



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: Richard Raiche, Brian Postlewaite, Melissa Woods  
Date: 6 October 2022  
RE: Response to Various Council Orders

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**Order ID # 22-1220 – An order that the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management update the Ward 1 City Councilor on plans to renovate Tufts Street.**

The repaving of Tufts Street is planned for the FY2024 Streetscape design project. This results in repaving during the 2024 and 2025 construction seasons. The mobility planning for this street will begin in Spring 2023 and will begin engineering design in Summer 2024. We look forward to coordinating the various design decisions with the neighborhood and the Ward 1 City Councilor.

**Order ID # 22-1596 – That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management present to this Council, a plan to fix the Somerville Media Center's roof.**

Capital Projects has completed a design of all envelope repairs and a potential tenant fit-out of the former fire station and current home of the Somerville Media Center and Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers at 90-92 Union Square. OSPCD has been coordinating with the sole bidder to an RFP released in 2021 to establish a private-public partnership to renovate the building. Under the terms of the proposal submitted by bidder, which includes US2 and a potential tenant, the bidder will fund the renovations of this City-owned building.

**Order ID # 22-0936 – That the Director of Engineering explain the timeline for the installation of the proposed Gilman Square water retention tank, as it relates to the overall flood water management plan.**

The Citywide Drainage Water Quality Master Plan engineering effort is complete, and the highly technical reports are posted on the SomerVoice page here:

<https://voice.somervillema.gov/citywide-drainage-and-water-quality-master-plan>



The team is currently finishing a summary report that will be much more digestible for the public, and it will be posted to the SomerVoice site very soon. As detailed in the technical reports and as will be included in the summary report, for logistics reasons, several other system improvements must be completed before the Gilman Square stormwater detention tank can be constructed. The overall timeline of all those improvements has not been developed; however, IAM-Engineering will be proceeding with the planning and design of the earliest phases of that work this winter.

In cooperation with the City of Cambridge and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), IAM-Engineering is currently developing a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). The recommendations of the Citywide Drainage Water Quality Master Plan will need to be coordinated with the CSO LTCP to develop the overall Sewer Capital Investment Plan. We have jointly held our first community engagement meeting and will be deploying a fully community engagement effort complete with a SomerVoice page in the coming months. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will ultimately approve the CSO control plan, including the compliance schedule.

Given the work that must be completed prior to developing the Sewer CIP that would include dates for starting the Gilman Square stormwater detention tank, it is impossible to predict a timeline for the completion of that tank at present.

**Order ID # 22-1360 – An order that the Director of Veterans’ Services update this Council on the status of the veterans’ memorials previously removed due to construction of the new high school.**

The restoration of the veterans’ memorials to Central Hill is included in the Central Hill Campus Plan project, which was put on hold during Covid-19. The Administration is currently working on developing a Capital Investment Plan, and the restoration of the memorials is one project that is under consideration for the CIP. Once the CIP is complete, the Administration will report back to this committee and the full Council with an update on timing.

**Order ID # 22-0960 – That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the uneven road pavement on Sycamore Street, between Medford Street and Evergreen Avenue.**

The uneven roadway pavement in May, when this order was submitted, was the result of a large temporary patch from an emergency water system repair. Over the summer, the Water & Sewer Department satisfactorily repaired the pavement for a street that is under the 5-year moratorium.

