



Town of Lexington Annual Town Meeting 2022

Article 12: Appropriate for Municipal Capital and Equipment Projects

This is an annual article that recommends funding to support the Town's municipal capital and equipment projects. Items d-m are on the consent agenda and include items that are more routine in nature. Capital items a-c and n-q have been recommended for individual consideration.

The following projects have been recommended for individual votes:

Item 12a: Hartwell District Signage

This \$65,000 funding request seeks to add new signage on Hartwell Avenue and on the jug handle on Bedford Street to address both safety issues and support economic vitality by drawing attention to the commercial corridor- Hartwell Innovation Park. At the Road Safety Audit for Hartwell Avenue at Bedford Street and Westview Street meeting with MassDOT, VHB identified and presented several safety concerns with potential solutions. One of the safety issues noted by the audit team was the lack of advanced signage for the jug handle to help provide direction and advanced notice to drivers through signage. Visible signage on the jug handle will more clearly identify that the right lane is used for the left turn onto Hartwell Avenue or U-turn onto Bedford Street. Similarly, adding smaller signage on the median on Hartwell Avenue and at the Hartwell/Maguire intersection will help connectivity and bring unified signage for the business corridor. This will have a positive impact on the future development of the Hartwell Avenue / Bedford Street corridor and address the traffic safety issues. The Select Board has 4 members that support passage of this item and 1 member that is waiting for Town Meeting discussion.

Item 12b: Townwide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan

This request for \$65,000 will fund a Townwide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. The plan will serve as an essential tool to help the Town implement our Complete Streets Policy and sustainability goals. The plan will compile existing conditions data as well as identify and prioritize future improvements to streets, sidewalks, and shared use paths. The plan will serve as a framework to safely connect pedestrians and bicyclists to the region's active transportation network and include the following benefits:

- Help the Transportation Safety Group (TSG) to address safety requests, prioritize sidewalk requests
- Update our sidewalk prioritization plan and sidewalk request process
- Inform Town Meeting in capital plan budget decisions
- Serve as a guide to the Planning Board and Select Board in permitting and agreement decisions
- And Support grant applications

Plan development will rely on robust community engagement to help create a reliable network connecting people where they want to go. The Select Board unanimously supports passage of article 12b.

Item 12c: South Lexington and Forbes-Marrett Traffic Mitigation Plans

This \$175,000 request will fund two Traffic Mitigation Plans: one for the South Lexington Transportation Management Overlay District and the second for Forbes-Marrett Transportation Management Overlay District. The proposed Traffic Mitigation Plans are a critical part of justifying mitigation payments from private development in the area and is required for proper implementation of the Transportation Management Overlay District as described in Lexington’s Zoning bylaws. The Plans outline projects and strategies to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips, increase safety and reduce traffic congestion. In 2009, Town Meeting created the Overlay Districts and its associated traffic fund. This funding request is to develop effective Traffic Mitigation Plans for both Districts. The Select Board unanimously supports passage of article 12c.

Item 12n: Battle Green Streetscape Improvements

This request seeks \$4,975,000 to fund design, construction and project management for the roadways and intersections around the Lexington Battle Green, known as the Battle Green Streetscape Improvements. Funding is necessary this year to allow for any construction to be completed in advance of the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Lexington in the year 2025. This project not only includes improvements to the roadway infrastructure, but also is focused on safety, accessibility improvements and improved connectivity. The Select Board has 4 members that supports passage of this item and 1 member that is recused.

Item 12o: Municipal Parking Lot Improvements

This funding request of \$60,000 would allow for the survey and design of the municipal parking lot that currently exists between Fletcher Ave to the Town Office Building. This project addresses the parking areas that are not under the scope of the Police Station parking lot, but would allow for the remainder of the municipal parking lot design and construction to be cohesive with the work of the proposed new Police Station. If approved, funding for the parking lot construction would be requested in FY2024. The Select Board unanimously supports passage of article 12o.

Item 12p: Public Parking Lot Improvement Program

This funding request of \$100,000 would allow for the redesign of the public parking lots located in downtown Lexington. It includes the Depot lot, the lot between Edison Way and the Depot, and the lot between Waltham Street and Muzzey Street. These lots are currently in fair to poor condition with inefficient circulation and parking layouts. This redesign work will allow us to better understand the full needs of these lots and then better estimate the cost to reconstruct these lots. The Select Board unanimously supports passage of this article.

Item 12q: New Sidewalk Installations

This funding would be used toward the design of the Cedar Street sidewalk from Massachusetts Avenue to northerly to the end of the road. This design would be used to estimate the cost for

construction which would be presented at a future Town Meeting. The Select Board unanimously supports passage of this article.