KING STREET – MASSDOT PROJECT #607502

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project will provide traffic operations improvements at four locations within the project area, as well as sidewalk, crosswalk, and bike lane improvements for pedestrians and bicycles. The project begins just south of the intersection of King Street and Bright Street, and continues along King Street to approximately 300 feet north of its intersection with Church Street. The isolated intersection of State Street and Finn Street is also included in the project limits. The intersections of King Street at Finn Street and King Street at Summer Street and North Street currently operate with traffic signals and will be upgraded, while the intersection of State Street at Finn Street is currently un-signalized, but will be signalized as part of this improvement project. The land use in the surrounding project area is primarily commercial, with some residential properties on Finn, State, and other side streets. A lack of bicycle accommodations and inadequate pedestrian facilities limit cyclist and pedestrian access throughout the project area. Roadway layout deficiencies and outdated traffic equipment create an unsafe condition for vehicular traffic. The improvements proposed as part of this project will address existing safety deficiencies, relieve traffic congestion, improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and improve the aesthetics of this heavily traveled connector. The proposed improvements will involve the following:

- Improve geometry of the King Street and North Street/Summer Street intersection.
- Reduce the number of southbound travel lanes to eliminate an unsafe merging condition and existing left-turn trap at North Street. This also allows for future turn lane into the old Northampton Honda site when it is developed.
- Provide auxiliary turn lane pocket into Foster Farrar Hardware store based on demand.
- Increase auxiliary lane queue storage and capacity.
- Replace obsolete traffic signal equipment.
- Signalize State Street and Finn Street intersection.
- Increase pedestrian safety and make accessibility improvements at the intersection of King Street with North St., Summer St., Myrtle St., Finn St., Hooker Ave and Church St.. Shorten crosswalk distances across King St., North St., Summer St., Myrtle St., Hooker St. and Church St.
- Upgrade pedestrian signals with APS Equipment at specific locations.
- Minor landscape enhancements to promote economic development of the old Northampton Honda site.
- Create a “gateway” at Lower King Street at North/Summer Street. Extend the urban context of downtown to Lower King Street
- Provide alternative/sustainable methods of treating stormwater run-off through the use of pavement reduction and streetside rain gardens. This also improves drainage capacity.
- Provide 5’ bicycle lanes and 5’ grade separated NB bike lane in front of the future development site at old Northampton Honda.
- Provide a tree belt for snow storage while also fixing steep driveway aprons.
- Provide pavement milling and full-depth box widening of the roadway within the project area as shown on the construction plans.