



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Karen Hill, P.E., Transportation Engineer

DATE: August 22, 2025

SUBJECT: Green Street Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project (CIP #590)

Recommendation

Accept this report and authorize staff to proceed with the reconfiguration of Green Street at the intersections of School Street and Capitol Street in accordance with Capital Improvement Program Project CIP #590/FY2026.

Background

Green Street has been identified for improvements in the City's Capital Improvement Program under CIP #590. In 2022, the "Civic District" was resurfaced as part of the City's Annual Highway Paving Program (CIP #78). At that time, paving of the block bounded by North State, School, Green, and Capitol Streets was delayed pending the construction of the new Legislative parking garage at 33 Capitol Street. This delay afforded the City the opportunity to plan and fund long-anticipated sidewalk reconstruction, as well as pedestrian safety improvements on Green Street in the area of City Hall.

As part of the FY2025 Budget, the City Council approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project #590 "Downtown Civic District Sidewalk Replacement" and appropriated the sum of \$10,000 to design Green Street sidewalk improvements (from School to Capitol, plus 100' each way both sides) in conjunction with the construction of improvements associated with the new Legislative Parking Garage at 33 Capitol Street. Design goals included implementation of sidewalk "bump-outs" at the intersections of Green/School and Green/Capitol to improve pedestrian safety and traffic calming. The Engineering Services Division partnered with VHB, an on-call consultant for the City, to complete the design of the improvements.

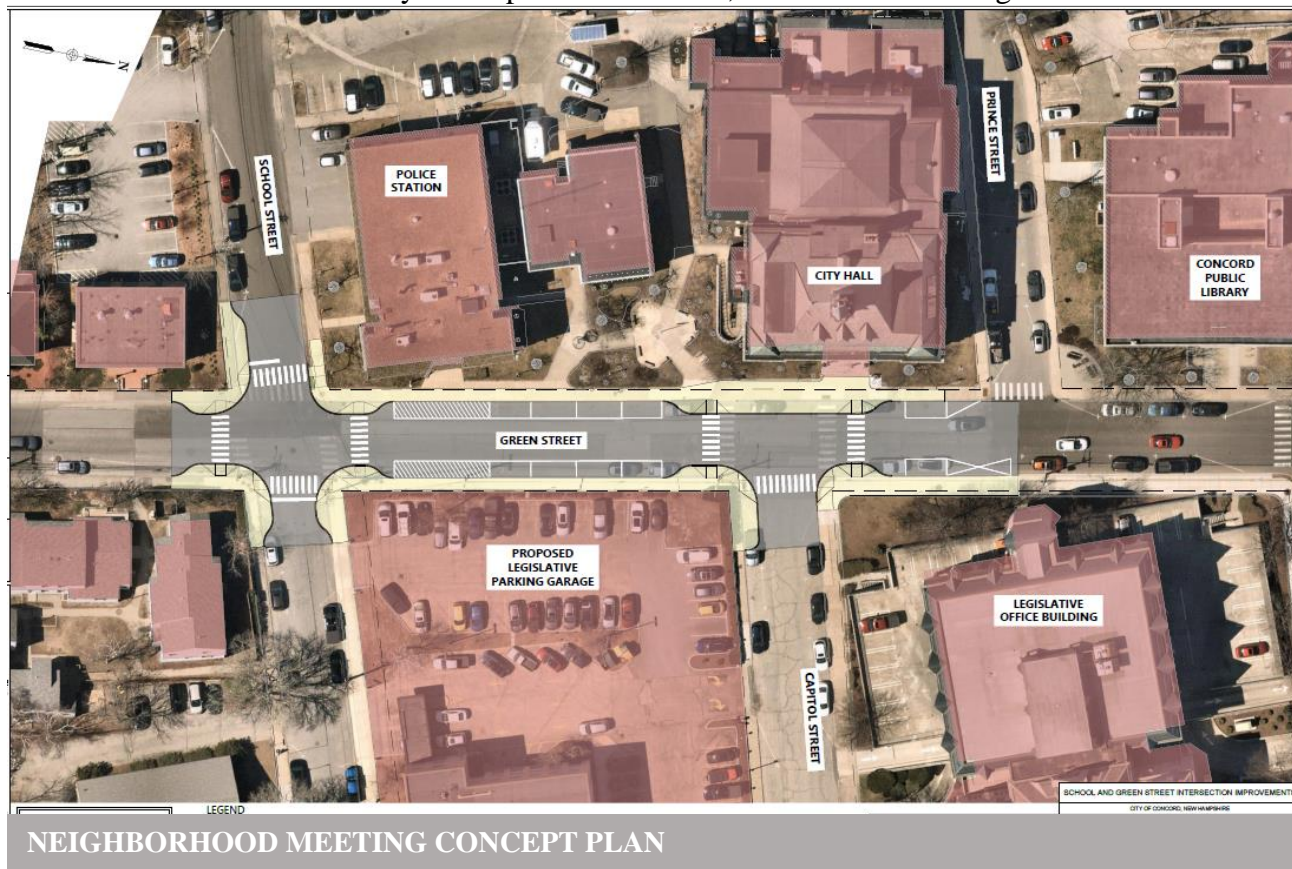
The purpose of this project is to improve pedestrian safety on Green Street. Specifically, the project improves pedestrian safety by shortening crosswalks, improving visibility of pedestrians beyond parked vehicles, and constructing ADA compliant sidewalk ramps.

Discussion

On March 11, 2025, the Engineering Services Division of the Community Development Department hosted a neighborhood meeting to discuss the proposed improvements. Notices were mailed to property owners in the project area. The meeting, which was held at Council

Chambers, was well attended by members of the public. Please see the below plan depicting existing conditions and proposed improvements that was presented at the meeting.

