
ANNUAL ENGINEERING REPORT FOR 2020



THE CITY OF WESTFIELD HAMPDEN COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

Submitted to:
The Honorable Donald F. Humason JR, Mayor and the Westfield City Council

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MUNICIPAL MISSION STATEMENT

To coordinate and deliver services that protects 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 obtaining the municipal mission through the application of professional knowledge on the infrastructure systems, which serve our community. This task has been focused by section 2-454 of the Code of Ordinances, which lays out the duties and responsibilities of the City Engineer. Included is the preparation and administration of contract documents related to infrastructure improvements and the preparation and maintenance of the Assessor's maps. Since the Mayor and City Council serve the citizens and are served by multiple other departments the office extends its assistance to those parties as is appropriate and practicable.

This mission puts the department in a unique position to assist the coordination aspect of the municipal mission, a difficult and demanding enterprise requiring participation by others with demonstrated successes.

That unique position avails the City of opportunities for expansion of services toward an enhanced position in contending with a global economy. Potential enhancements of interdepartmental coordination exist through permit tracking, coordinated maintenance programs including greater data gathering and sharing, serving the efforts of health, community development & planning, voter registration, building, off-street parking, public safety, education and environmental protection.

The following report will demonstrate the departments' achievement in the traditional roles as well as roles under consideration for expansion. It is the intent of the Engineering Department to provide the requisite services to all authorities of the City and thereby to the ultimate authority, its citizens.

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
\$5,188,350	\$4,060,000	\$2,039,000	\$4,692,000	\$9,320,000	\$10,250,000	\$4,185,000	\$1,806,555
95.4%	64.6%	92.8%	89.4%	198.3%	294.4%	131.4%	43.3%

The Department has achieved valuable improvements varying in value over the years dependent upon the amount of resources provided, that is to say its output has risen to meet the varying demands but, is dependent upon others as what the available resources are.

In addition the department expended significant man hours in advancing and addressing Customer concerns, MDOT requirements and consultant contracts related to Columbia Greenway Rail to Trail - Central, Western Avenue’s two phases of reconstruction projects, Westfield River Levee Multi-Use Trail, Interchange 3 congestion mitigation and Cowles Bridge Replacement.

Beyond this codified responsibility the department traditionally provides reviews and inspections for the Planning Board, reviews for the Conservation Commission and Contract Document preparation and administration for the Flood Commission. Also, the department assigned house numbers and determined zoning boundaries for the Building Department as well as assisted with storm water management and urban forestry development. Maintenance of the City Assessor’s Maps is done by this department through the Geographic Information System also.

GOALS – SHORT TERM TRADITIONAL SERVICES FUNDING

A worldwide pandemic and national political division have dealt the City a regrettable freeze of the momentum toward enhanced live-work-play. It is difficult to see when and how the momentum will pick up again. Additional infrastructure investment can provide assistance but, funding is challenged by the myriad of competing priorities. Our focus must remain clear to enhance the experience of live-work-play in Westfield through whatever opportunities present themselves.

Please accept the following brief listing of ongoing Pavement and Congestion Management efforts:

<u>State Funded - State Priority</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>Construction</u>
Cowles Bridge-South Maple Rd/Little River 400103	100%	In Process
Route 10 & 202 Resurfacing 608487	50%	2021
Route 20 (Main & East Main Streets) Complete Streets	15%	2022
<u>State Funded - Local Priority</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>Construction</u>
Columbia Greenway Bike Trail – Central, Part 3 603783	100%-VHB	In Process
Western Ave. Reconstruction – Eastern Section 607773	100%-Milone MacBroom	2021
Court Street Multi-Use Trail	20%-Eng. Dept.	2021
Westfield River Levee Multi-use Trail 608073	75%-Tighe&Bond	To Be Determined
Interchange 3 Slip Ramp/Congestion Mitigation	25%-VHB	To Be Determined
<u>Locally Funded</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>Construction</u>
Lozierville Old Town Roadway Improvements	100%-Tighe&Bond	To Be Determined
Lozierville, Meadows Old Town Roadway Improvements	90%-Tighe&Bond	To Be Determined
Mill St@Crane Ave Roadway Realignment, Sidewalk Impr.	25%-Tighe&Bond	2024

The **Sanitary Sewer Program** is at a standstill despite recent fee increases to address desired expansion

and upgrade of the system. Please accept the following brief listing of ongoing efforts:

