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## **City of Lowell Earns \$165,755 Grant Through MassDOT Shared Streets and Spaces Program**

Lowell, MA – The City of Lowell has been awarded \$165,755 from MassDOT to implement three projects for socially distanced travel and recreation as the state and city reopens.

The three projects will transform 5,900 linear feet of roadway on upper Merrimack Street, Pawtucket Street, and VFW Highway to provide safe places to walk, roll, bike, run, and more.

The grant is provided through MassDOT's competitive [Shared Streets and Spaces grant program](#), which the agency announced last month. The program is intended to support projects that municipalities can implement quickly using readily accessible materials. Projects supported through the program should promote public health, safe mobility, and renewed commerce quickly by providing new or repurposed space for socially distanced walking, bicycling, dining, retail, and bus travel.

On June 23, the City Council passed a motion sponsored by Councilor Rodney Elliot requesting the City's Department of Planning and Development prepare an application for the Safe Streets and Spaces program.

"The Safe Streets and Spaces program provides valuable support to municipalities in adapting to the circumstances posed by the coronavirus crisis, and we are pleased that MassDOT has awarded funding to support three important projects in the City," said City Manager Eileen Donoghue. "These projects will enable the City to pilot changes aimed at making our streets safer for all forms of travel, and will provide lessons that we will be able to apply to streets across Lowell going forward."

The City will use the funding to purchase jersey barriers, plastic posts, paint, and signs to create a 20-ft. wide multi-use path from Varnum Ave to the Sampas Pavilion, a two-way cycle track on Upper Merrimack Street from Cardinal O'Connell Parkway to Decatur Way, and a 10-ft. wide multi-use path from Fletcher Street to the Pawtucket Canal. The specific materials will vary based on location.

The three projects align with the goals of the City's master plan Sustainable Lowell 2025, the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan, and the GoLowell multimodal master plan, which is currently seeking public comment during its second phase. Residents are encouraged to contribute their input on ideas for bus route changes, a bicycle network, and places where walking is difficult by completing GoLowell's [survey](#) by August 14.