road Reconstruction Update

Belmont Street in Conjunction with Cambridge



Belmont Street - Before



Belmont Street - After

Complete – Final punch list review and closeout underway

2024 Road Reconstruction Update

Arsenal Street Phase A & B, D, and F



Arsenal St Ph A&B - Before



Arsenal St Ph D - Before



Arsenal St Ph F - Before



Arsenal St Ph A&B - After



Arsenal St Phase D - After



Arsenal St Ph F - After

2024 Road Reconstruction Update

Cypress Street, Lincoln Street, and Walnut Street



Cypress St - Before



Lincoln St - Before



Walnut St - Before



Cypress St - After



Lincoln St - After



Walnut St - After

2024 Road Reconstruction Update

Technology Way - Mitigation



Before



After

Work Complete

2024 Road Reconstruction Update

Coolidge Avenue - Mitigation



Before



After

Work Complete

2025 Road Reconstruction

Utility Coordination & Capital Planning

- Water main replacement program
 - Cottage Street
 - Sawin Street
 - Cottage Lane
 - Molloy Street
 - Lyons Street
 - Sexton Street
- Sanitary sewer and storm sewer repairs
 - CIP Phase 3 and 4
- National Grid plans to complete about 3.6 miles of gas main replacement in CY 2025 with 6.1 miles of total repairs in design development

2025 Road Reconstruction List

Proposed Streets (FY24 Carryover)

- George Street
- Bromfield Street
- Mangano Court
- Grandview Avenue
- Dwight Street

Proposed Streets (FY25 Original Plan)

- Poplar Street
- Patridge Street
- Pequosette Street
- N&S Irving Park & Royal Street
- Green Street

FY23 Streets to be Completed in FY25

- Chapman Street with water main replacement

2025 Road Reconstruction List

George Street



George Street

- Gas main replaced; water main replaced
- Lack of curb, sidewalks in poor condition
- Multiple cross & mainline trenches

Approx. 1,000 feet long– 24 feet wide

2025 Road Reconstruction List

Bromfield Street



Bromfield Street

- Gas main replaced; water main replaced
- Lacks consistent curb
- Significant cracking and spalling

Approx. 1,200 feet long – 24 feet wide

2025 Road Reconstruction List

Mangano Court



Mangano Court

- Gas main replaced; sewer and drain replaced
- Broken/lack of curb
- Sidewalks in poor condition
- Significant cracking, spalling, and potholes

Approx. 350 feet long – 24 feet wide

2025 Road Reconstruction List

Grandview Avenue



Grandview Avenue

- Gas main replaced; sewer and drain replaced
- Some curb
- Cracking and spalling

Approx. 500 feet long – 24 feet wide

2025 Road Reconstruction List

Poplar Street (Original Plan)



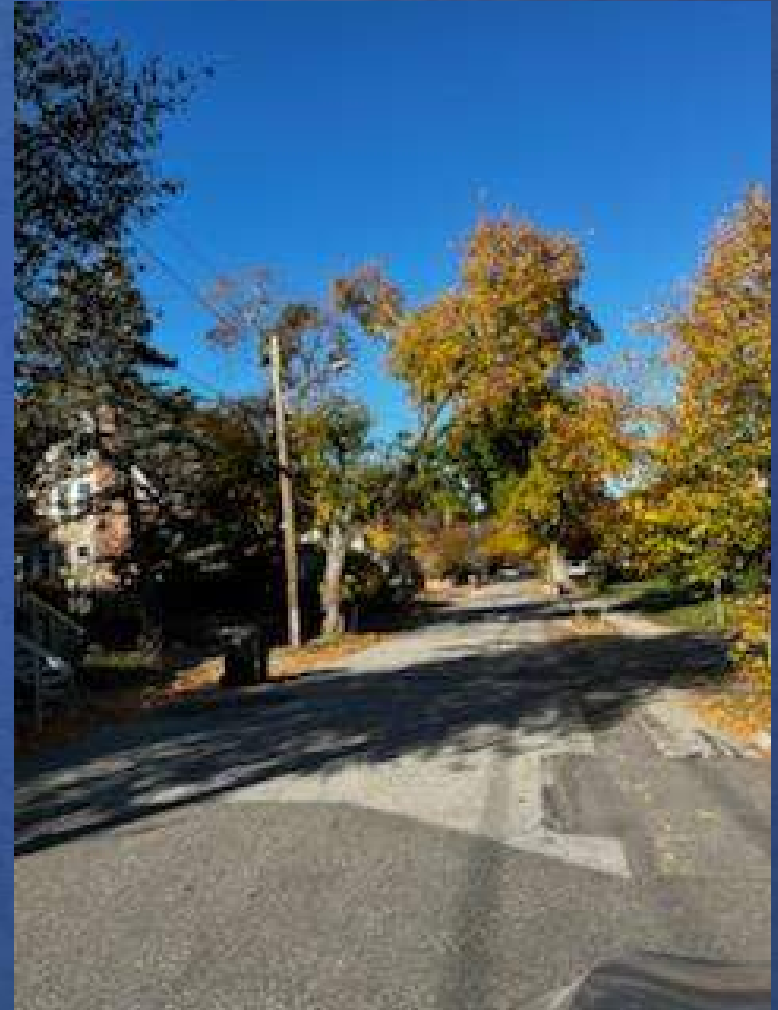
Poplar Street

- Gas main replaced; sewer and drain replaced
- Significant cracking, spalling, potholes
- Significant mainline trenches and patch repairs
- No curb

