

# ANNUAL ENGINEERING REPORT FOR 2025

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THE CITY OF WESTFIELD  
HAMPDEN COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

Submitted to:

The Honorable Michael A. McCabe, Mayor and the Westfield City Council

Prepared by:

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## **MUNICIPAL MISSION STATEMENT**

To coordinate and deliver services that protect the interests and quality of life in our community with professionalism, integrity, and efficiency.

## **DEPARTMENTAL MISSION**

The Engineering Department's mission is to assist the Mayor and City Council in advancing the municipal mission through the application of professional knowledge on the infrastructure systems which serve our community. Duties include preparation and administration of contract documents related to infrastructure improvements, as well as maintenance of Assessor's maps. The department also provides assistance to other departments in permit tracking, GIS management, stormwater reviews, and interdepartmental coordination. The department consists of three engineers, a GIS Coordinator (currently vacant), and an administrative assistant. The City Engineer regularly attends subcommittee meetings and serves as a liaison between the department, the administration, and the public.

This mission places the department in a unique position to coordinate efforts across multiple city functions. By leveraging our expertise in design, mapping, permitting, and project administration, we serve not only the infrastructure needs of the City, but also support other departments in fulfilling their goals. Our work directly impacts public safety, transportation efficiency, environmental resilience, and the overall quality of life for residents.

## **REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE – TRADITIONAL SERVICES**

The traditional responsibility of the Engineering Department includes the design, bid, inspection, and administration of infrastructure improvements. These efforts are carried out in close collaboration with the Department and Board of Public Works, MassDOT, Westfield Public Schools, the Traffic Commission, and other agencies. FY2025 was a productive year that included significant roadway, sidewalk, flood mitigation, and safety improvements across the City.

### **Pavement and Sidewalks**

In FY2025, the department collaborated with state and local partners to implement a comprehensive paving and sidewalk program, leveraging Chapter 90 funds, Fair Share, WRAP, and local tax dollars to enhance roadway conditions and accessibility. Work included both major resurfacing efforts and preservation treatments designed to extend pavement life. A summary of key projects includes:

- Sidewalk replacements on Tekoa Terrace, Kipling Avenue, Hawthorne Avenue, Day Avenue, and Noble Avenue.
- 2" Mill and Overlay on more than 30 streets, including Bartlett Street, Cherry Street, Mechanic Street, Franklin Street, and many others.
- Cold-In-Place Recycling and top course paving on East Mountain Road and Servistar Industrial Way.
- Pavement preservation (crack and fog seal) on critical corridors including Feeding Hills Road, Little River Road, North Road, Root Road, Airport Road, and Granville Road, as well as crack sealing on multiple secondary roads.
- A citywide scan of the sidewalk network in partnership with StreetScan, establishing a comprehensive sidewalk management plan.

### **Major Projects (Design and Construction)**

The Engineering Department provided leadership on multiple high-profile projects in FY2025:

- Western Avenue Reconstruction – Finalized with MassDOT, addressing deficiencies and closing out construction.
- ValleyBike Expansion – Signed MOU with Northampton and Drop Mobility to bring the regional bikeshare program to Westfield, supported by a \$177,800 grant.
- Westfield River Levee Multi-Use Path – Began construction of a \$4.3M project awarded to Ludlow Construction, improving connectivity and recreation.
- Franklin Avenue School Traffic Signal – Designed and installed a new signal system, improved pedestrian access, and restriped roadways.
- Traffic Safety – Conducted crash cluster analysis, initiated Franklin Street at Maple Street safety improvements, and performed a Road Safety Audit (RSA) on Mechanic Street.
- Cowles Bridge – Advanced reconstruction plans with MassDOT and ET&L, incorporating locally designed streetscape features.

- Columbia Greenway Extension – Continued design coordination through challenging terrain and infrastructure constraints, including I-90 and railroad embankments.
- Exit 41 – Maintained coordination with MassDOT to advance project readiness for TIP inclusion.

## Grants

The department pursued and secured substantial external funding in FY2025:

- \$250,000 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan grant.
- \$250,000 Shared Streets and Spaces grant for Southwick Road improvements.
- Bottleneck Reduction Program funding for congestion relief at multiple downtown intersections.
- \$500,000 Complete Streets funding for Broad Street, with construction slated for spring 2025.
- Continued implementation of Shared Streets funding for ValleyBike.

