

CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

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

DATE: June 27, 2025

SUBJECT: Centre Street and Washington Street Intersection Improvement Project

Recommendation

Accept this report and authorize staff to proceed with the reconfiguration of the Centre Street and Washington Street Intersection and the installation of one new street light in accordance with CIP #520/FY2026.

Background

The Centre/Washington intersection is one of several "Y" intersections located throughout the City that have been identified for improvement in the City's Capital Improvement Program under CIP #520. Said intersections are typically improved concurrently with the City's Annual Highway Improvement Program (CIP #78) to achieve economies of scale and reduce costs.

Other recently improved intersections include: Walnut/Canal, Mountain/Shaker, Portsmouth/Old Loudon, Borough/Washington/River, and Borough/Lilac.

However, the COVID-19 Pandemic delayed a potential neighborhood meeting for the Centre/Washington intersection project and Washington Street was resurfaced in 2020 without improvements to this intersection. At that time, Washington Street was paved with a modified limit of work to allow the intersection improvement project to match in to that 2020 pavement improvement in the future.

As part of the FY2025 Budget, the City Council approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project #520 "Intersection Improvements" and appropriated the sum of \$15,000 to design the realignment of the intersection of Centre/Washington from its current "Y" configuration to a "T" shaped alignment. 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 and vehicular safety at the intersection. Specifically, the project improves pedestrian safety by shortening crosswalks and constructing ADA compliant sidewalk ramps, eliminates the skewed sight line for traffic exiting Washington Street, defines the intersection with Pine Street to eliminate unsafe crossing maneuvers, eliminates the unsafe bypassing of turning vehicles in the parking lane on Centre Street, calms traffic by narrowing Centre Street, and substantially reduces the unnecessarily-large size of the paved intersection area which increases green space and enhances safety for all users (vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists) now and in the future.

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.



During the meeting, most of the feedback was extremely favorable and supportive, however, a direct abutter did voice concerns about loss of on-street parking on Centre Street.

As a result, the Engineering Services Division along with their consultant, VHB, revised the plan to allow two parking spaces to remain on Centre Street across from Washington Street. The revised plan can be viewed below.

Due to the Washington Street reconfiguration, the parking limit along the north side of Washington Street will need to be pushed back from the intersection. Parking on the north side

between White Street and Centre Street has approximately 29 existing spaces. The modification will result in a total of 26 spaces, removing the three spaces closest to the intersection. A follow up report and ordinance amendment will be presented to Council to reflect this change once the project is constructed.

As a part of the project, the centerline on Washington Street in this area, between White Street and Centre Street, will be shifted to the south to better accommodate the width needed for parking and two-way travel.

The project will also include one new street light to illuminate the easternmost crosswalk on Centre Street.



As a part of the FY 2026 Budget, the City Council approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project #520 "Intersection Improvements" and appropriated the sum of \$180,000 for the construction of the project.

Staff believes that the concerns expressed during the neighborhood meeting have been sufficiently addressed. Unless otherwise directed by City Council, the Engineering Services Division, in conjunction with the General Services Department, will proceed with the proposed improvements during the 2025 construction season.