

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN MEETING

TWO SIDED DOCUMENT

ARTICLE: 26

MOTION: 1

To authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a Non-Participating Agreement with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in connection with the reconfiguration and reconstruction of Worcester Street (Route 9) at the Kingsbury Street intersection,

and to appropriate \$600,000 to the Board of Selectmen to meet the Town's financial obligations under the terms of the agreement; and that to meet this appropriation, \$34,985 (Thirty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Five Dollars) shall be transferred from amounts borrowed to fund the Wales Street Bridge Project (Motion 1 under Article 15 at the 2013 Annual Town Meeting) but not expended, and the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$565,015 (Five Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Fifteen Dollars) under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(6) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds and notes of the Town therefor;

and further, to affirm the Board of Selectmen's commitment to consult with the residents of those roads that abut this project, to continue to study the traffic, parking and pedestrian impacts on those residents, and to implement appropriate mitigation measures.

Approved:

Date

Moderator's Signature

Sponsor's Signature

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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TWO SIDED DOCUMENT

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TO: Town Meeting Members

DATE: April 7, 2016

SUBJECT: Town Meeting Article 26 – Route 9 / Kingsbury Street intersection

This note is intended to provide you with further background regarding the anticipated motion under Article 26 planned for Monday night's session of Town Meeting. Favorable action by Town Meeting on this Article would authorize the Selectmen to proceed in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to make safety improvements at the intersection of Route 9 and Kingsbury Street.

Town officials meet periodically with MassDOT representatives to discuss issues with respect to State-controlled roadways, bridges and other infrastructure in Wellesley. Safety concerns at the Route 9 and Kingsbury Street intersection have been a recurring topic at those meetings. We have experienced a high number of accidents at this intersection, and a high percentage of the accidents have been side-impact crashes, which typically result in more severe injury and damage. Additionally, the *Issues and Opportunities Report* prepared as part of the ongoing Route 9 Enhancement Study and Plan identified the Route 9 and Kingsbury intersection as one needing specific improvements for all modes of transportation.

Recently, MassDOT advised the Town of its intention to complete a "curb to curb" resurfacing of Route 9 through Wellesley during 2017, in order to address the deteriorating condition of the roadway. The federal funding for this project is contingent on the project being put out to bid by the end of June 2016. Recognizing the Town's longstanding interest in addressing the safety concerns at the Route 9/Kingsbury Street intersection, MassDOT offered to reconfigure the intersection in order to address these concerns, provided the Town would contribute toward the cost of the intersection work.

The initial design proposed for the reconfiguration (Option 1) was a fully-signalized "T" intersection, which would involve closing the existing turnarounds, and cutting through the existing median. The operational impacts on Route 9 traffic would necessitate three through lanes in each direction, in addition to a left turn lane, effectively creating an eight lane roadway at the intersection. This design also effectively eliminated the median and would require pedestrians to cross the entire eight lanes in a single phase with no refuge area. The Town expressed a number of concerns with this design, which led to the development of an alternative design (Option 2), which would largely preserve the existing intersection design, but signalize the two turnarounds. This design preserves the large median and the current two phase pedestrian crossing with the median serving as a refuge area. Based on their deliberations to-date, the Selectmen view Option 2 as the preferred design.

MassDOT's estimate of the total cost of the Route 9 resurfacing project, inclusive of the work contemplated in Option 2 is \$7.2 million. The Town's share of this estimated cost is approximately \$547,000.

The Board of Selectmen subsequently hosted two public forums on this matter, and the attendees have expressed a strong preference for Option 2. The attendees have also expressed a number of concerns regarding the potential impacts of any Route 9 changes on Donizetti Street, Audubon Road and other neighboring streets. Examples of these concerns include:

- Increased cut-through traffic volume on Donizetti Street;
- Elevated speeds on Donizetti Street and Audubon Road; and,
- Lack of sidewalks on sections of Donizetti Street and Audubon Road.

The Selectmen and the members of the Town's Traffic Committee have heard these concerns and are committed to addressing them. Some examples of the options to be considered for addressing the needs of the impacted roads include:

1. Reconstruction of the incomplete network of sidewalks on Donizetti Street
2. Assessment of the need for additional sidewalks on Audubon or elsewhere
3. Reduction of speed limit on Donizetti Street to 25 MPH (subject to statutory process)
4. Additional signage, e.g.:
 - a. Regulatory or advisory speed limit signs
 - b. Prohibition of travel in the breakdown lane on Route 9 eastbound approaching Donizetti Street
 - c. Prohibition of right turn by trucks from Route 9 eastbound onto Donizetti Street or Kingsbury Street
5. Increased restrictions applicable to on-street parking on Calvin Road and/or sections of Donizetti Street
6. Refinements to the current drop-off and pick-up circulation pattern for the Middle School (subject to control by the School Committee)
7. A One Way restriction for travel on Donizetti Street, or alternatively, restrictions on right turns from Route 9 eastbound onto Donizetti Street during certain periods of the day

At their meeting on April 5th, the Selectmen voted to proceed with a motion under Article 26 at the ongoing Annual Town Meeting to:

- Request authorization to enter into an agreement with MassDOT to complete the planning for, and construction of, Option 2;
- Appropriate \$600,000 to fund the Town's share of the project cost (\$547,000 estimated cost plus \$53,000 contingency); and,
- Confirm the Selectmen's intentions to study the traffic and parking related needs of the roads impacted by the proposed work on Route 9.

The Selectmen intend to complete the Town's study of these options and review the resulting recommendations with the neighbors prior to the end of the current school year. This will allow significant time to complete deliberation on the recommendations before any work on Route 9 begins.

In addition, the Town is continuing discussions with MassDOT regarding the design details for Option 2. We expect the final design will incorporate a number of improvements relative to the current situation, including:

- Lengthening of the left turn queue lane on the westbound side of Route 9;
- Better recognition of the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists using the intersection, including the installation of guardrails along the northern side of Route 9, between the sidewalk and the roadway, from Audubon Road to Sprague Road; and,
- Video detection cameras for the left turn lanes, to help prevent backups from extending into the travel lanes.

We look forward to discussing this matter further at Town Meeting on Monday evening, April 11th.

Respectfully,

Deb Carpenter, Planning Board
Terrence M. Cunningham, Police Chief
Ellen Gibbs, Board of Selectmen
David Hickey, Town Engineer
Hans Larsen, Executive Director
Mike Pakstis, DPW Director
Jack Pilecki, Deputy Police Chief
Michael Zehner, Planning Director