

Town of Franklin

355 East Central Street
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038-1352



Phone: (508) 520-4949
www.franklinma.gov

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Memorandum

October 2, 2020

To: Town Council

From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator

Re: Resolution 20-59: Borrowing Authorization - Washington and Grove Streets

The Town of Franklin is seeking authorization to borrow money to pay for roadway improvements at the intersection of Washington and Grove Streets. The Town is requesting to borrow \$1.5 million in authorization to make roadway improvements, including but not limited to the cost of lane widening, paving, utility relocations, pedestrian accommodations, installation of a traffic signal, bike lane, and all other related work at the intersection, as well as all necessary design, inspection and engineering services.

As many in the community know, this intersection is one of the most difficult and dangerous in town for many years. With the additional commercial development on Grove Street, we expect traffic to increase (and significantly more post-COVID-19). With additional commercial development potential on Grove Street and Kenwood Circle in the future, this intersection will be critical to get done in the next two years. I have included a map to remind the community this area is an Economic Opportunity Area for the Town. The Town has recently been very fortunate to have a handful of major projects in that area, which will help our economy as we move through this difficult COVID-19 period.

Additionally, I have identified various funding sources for this project, which has been one of the reasons this project has not been presented in the past.

1. The Town recently applied for a \$2.25 million MassWorks state grant to fund the intersection improvements and to pave from Washington Street to Kenwood Circle. We hope to find out early next year if this was successful. If we are not awarded the grant

in this cycle, the Town will refile the same grant again next summer.

2. More likely, there are two pending cannabis facilities proposed at 162 Grove and 164 Grove Street. These facilities will bring in new revenues to help fund the infrastructure improvements. The Town will receive a minimum of \$600,000 a year in impact fee revenue between the two facilities. Additionally, the Town will receive a 3% excise “sales” tax on all sales made at those two facilities.

I am hopeful that through the revenue sources above the Town will never have to borrow any money, similar to what the Town did for the LED Streetlight project a couple of years ago. The authorization tonight will allow the Town to begin the design work as the two cannabis facilities are outfitting their facilities in 2021. In other words, I am working to keep these projects all on a parallel track to the best of our ability.

To achieve the intersection improvements, it is critical to pass this authorization and for the Planning Board to approve the two facilities on Grove Street as soon as possible. Without the revenues from the two cannabis facilities, it will simply delay the improvements at the intersection.

If you have any additional questions please feel free to ask.



TOWN OF FRANKLIN

RESOLUTION 20-59

**Authorizing the Borrowing of Money to Pay
Costs of Washington and Grove Streets
Intersection Improvements**

WHEREAS: The Town Council has been advised of a need to make roadway improvements at the intersection of Washington and Grove Streets,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED by the Town Council of the Town of Franklin that:

- (1) \$1,500,000 is appropriated to pay costs of making roadway improvements at the intersection of Washington and Grove Streets, including lane widening, paving, utility relocations, pedestrian accommodations, installation of a traffic signal, and all other related work at the intersection, as well as all necessary design, inspection and engineering services; and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer-Collector with the approval of the Town Administrator is authorized to borrow \$1,500,000 under G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.
- (2) Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

This Resolution shall become effective according to provisions of the Town of Franklin Home Rule Charter.

DATED: _____, 2020

VOTED: _____

UNANIMOUS: _____

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

YES: _____ NO: _____

ABSTAIN: _____ ABSENT: _____



RECUSED: _____

**Nancy Danello
Temporary Town Clerk**

**Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council**

AREAS OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Economic Opportunity Areas (EOA)

- 1. Forge Park EOA
 - 2. North Grove Street EOA
 - 3. South Grove Street EOA
 - 4. Financial Way EOA
 - 5. Franklin Industrial Park EOA
-  School
 Parcel Line