Preliminary Concept Plan March 11, 2025 Public Meeting



During the meeting, most of the feedback about the proposed improvements was favorable and supportive. However, some members of the public expressed concerns with the loss of five parking spaces associated with a large sidewalk bump-out between two crosswalks directly along the frontage of City Hall.

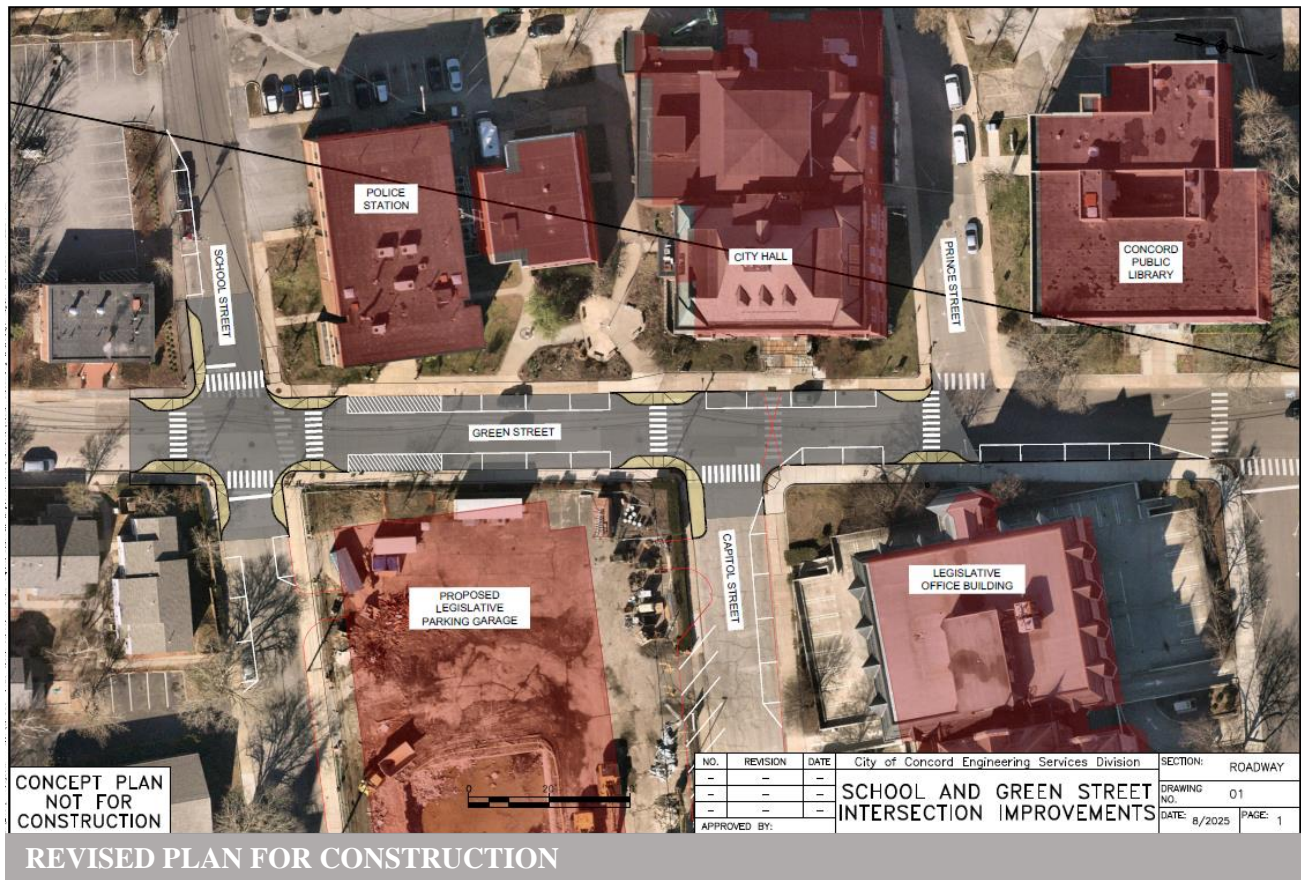
Although a pedestrian safety improvement, the Fire Department also expressed concerns with the large sidewalk bump-out as presented at the March 11, 2025 community meeting. Specifically, Green Street is a primary response route for the Fire Department, and the City Hall bump-out would limit opportunities for vehicles to move out of the way of emergency response vehicles.

Based upon this feedback, the Engineering Services Division revised the design plan to eliminate the large City Hall bump-out. Redesign included relocating one of the existing crosswalks on Green Street from Capitol to Prince Street.

The proposed redesign, depicted below, will reduce the parking impacts on Green Street from 5 parking spaces to 1 space. Additionally, due to the reconfiguration of Capitol Street with the State of New Hampshire's Legislative Parking Garage construction, three (3) parking spaces will

be added on Capitol Street, resulting in a net gain of two parking spaces in the vicinity of City Hall. Please see the revised plan below.

Revised Concept Plan August 2025



As a part of the FY 2026 Budget, the City Council approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project #590 “Downtown Civic District Sidewalk Replacement” and appropriated the sum of \$250,000 for the construction of these improvements.

Subject to City Council approval of this report, the Engineering Division will complete final design of the project. The final design shall account for utilities, as well as requirements for accessible parking spaces in accordance with Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG).

Final design and construction will be coordinated with the State of New Hampshire’s Legislative Parking Garage Project. It is anticipated that these improvements will be completed during the 2026 construction season. Any potential changes to parking ordinances that might be required as a result of these improvements will be presented to the City Council in the future as needed.