



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR
DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSET MANAGEMENT

RICHARD E. RAICHE, PE, PMP, MCPPO
DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSET MANAGEMENT

BRIAN C. POSTLEWAITE, PE
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

MELISSA WOODS, AICP
DIRECTOR OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council Public Utilities Public Works Committee
From: Melissa Woods
CC: Richard Raiche
Date: 9 November 2023
RE: Response to Various Council Orders

Order ID # 23-1432– That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management provide a report on the status of the Fire Department Master Planning Study, including projected timelines for the feasibility study, design, bidding and construction, and prioritization strategies.

The Somerville Fire Department (SFD) Master Plan has three phases – existing building assessment and documentation, programming (identifying what is needed), and concept design. It was during the existing building assessment that the structural issue was identified at Teele Square station (see agenda item below). The first two phases are nearing completion, and the project team will be pivoting into concept design. The concept design will include phasing (i.e., how to prioritize and sequence the work while keeping SFD fully operational) and cost estimates. The cost estimates will inform the next Capital Investment Plan (CIP) update. As of the FY2023 CIP, we plan to progress into design of the first station following the SFD Master Plan conclusion. We held 12 months of design and 12 months of construction for each station.

Order ID # 23-1433– That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management provide an update on the repairs of the Teele Square Fire Station, including a timeline for such repairs.

During the SFD Master Plan existing conditions assessment phase, a structural issue was identified at the Teele Square Fire Station. In short, the concrete slab and structure were not capable of supporting the weight of the preferred apparatus for the station. Capital Projects expedited the design of emergency repairs and facilitated an accelerated two week bid process for a contractor to implement shoring to support the concrete slab. The work is entirely in the basement of the station.

The project team has coordinated the relocation of electrical, fire alarm, heating lines, etc. to enable the shoring work as well as accepted modified (but equal) designs to shorten material procurement timelines. This relocation work will conclude this week (end of day 11/10) and the shoring will go in place. We have set the expectation with SFD that they will be able to park the engine in the station by Thanksgiving with the ladder shortly thereafter.

