



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

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Watertown, MA 02472

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Committee on Public Works

Councilor Piccirilli, Chair, Councilor Feltner, Vice Chair, Councilor Palomba, Secretary Committee Report of November 16, 2023 Meeting

The Committee on Public Works met on Thursday, November 16 in the City Council Chambers at 5:00 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 **2024 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 Michael Albano, Director of Administration, and Finance and Tyler Glode, City Engineer, from the Department of Public Works (DPW). Joining by zoom were Michael Cookson, Assistant Director of Administration and Finance at DPW, and resident Dean Martino.

Councilor Piccirilli began that meeting at 5:10 PM and introduced himself and the members of the Committee. He invited Mr. Glode to give the 2024 Road Program slide presentation. The Secretary recommends that one review the slide presentation to learn about the road program's goals, steps taken to maintain and repair streets, what is involved in a complete road reconstruction, and related information. The presentation is attached.

Given the length of the presentation, the Secretary chose to list the highlights and related discussions by the Committee. A complete recording of the meeting can be found on WCATV's website at <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/show/2879?site=3>.

1) Eight of the ten roads from the 2023 road construction program – Taylor Street, Bradshaw Street, Loomis Avenue, Bates Road, East Bates Road, Francis Street, Nash Street, and Essex Street – were either completed or are waiting for final inspection by DPW. Belmont Street, which is being done in conjunction with Belmont, is estimated to be completed by December 15, 2023.

2) Highland Avenue, which is part of DPW's Long Streets and Connector Program, is 50% complete. The project began in June of 2023 and was to be completed by the end of November of 2023. At this time the anticipated completion date is the spring of 2024. Councilors inquired how the street will be prepared in anticipation of winter. DPW responded that curbing, a binder coat, and driveway aprons should be completed soon. The Chair confirmed that any additional work needed in anticipation of winter would be the financial responsibility of the contractor. Chapman Street which was bid along with Highland Avenue has been moved to FY 25.

3) As in the past, DPW looked at a number of factors to determine which streets will undergo full reconstruction. 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). In regards to these factors, it should be noted that there is a general moratorium on digging up a street that has been reconstructed. If it is absolutely necessary to do so, the contractor is

required to repair the portion excavated in full.

4) Based on the factors noted above, DPW is recommending that the following streets be reconstructed beginning in the spring of 2024 – **George Street, Bromfield Street, Mangano Court, Grandview Avenue, and Dwight Street.**

ACTION ITEM:

Councilor Palomba made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Feltner, **The Committee recommends that the City Council approve the Department of Public Works recommendations for the 2024 Local Road Construction Program as presented using the FY 24 \$2.5 million loan order for George Street, Bromfield Street, Mangano Court, Grandview Avenue, and Dwight Street.** The motion passed 3 – 0.

5) Mr. Glode reviewed DPW’s ongoing capital projects including the implementation of the recommendations of the Arsenal Street Corridor Study for Watertown Square, the MassDOT design and funding for the Galen Street/Nonantum Road/Watertown Square intersection, and the Arsenal Street Corridor.

6) There was a brief discussion of the improvements on Arsenal Street which are being funded by the City, developers, and federal funds via Representative Clark. Concerns included the pace of the improvements and the number of traffic lights and how they are sequenced. DPW is working to adopt “adaptive traffic control” techniques and install related software in the next year and a half which should improve the timing and sequencing of the traffic lights.

7) There was concern that the Long Streets and Connector Program, which was started in 2021 and funded by annual borrowing of \$1.5 million, is not proceeding as rapidly as hoped. Concern about Highland Avenue was already noted. (See below a portion of the minutes of the Committee’s 2023 November 11 meeting that provides information on the funding and anticipate construction of the streets included in the Long Streets and Connector Program.) At this time, Morse Street which was to be reconstructed in spring of this year is now only ready for bidding. Fifth Street which is scheduled for reconstruction in spring of 2024 is only in the design development phase, and Springfield Street which is scheduled for reconstruction in 2025 is ready for design. Staffing and supply change problems were offered as reasons for the delays, but it was also mentioned the Mt. Auburn Street Complete Streets Project has required an inordinate amount of work and staff time.

