



# Lowell City Council

## *Transportation SC Minutes*

Michael Q. Geary  
City Clerk

**Date:** August 26 2019  
**Time:** 5:30 PM  
**Location:** City Council Chamber  
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

### **PRESENT:**

Present on Roll Call were C. Elliott and C. Conway, 1 absent (C. Cirillo). Also present was Natasha Vance (Transportation Engineer).

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

C. Elliott called the meeting to order in the Council Chamber noting two agenda items.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

C. Elliott commented Central Street Bridge issues. Ms. Vance noted it was part of TIGER Grant projects and was being managed by MassDOT along with the City. Ms. Vance commented that the bridge was in poor condition and required more work than anticipated so that another approach had to be devised which would delay the project significantly. C. Elliott raised issue of closing entire bridge so that work would be completed sooner.

Ms. Vance provided presentation regarding traffic calming measures in the neighborhoods. Ms. Vance noted it was in draft form and that they would be gathering additional data to finalize the plan. Ms. Vance outlined procedures for use of four way stops, chicones, mini-roundabouts speed tables and curb bump-outs. C. Elliott noted amount of traffic in City due from vehicles using streets as cut-through. C. Conway questioned the costs of calming measures. Ms. Vance noted various costs. C. Conway noted the use of grant money would be available for such measures. C. Elliott opened the meeting up to the public; Aura Erickson addressed the body. C. Elliott questioned next steps regarding the plan. Ms. Vance suggested developing draft to final form and going back before the body.

C. Elliott introduced the next item on agenda; Market Basket development and traffic mitigation plan. Ms. Vance noted the process Market Basket has been through including Planning Board for site plan review. Ms. Vance noted Market Basket had traffic engineers on



staff who were experts in the field. Ms. Vance commented on the potential increase in traffic and steps to control the increase. C. Elliott noted current location is congested already. Rob Nagy (Market Basket) commented on data collected for traffic study and how they developed mitigation plan. Mr. Nagy commented on process before the City and the permits they needed to obtain. Mr. Nagy noted company decision to go with a more costly roundabout to appease neighborhood concerns. Mr. Nagy noted that site will be monitored after opening in case some traffic changes are warranted. C. Elliott questioned if Wood Street store would remain open. Mr. Nagy informed body that the store would remain open and that would assist with traffic over the bridge. Ms. Vance noted updates to Wood Street store under supervision of the City. C. Elliott questioned number of lanes on the site. Mr. Nagy outlined the widening of street at the site. C. Elliott questioned use of traffic signals at the site. Mr. Nagy commented all signals would be upgraded. C. Conway commented on the presentation and noted that Market Basket was a good corporate neighbor. C. Elliott requested plan be available to Council members. C. Elliott opened matter up to public; Atty. Baxter (Hall Law Office) noted that there were concerns by abutter with project and that they have been relayed to Law Department. Ms. Vance noted discussions with law office and still exploring any possible solutions.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion** to adjourn by C. Conway, seconded by C. Elliott. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk

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