

February 3, 2021

Town of Webster
350 Main Street
Webster, Massachusetts 01570

Telephone: (508) 949-3800

This notice shall satisfy the procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Town of Webster.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

To all interested agencies, groups and persons:

On or about **February 17, 2021**, the Town of Webster will submit a request to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to undertake a project known as: **FY 2020 Webster Mini-Entitlement Plan Grant**, consisting of two activities:

Granite Street Reconstruction – Phase 1

The Town proposes to complete the first of a two-phased reconstruction of Granite Street. The work scope includes the following: the full-depth reconstruction and resurfacing of a deteriorated street, a storm drainage upgrade, and the replacement of deteriorated sidewalks and curbing on a predominately lower-income residential street. The project will renew and improve deteriorated, outdated infrastructure, but will not result in an increase of existing capacity. The street contains municipal water and sewer lines which are in good condition; replacement or upgrading of these are part of the project's scope. The limits of the project are slightly less than one-half the length of Granite Street, starting from its intersection at Lake Street to Cutler Street, a distance of approximately 900 linear feet (l.f.). It is expected that the remaining length of the street, approximately 1,050 linear feet, and running from Cutler Street to East Main Street, will be reconstructed in at a future time, prospectively in 2022.

Riverwalk Phase 3B

The Town proposes to use FY 2020 CDBG funds to complete the construction of Phase 3B of the Riverwalk and Downtown Streetscape Improvements. The majority of the Phase 3B project is funded jointly from FY 2018 and 2019 CDBG funds. The scope of the work involves the reconstruction of the municipal parking lot at the northern end of Tracey Court and adjacent to Davis Street, as well as the section of Davis Street that is immediately adjacent to the parking lot. Construction of the FY 2018-2019 CDBG-funded work will occur in 2020. For budgetary reasons, the work scheduled for 2020 is a scaled-back version of the full project. This work will entail the reconstruction of the parking street section to a functional level, but remain incomplete. The proposed FY 2020 funding will complete the project as fully envisioned by completing lighting of the street and parking lot, as well as landscaping and aesthetic enhancements. Upon completion, the project may result in a small reduction of the parking capacity of the 80-space parking lot (estimated at 3 spaces), but will result in improved circulation and a safer pedestrian environment.

Total Estimated Grant: \$825,000 from CDBG funds

Location: Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Town of Webster has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA PL 91-190) is not required. No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted, prior to the request

for release of CDBG funds. The Environmental Review Record is on file at the offices of the grantee, Town of Webster, Town Administrator's Office, 350 Main Street, Webster, Massachusetts 01570 and is available for public examination and copying upon request at this office or the Office of Community Development (same address) in Webster during regular business hours which are Monday 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Wednesday and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Douglas Willardson, Town Administrator and Environmental Certifying Officer, Town of Webster. All comments received by **February 17, 2021**, will be considered by the Town of Webster prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Town of Webster will undertake the project described above with Block Grant Funds from DHCD under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Town of Webster certifies to DHCD that the Town of Webster and Douglas Willardson, in his official capacity as Environmental Certifying Officer for the Town of Webster, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, decision making and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The State's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities and allows the Town of Webster to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

DHCD will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Webster's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) The certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Town of Webster; (b) The Town of Webster has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) The grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the State; (d) Another federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

The only bases upon which DHCD will disapprove the RROF and certification are set forth above. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76), and shall be addressed to the DHCD, Division of Community Services, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300, Boston, MA 02114. Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by DHCD. Potential objectors should contact DHCD to verify the actual last day of the objection period. No objections received after fifteen days from receipt of the community's Request for Release of Funds and Certification will be considered by DHCD.

Douglas Willardson, Town Administrator
Environmental Certifying Officer
Town of Webster, Massachusetts