Morse Street- FY 22 borrowing – construction spring of 2023

Fifth and Watertown Streets – FY 23 borrowing- construction spring of 2024

Forest and Springfield Streets – FY 24 borrowing – construction spring of 2025

Riverside Street – FY 25 borrowing – construction spring of 2026

8) The Committee asked that 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.

-3-

9) There was a brief discussion of recent sidewalk repairs and why some are a different color than others. “Lamp black” is a substance added to cement that depending on the amount used could result in different coloring. Different coloring could even happen when the amount of lamp black is the same in a batch of cement due to the curing process and the exposure to weather. It was noted that the use of lamp black can produce a heat island effect. The Committee recommended that DPW reconsider the use of lamp black in future sidewalk projects.

Councilor Feltner made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilor Palomba and passed 3 – 0. The Committee adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM. Minutes were prepared by Councilor Palomba.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Vincent J. Piccirilli,
Chair

Lisa J. Feltner,
Vice Chair

Anthony Palomba
Secretary

FY2024 Road Program



Public Works Subcommittee Presentation
November 16, 2023

Agenda

- Road Program Goals
- 2023 Road Reconstruction Update
- 2024 Road Reconstruction List
- Capital Projects and Planning
- Complete Streets Update
- Planning, Design & Construction
- Summary



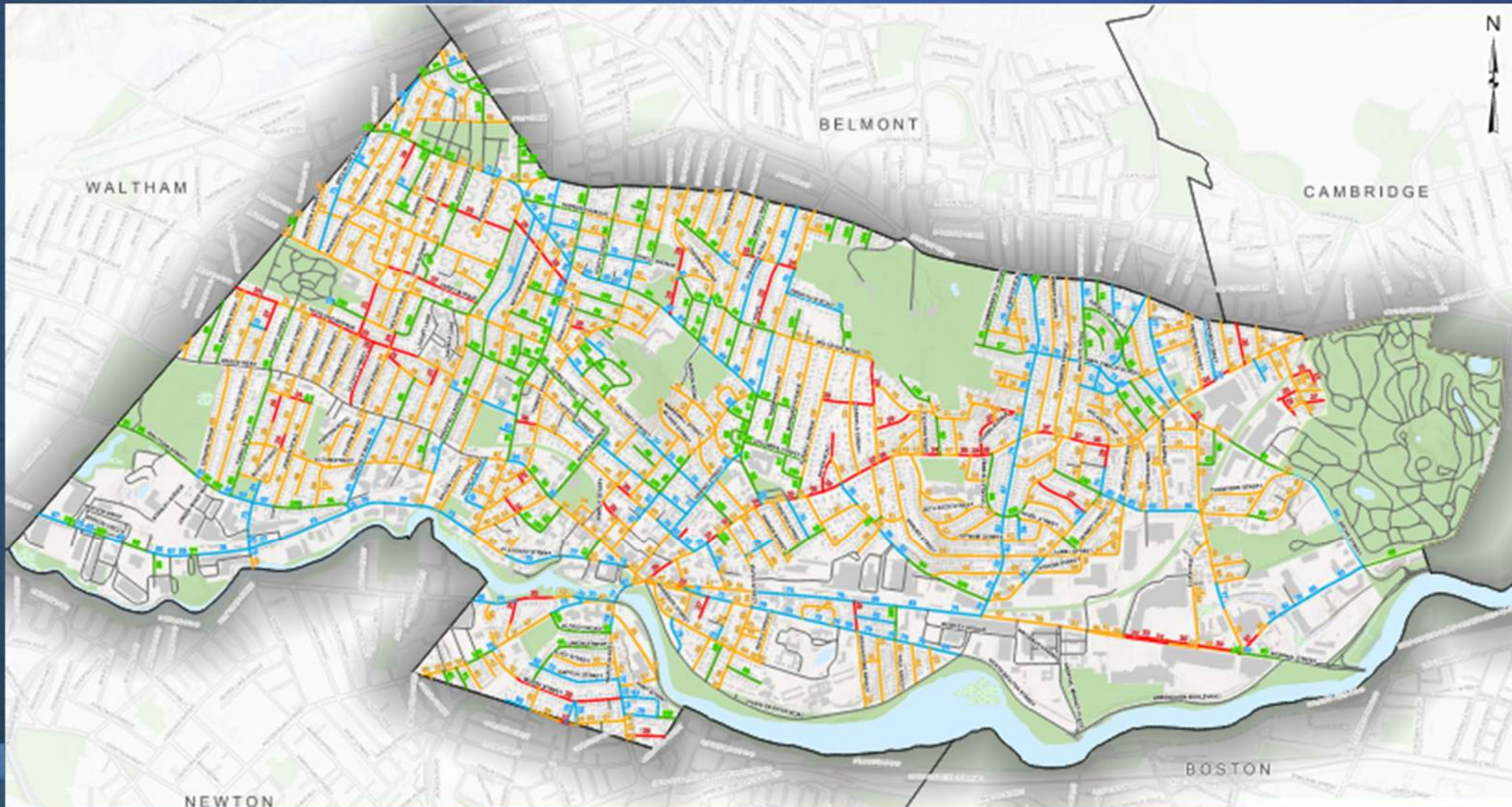
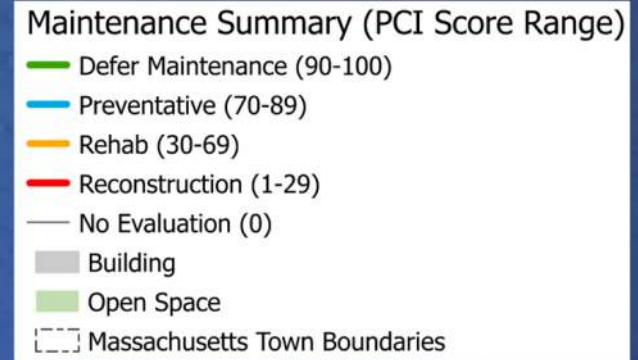
Road Program Goals

