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## **Hamilton Canal Innovation District Parking Garage Foundation Completed, Project Enters Next Phase of Construction**

LOWELL - The pouring of concrete to form the foundation system of the Hamilton Canal Innovation District parking garage has been completed, marking significant progress in the construction of the 900-space garage. The conclusion of this critical phase of construction puts the project ahead of an aggressive schedule that aims for the garage to be completed by October 2020. Construction of the garage began on August 1, 2019 and is being managed by Shawmut Design and Construction. The roughly \$35.4 million project has remained on budget through this phase.

“This parking garage is a central component of the vision we are working to achieve in the Hamilton Canal Innovation District and will be vital in attracting and supporting future development opportunities,” **said City Manager Eileen Donoghue.** “The completion of this phase of construction represents an important milestone. It is an affirmation of the excellent planning that has gone into the project and a major step towards the garage being completed on time and on budget.”

The next phase of construction will involve the placement of reinforced concrete (RC) panels to form the structure of the garage. A 240-foot crane will be erected at the construction site to support this operation. The crane has begun arriving via a series of 23 tractor trailers as of Monday, January 27, and will be built on-site by a smaller crane through the course of this week.

The reinforced concrete panels have been precast off-site and will begin being delivered to the construction site on January 31. Approximately 15-20 shipments will be transported through the City and delivered each day at a rate of roughly three deliveries per hour between the hours of 7:00 AM and 3:00 PM over the course of 60 working days, or roughly two and a half months. Loads may be up to 85 feet in length.

**Lowell residents and commuters are advised to anticipate minor delays as a result of the transportation of the panels, particularly at the intersection of Broadway and Dutton Street.**

Trucks hauling the panels will exit Route 3 at Drum Hill (Chelmsford), and will travel to the construction site via Wood Street to Middlesex Street to Broadway Street (please see attached map). This route and an accompanying traffic management plan (TMP) were carefully devised to minimize disruptions to regular traffic and to prevent trucks from having to make sharp turns that would require stopping traffic at intersections periodically throughout the day. The route has been test driven to confirm its viability.

“The route that trucks transporting precast panels will take has been evaluated by the City, the project contractor and the precast manufacturer,” said **Lowell Transportation Engineer Natasha Vance**. “Given the size of the loads being transported, modest travel delays are expected however, the painstaking efforts that have been taken to assess the route and develop a traffic management plan will help prevent significant impacts to local traffic.”

Once the precast panels have been erected, finishing work on the garage’s interior and exterior will begin this spring. The City of Lowell’s Department of Planning and Development is working in coordination with Shawmut and the project team to review the remainder of scheduled trade work to identify any areas that would enable the acceleration of the project.

The Department of Planning and Development [maintains a webpage](#) that provides periodic updates related to the construction of the garage and other projects in the Hamilton Canal Innovation District.

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