



Town of Lexington Annual Town Meeting 2023

Article 12: Appropriate for Municipal Capital and Equipment Projects

Presenter: Jill Hai

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

The following projects have been recommended for individual votes:

Item 12a: All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)- Forestry

This \$65,000 funding request seeks to add an All-Terrain Vehicle with capabilities to assist us in extinguishing fires and transporting firefighters in remote wooded areas around town. This capability has been nonexistent and it has required firefighters to hand carry long lengths of fire hose and equipment into remote wooded areas not accessible by the larger fire vehicles. This practice takes a lot of time and resources to accomplish and increases the risk of fire spread and an elevated risk of injuries. The approval of this item will improve our ability to extinguish remote fires by carrying water, hose, tools and firefighters where they are needed in a quicker and safer manner.

The Select Board unanimously supports passage of this item.

Item 12b: TMOD Implementation-Permitting and Progress Tracking

This \$42,000 funding request by the Planning Department will be used to track developments' performance on required transportation demand management efforts to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips. A Transportation Demand Management (TDM) permitting and tracking process system can be set up with the help of a data architect, an online survey service and our existing Viewpoint Cloud Permitting portal. The \$42,000 comes from the TMOD stabilization fund which is funded by developers' transportation mitigation fees.

By implementing this tracking system, we will be better able to monitor development's progress towards reducing single occupancy vehicle trips and to evaluate and adjust accordingly our transportation demand management strategies.

The Select Board unanimously supports passage of this item.

Item 12d: Bedford S. and Hartwell Ave. Long-Range Transportation Improvements

The 2019 Fall Special Town Meeting appropriated \$1.5 million for the 25% design of improvements to Routes 4/225 (Bedford Street) and Hartwell Avenue, including the I-95/128 southbound ramps and "jug-handle" intersections. The project aims to create a complete streets corridor for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists by widening Bedford Street, modifying the intersections, and adding pedestrian and transit facilities.

This project will:

- Improve traffic safety;
- Fix choke points;
- Provide safe pedestrian crossings and safe bus stops; and
- Expand the existing pedestrian and bicycle network and improve access to the Minuteman Bikeway.

The fiscal year 2024 request of \$1.75 million is an iterative funding step to advance the 25% design toward a complete design, and is critical to keeping Lexington's place for this project on the State's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for construction in the 2030-2034-time band. It is anticipated this request will support the project through the 75% Design Phase, and a final design appropriation is expected in fiscal year 2026 to progress the project to the final Plan, Specification, and Estimate (PS&E) Submission to the State.

Being on the LRTP results in substantial coverage of the design by MassDOT. It is typically 100% construction cost coverage through MassDOT unless the town adds in non-participatory items. Examples of such items are water main replacements, enhanced landscaping and enhanced lighting.

The Select Board unanimously support passage of this item.

Item 12l: Municipal Parking Lot Improvements

This funding request of \$575,000 would allow for the construction of the municipal parking lot that currently exists from 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, construction of the parking lot would likely occur during calendar years 2023 and 2024.

The Select Board unanimously supports passage of this item.

Item 12m: New Sidewalk Installations

This funding request of \$1,620,000 would be used for the construction of the Cedar Street sidewalk from Massachusetts Avenue northerly to the end of the road. This design is currently in progress and construction is likely to be in calendar year 2024.

The Select Board unanimously supports passage of this item.