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
 - 2,500 feet of sewer main replacement
 - 1,000 feet of drain replacement / 20 Infiltration Trenches
 - 7,000 feet of gas main replacement (National Grid)
- Pavement Management
 - 3,000 feet of road reconstruction
 - 4,000 feet of sidewalk rehabilitation
 - 5,000 feet of mill & overlay
- **Town-Wide Pavement Condition Index: 65**
- **Total Work Backlog: \$85+ million**

Road Program Goals

Road Reconstruction Progress



Road Program Goals

Program Activities

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



Road Program Goals

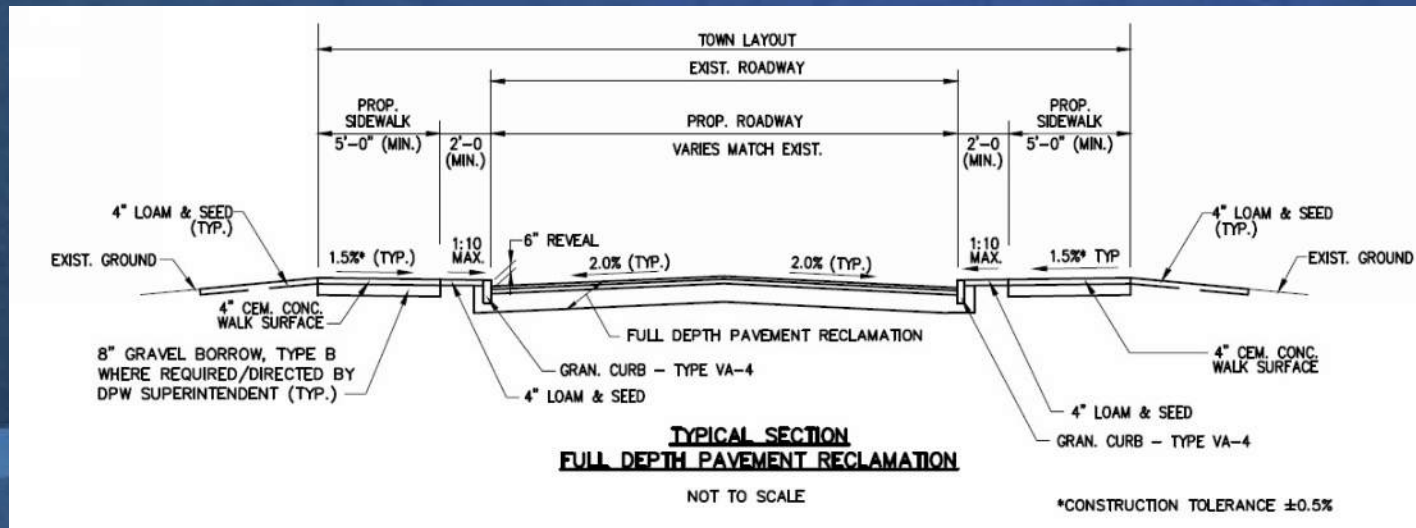
Maintenance, Repair & Reconstruction

- 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



2023 Road Reconstruction Recap

Completed Streets and Remaining Construction

- Taylor Street
- Bradshaw Street
- Loomis Avenue, Bates Road & East Bates Road
- Francis Street
- Nash Street & Essex Street
- Highland Avenue
- Belmont Street in Conjunction with the City of Cambridge

