



Nicolás H. Bosonetto, P.E.
City Engineer (Interim)

Date: October 4, 2017
TO: Kevin J. Murphy, City Manager
VIA: Tom Bellegarde, Assistant City Manager/DPW Commissioner
FROM: Nicolás H. Bosonetto, P.E., City Engineer (Interim)

SUBJECT: City Council Motion 8.6. (9/12/17) - C. Milinazzo - Req. City Mgr. Invite Representatives From The Massachusetts Department Of Transportation To Review And Comment On The Proposed Traffic Improvements Recommended By The Traffic Engineer To Support Lowell High School Moving To The Cawley Site At A Public Meeting To Be Held In The City Council Chambers.

Route 38 (Rogers Street) is under state jurisdiction from Butman Road to the Tewksbury town line. Any required improvements to Route 38 would therefore be dictated and permitted by MassDOT. The Transportation Engineer has been in contact with MassDOT in regards to the traffic studies, impacts and proposed mitigation projects at the LHS Cawley site. Specifically:

May 18, 2017 – Transportation Engineer emailed the full 66 page Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) prepared by Bryant Associates to MassDOT District 4.

May 20, 2017 – MassDOT responded that they would not comment until such time a location for the high school had been chosen.

June 22, 2017 – After City Council voted 5-4 to select the Cawley site as the preferred location, the Transportation Engineer forwarded the traffic summary report as well as the MEPA threshold analysis to MassDOT.

July 12, 2017 – Transportation Engineer met with District 4 engineering, traffic and permitting divisions to discuss Cawley traffic studies. MassDOT stated that they would not comment on the issue outside of the MEPA process.

Per MEPA regulations, MassDOT is precluded from commenting or taking any action on the Cawley traffic mitigation outside of the MEPA process Per 301 CMR 11.12(4)a:

“Unless otherwise required by other applicable statutes or regulations, an Agency may not take Agency Action on a Project that is subject to MEPA jurisdiction and meets or exceeds any review thresholds unless and until the Secretary has determined that an EIR is not required or the Secretary has determined that the single or final EIR is adequate and 60 Days have elapsed following the publication of the notice of the availability of the single or final EIR in the Environmental Monitor.”

The MEPA process has not yet been initiated for the LHS project, and therefore it is not possible to receive a definitive answer from MassDOT as to the required improvements to Route 38.