<i>Project</i>	<i>Design</i>	<i>Construction</i>
Infiltration and Inflow Remediation	100%-CDM	In Process
Pineridge Drive	100% RLA	Complete
Western Avenue-Central Sanitary Sewer Improvement	100%-Milone MacBroom	Complete
Western Avenue-East Sanitary Sewer Improvement	100%-Milone MacBroom	2021
Western Avenue-West Sanitary Sewer Improvement	5%-Tighe & Bond	Hold
Country Club Drive Sanitary Sewer Improvement	TBD	Hold
Edgewood & Willis Sanitary Sewer Improvement	TBD	Hold

The **Storm Water Management Program**, significant proposals are in the works by NRCS (National Recreation and Conservation Service) toward rehabilitating and redesigning our two flood control dams, Arm Brook and Powder Mill Brook. The assessment aired via public hearings held by the Flood Control Commission presents preferred alternatives with a city cost share of approximately \$5M. In addition storm water related issues continue to present themselves as with the recent Crescent Circle Outfall Repair which required DPW to scrounge up the needed funds. Funding for this program is needed on a regular basis. Construction projects currently underway are as follows:

<i>Project</i>	<i>Design</i>	<i>Construction</i>
Western Avenue-Central Utility Improvement	100%-Milone MacBroom	Complete
Western Avenue-East Sanitary Sewer Improvement	100%-Milone MacBroom	2021
Holyoke Road Drainage Adjustment	20%-Eng. Dept.	2021
Crescent Circle Drainage Repair	100%-Woodard & Curran	Complete
Arm Brook Dam Rehabilitation	100%-PARE	2022
Powder Mill Brook Dam Rehabilitation	850%-Aterra Solutions	2022

The **Streetscape Improvement Program**, including sidewalk reconstruction is perhaps the least appreciated as to funding priority yet one with the greatest public appreciation as demonstrated through massive public involvement in the 2010 Park Square Green Enhancement bonding effort. Streetscape improvements have invigorated neighborhoods, motivating many private property owners to undertake improvements and invest in their surroundings/neighborhood, demonstrated recently through accelerated development activities/interest in the downtown. The overall effort is larger than sidewalks alone and includes traffic management/calming and streetscape issues such as urban forestry and street lighting to enhance the user experience and help define neighborhoods. To be vibrant and sustaining the city must instill in its residents/customers a sense of pride and confidence, inspiring that population about the current and future potential for them. Likewise these neighborhoods must realize the particular attributes they possess, enhancing those attributes to obtain a self-image. Attainment of individual neighborhood identity is considered the key to galvanizing community spirit, renewing interest and investment in older neighborhoods, improving housing stock and reducing the demand for urban sprawl.

In December of 2000 the Westfield Vision Planning Committee produced a report which identified several perceived deficiencies by the public. One in particular was the lack of identity of the community. Although the community had numerous attractive and desirable individual elements, it lacked cohesion and coordination. The most important method of achieving this is through infrastructure improvements such as roadway and sidewalk design i.e. streetscape design. Over the course of the year 2009 the City conducted multiple outreach sessions toward an Urban Center Vision Plan with principal components of Live, Work, Play and Connect, key to an active and vibrant center. Enhancement of the experience of living in the

center, working in the center, playing in the center and connecting the same is the goal of several projects identified herein. It has become apparent that the aesthetic experience is as important as the functional when it comes to the community's perception of the particular infrastructure improvement and of the city over all. Consider any desirable neighborhood. The houses are not the cheapest, landscaping and architecture are attractive. A good looking and riding pavement condition is not enough. Attractive curbing and tree belt features carry equal weight with the public's perception of the roadway. The results have been overwhelmingly positive.

We live in an old city, 350 years old. As with an old house, if it is not kept up and improved to meet evolving demands of living standards it will be doomed to substandard uses or abandonment. We invest the majority of our limited tax revenues in educating our youth, if the City is not kept up and improved that investment will leave town. Failure will also encourage our senior population with their retirement portfolios/funds to similarly leave town. The resolve and resources must continue to be found to address infrastructure management irrespective of the economic times.

SUMMARY

Again, the Office of the City Engineer has responsibly applied tax dollars toward the enhancement of the community through the design and supervision of numerous valuable projects. The Engineering Department achievements of 95.4% return on investment is outstanding. The successful efforts of this Office are not possible without the continued trust of and investment by the Mayor and the City Council.