2023 Road Reconstruction Update

Taylor Street



Before

Work Complete



After

2023 Road Reconstruction Update

Bradshaw Street



Before



After

Work Complete

2023 Road Reconstruction Update

Loomis Avenue, Bates Road & East Bates Road



Loomis Ave - Before



Bates Road - Before



East Bates Road - Before



Loomis Ave - After



Bates Road - After



East Bates Road - After

2023 Road Reconstruction Update

Francis Street



Before



After

Work Complete

2023 Road Reconstruction Update

Nash Street & Essex Street



Nash Street - Before



Nash Street - After



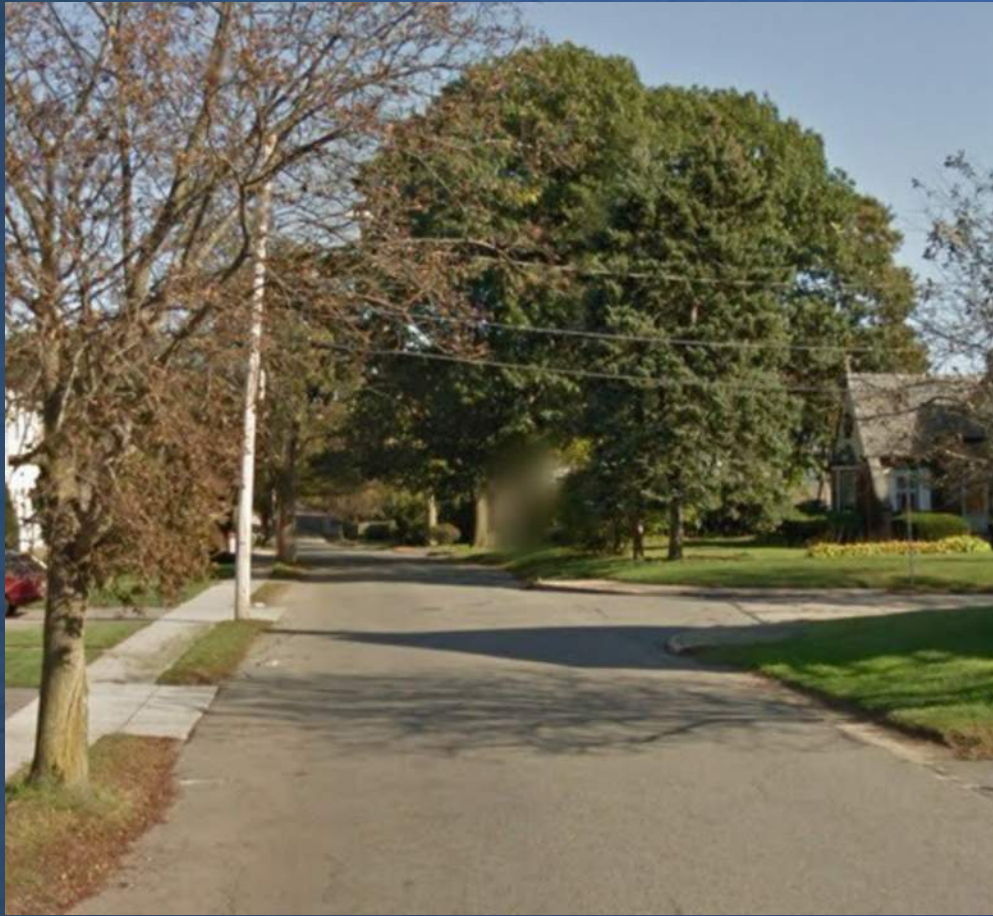
Essex Street - Before



Essex Street - After

2023 Road Reconstruction Update

Highland Avenue



Highland Ave - Before



Highland Ave - After

50% Complete – Documentation Ongoing

2023 Road Reconstruction Update

Belmont Street in Conjunction with Cambridge



Belmont Street - Before



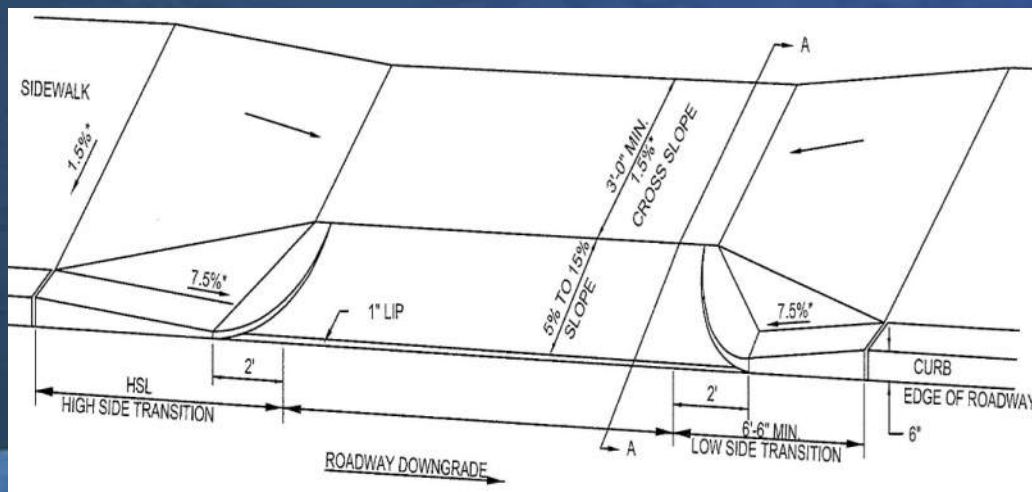
Belmont Street - After

Estimated Completion – December 15, 2023

2024 Road Reconstruction List

Developing the List

- Review Pavement Condition Index (PCI)
- Review Utilities (Water, Sewer, Drain)
- Review Public Utilities (NGRID, Eversource, ...)
- Estimate, Review Traffic and Transportation Impacts
- Safety Improvements, Multi-modal Transportation, and other City Design Standards,



● Driveway Ordinance

- *Section 6.02*
- *max of two curb cuts*
- *max of 11 foot width*
- *20 feet between curb cuts*
- *max of 40% of frontage, or 22 feet, whichever is less*

2024 Road Reconstruction

Utility Coordination & Capital Planning

- Water main replacement program
 - Cottage Street
 - Sawin Street
 - Cottage Lane
 - Molloy Street
 - Lyons Street
 - Sexton Street
 - Mt Auburn Valve Replacement Program
- Sanitary sewer and storm sewer repairs
 - CIP Phase 3 and 4
- National Grid plans to complete about 2.1 miles of gas main replacement in CY 2024 with 5.9 miles of total repairs in design development

2024 Road Reconstruction List

Proposed Streets

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

FY23 Streets to be Completed in FY24

- Chapman Street

2024 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

2024 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

2024 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

2024 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

2024 Road Reconstruction List

Dwight Street



Dwight Street

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

Approx. 300 feet long – 24 feet wide

Capital Projects

- Watertown Square
- Arsenal Street
- Long Streets / Connectors
 - Highland Avenue
 - Morse Street
 - Fifth Ave
 - Springfield Street
 - Riverside Street
- Mount Auburn Street