Approx. 700 feet long – 24 feet wide

2025 Road Reconstruction List

Partridge Street (Original Plan)



Partridge Street

- Gas main replaced; sewer and drain replaced
- Significant cracking, spalling, potholes
- Significant mainline trenches and patch repairs
- Granite curb located sporadically

Approx. 1,000 feet long – 24 feet wide

2025 Road Reconstruction List

Pequosette Street (Original Plan)



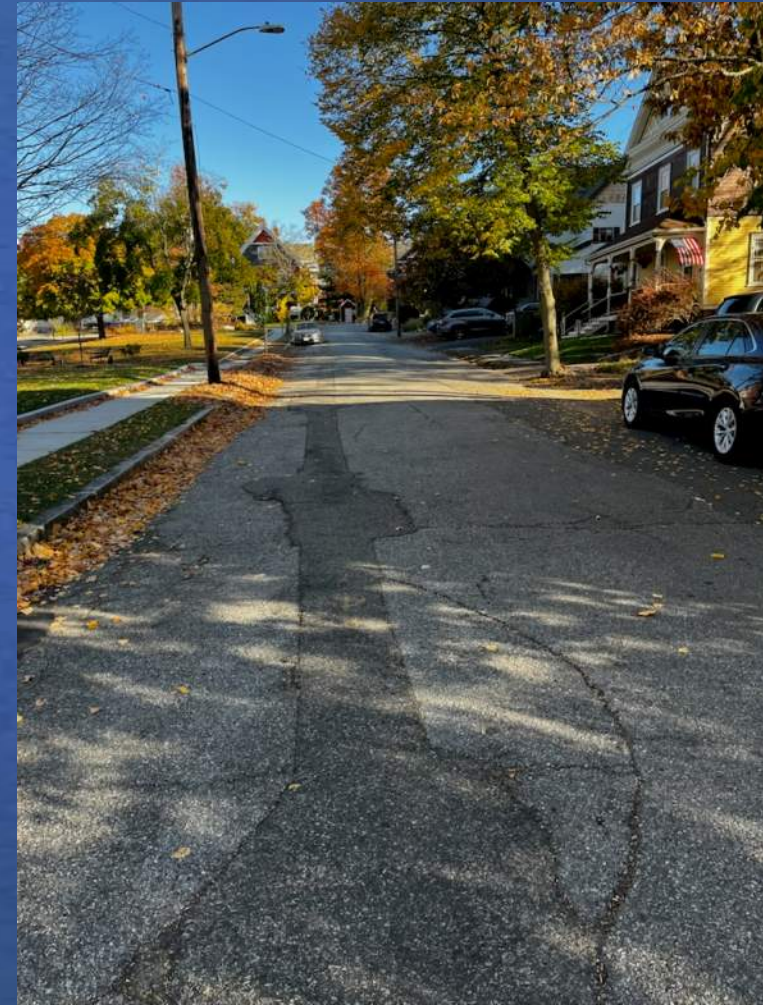
Pequosette Street

- Gas main replaced; sewer and drain replaced
- Significant cracking, spalling, potholes
- Significant mainline trenches and patch repairs
- No curb in most areas, asphalt berm curb sporadic

Approx. 900 feet long – 24 feet wide

2025 Road Reconstruction List

N&S Irving Street (Original Plan)



North and South Irving Street

- Gas main replaced; sewer and drain replaced
- Significant cracking, spalling, potholes
- Significant mainline trenches and patch repairs
- Granite curb located sporadically

Approx. 1,200 feet long – 24 feet wide

2025 Road Reconstruction List

Green Street (Original Plan)



Green Street

- Gas main replaced; sewer and drain replaced
- Significant cracking, spalling, potholes
- Significant mainline trenches and patch repairs
- Granite curb located sporadically

Approx. 1,100 feet long – 24 feet wide

Capital Projects

- Watertown Square
- Long Streets / Connectors
 - Fifth Ave
 - Springfield Street
 - Riverside Street
- Mount Auburn Street



Mount Auburn Street



A Complete Streets **Project**

Capital Projects and Planning

Watertown Square

- Further investigate and implement recommendations of Arsenal Street Corridor Study for Watertown Square
- MassDOT design and funding for Galen Street/Nonantum Road/Watertown Street intersection



Capital Projects and Planning

Long Street / Connectors

- Highland Ave – Punch list wrapping up
- Morse St – Completion est. FY24
- Fifth Ave – In design development/coordination
- Springfield St – In design development/coordination
- Riverside St – In design development/coordination

Capital Projects and Planning Mt. Auburn Street

- Easements have been coordinated with abutters
- Construction is ongoing, completion est. FY29
 - Drainage and tree trench work is underway
 - Paving will start November 2024 for specific areas



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Questions?

2025 Road Reconstruction List

Proposed Streets (FY24 Carryover)

- George Street
- Bromfield Street
- Mangano Court
- Grandview Avenue
- Dwight Street

Proposed Streets (FY25 Original Plan)

- Poplar Street
- Patridge Street
- Pequosette Street
- N&S Irving Park & Royal Street
- Green Street

FY23 Streets to be Completed in FY25

- Chapman Street with water main replace