## Flood Division

Flood control and dam safety projects were a priority in FY2025. Key accomplishments included:

- Emergency repair and stabilization of the Little River Levee erosion with rip-rap reinforcement.
- Clearing and grading of the levee to USACE PL 84-99 standards.
- Completion of culvert repair to meet Army Corps requirements.
- Continued management of levee grooming contracts and invasive species removal.
- Coordination with NRCS and consultants Pare and Aterra-Schnabel on design of the Arm Brook and Powdermill Brook Dams.

## Operations

In addition to construction projects, the Engineering Department provided operational support in the following areas:

- GIS management and development of a more user-friendly public portal.
- Processing and tracking an increasing number of public records requests.
- Reviewing unaccepted streets and providing recommendations for acceptance.
- Frequent communication with residents, including construction updates and responses to concerns.
- Coordination with other city departments on stormwater reviews, permitting, and utility coordination.

## GOALS – FY26 PROSPECTIVE REPORT

The Engineering Department enters FY2026 with a clear vision for continuing improvements to the City's infrastructure. Key goals include:

- Expanding pavement preservation techniques to keep streets in good condition. Currently using Fog Seal, Crack Seal, Cold In Place Recycling, Micro surfacing, and Stabilized FDR.
- Increasing the number of roads paved and sidewalks reconstructed compared to prior years.
- Managing active FY2025 grants to ensure deadlines and compliance requirements are met: *SS4A Action Plan, MVP Middle School Grant, Complete Streets Grant, Bottleneck Grant, Safe Streets for All Grant (Southwick Road and Valley Bike)*
- Manage new \$~900,000 MVP Grant for Westfield Middle School traffic safety and green infrastructure.
- Accelerating digitization of as-builts and records to improve efficiency and institutional knowledge.
- Improving communication with residents through timely construction updates.
- Coordinating priority projects with the State for potential inclusion in funding programs.
- Advancing levee and dam projects to achieve federal compliance and enhance flood protection. Arm Brook and Powdermill Brook dam to be turned over to ODS.
- Work toward PL84-99 Certification for the Little River Levee
- Working with MassDOT to move Exit 41 and the Columbia Greenway Extension forward as quickly as possible.

## SUMMARY

The Office of the City Engineer responsibly applied public funds in FY2025, delivering a broad range of projects that improved roadway conditions, enhanced pedestrian safety, expanded multimodal options, and advanced flood control efforts. By leveraging external funding and interdepartmental collaboration, the department maximized return on investment for the City. Looking forward, FY2026 promises continued progress, with a focus on sustainable infrastructure, community engagement, and resilience.

## APPENDIX

### State Funded – Priority Projects

<b>Project</b>	<b>Design Status</b>	<b>Construction Target</b>
Cowles Bridge Reconstruction	100%	Complete Fall 2025
Route 20 (Main & East Main)	25% – MassDOT	TBD
Exit 41 Interchange Improvements	Ongoing Coordination	TIP Placement Pending
Columbia Greenway Extension	25% – Ongoing	TBD
Western Avenue Final Closeout	100% – Complete	2025??

### Locally Funded / Grant Supported Projects

<b>Project</b>	<b>Design Status</b>	<b>Construction Target</b>
Broad Street Complete Streets	100%	Spring 2025- Winter 2025
South Maple Street Pocket Park	100%	Spring 2025- Fall 2025
Southwick Road Safety Improvements	Final Design	Fall 2025- Spring 2026
Franklin St/Maple St Safety	Final Design	Fall 2025- Winter 2025
Mechanic Street RSA Follow-Up	Conceptual Plan	2025
ValleyBike Expansion	Implementation	Spring 2025- Summer 2025
Westfield River Levee Path	Under Construction	Summer 2024- Fall 2025
MVP- Middle School	Final Design	Summer 2026-Summer 2027

### Flood Control Projects

<b>Project</b>	<b>Design Status</b>	<b>Construction Target</b>
Little River Levee (Tree Removal)	Clearing Ongoing	Spring 2024- Fall 2025
Arm Brook Dam Rehabilitation	Design	FY 2027-29
Powdermill Dam Rehabilitation	Design	FY2027–29