Mount Auburn Street



A Complete Streets **Project**

Capital Projects and Planning

Watertown Square

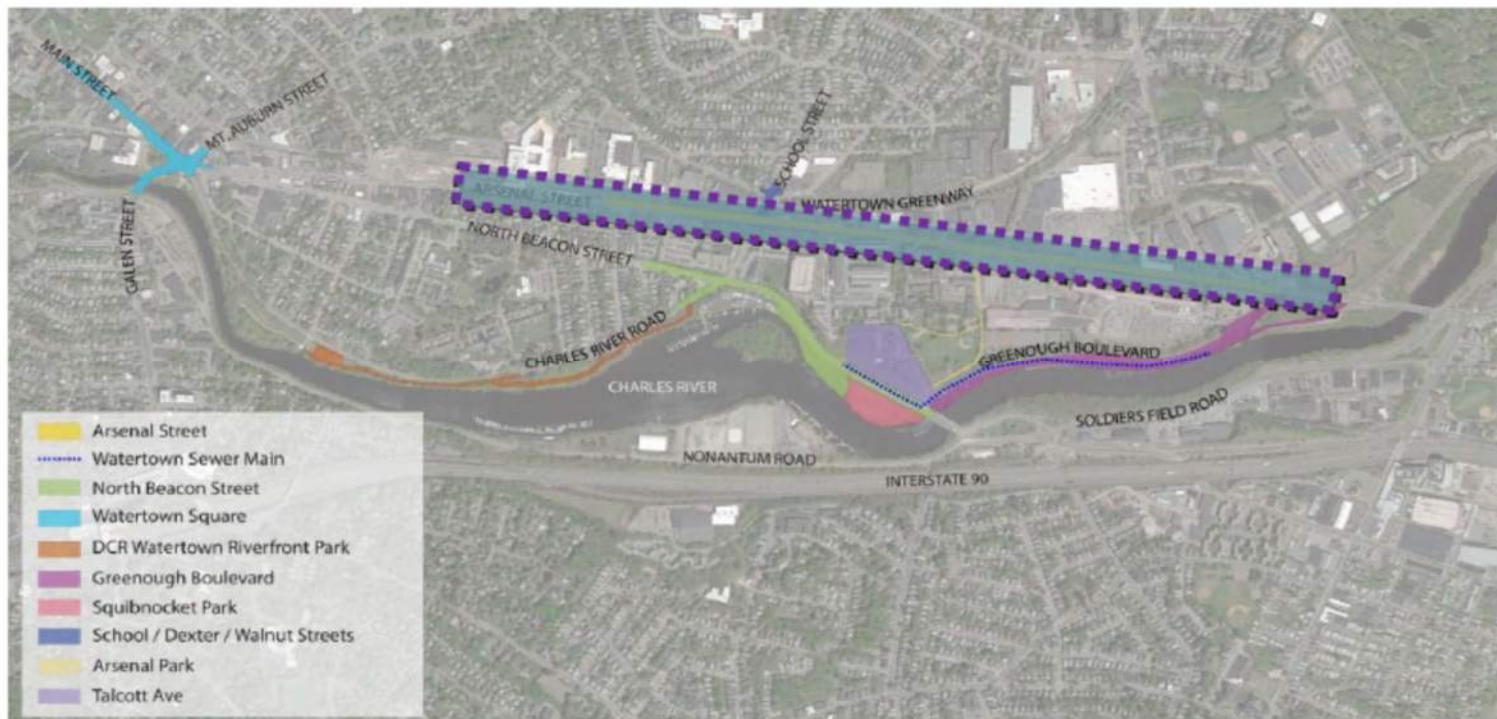
- Further investigate and implement recommendations of Arsenal Street Corridor Study for Watertown Square
- MassDOT design and funding for Galen Street/Nonantum Road/Watertown Street intersection



Capital Projects and Planning

Arsenal Street Corridor

- Louise Street intersection completed as mitigation
- Scheduled to be completed as part of the MassWorks program



Capital Projects and Planning

Long Street / Connectors

- Highland Ave – Under Construction, Estimated FY24
- Morse Street – Ready for bidding process
- Fifth Ave – In Design Development/Coordination
- Springfield Street – Ready for design
- Riverside Street – Requires gas utility work

Mitigation Projects and Planning

Coolidge Avenue

- Offsite Coolidge Avenue Improvements are progressing through closeout procedure.
- Final inspections are being performed and any repairs and open items are being compiled into a report to issue to the general contractor.



Capital Projects and Planning

Mt. Auburn Street

- Easements have been coordinated with abutters
- Bid process is ongoing, bid opening December 2023
- Utility improvements associated with NGRID gas and water service lead removal programs are actively being completed



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Questions?

2024 Road Reconstruction List

Proposed Streets

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

FY23 Streets to be Completed in FY24

- Chapman Street