



**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**  
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

April 5, 2018

City Council President Linda M. Morad and  
Honorable Members of the City Council  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Council President Morad and Honorable Members of the City Council:

I am submitting for your consideration a revised version of the FY 2018 capital bond. Over the past several weeks, I have received helpful feedback from Councilors about the proposed capital projects, especially road repairs. I share the Council's general sentiment that the City must invest more in its roadways, which is precisely why we launched our road repair program last year. It had become abundantly clear to all of us that the City's relatively modest apportionment of Chapter 90 funds from the State was insufficient to keep up with the deterioration we see on many of our streets.

Under the plan, which the Council supported last year, the City committed to invest \$1 million a year in road repairs in addition to the roughly \$2.1 million in annual state road aid. Other road repairs will continue to be funded through the water and wastewater accounts, or by Eversource, on streets that undergo significant underground utility work. Still other roads, such as the southernmost segment of JFK Boulevard as well as County Street, will be reconstructed through the state's Transportation Investment Program. In addition to managing all of this road work, our Department of Public Infrastructure fills over 10,000 potholes and seals miles of road cracks every year.

Several Councilors have suggested that the City's share of road funding be increased this year. I believe that in the interest of compromise and our shared recognition of the need for investment in this area, the Council's request should be accommodated. The deterioration of our roadways, though not nearly as acute as that in most Northeastern cities, has happened because for as long as one can remember, the City has lacked a sustainable road repair program. The key to rebuilding our roads is making a commitment to re-investment, and being able to stick to it year after year. Resorting to one-off infusions of cash, as has happened in the past, will not solve the long term challenge. Establishing a sustainable funding level should be made in light of the resources available to the City and the competing needs to maintain other city assets, including our numerous parks and nearly one hundred city-owned buildings.

The revised bond addresses the Council's concerns about road projects by modestly increasing the overall allocation and redirecting funding from other projects. The amended proposal incorporates the following changes to the original proposal:

1. **Funding for roads is increased by 60%.** As noted above, reinvestment in our roads is critical, but the challenge will be to determine the level of recurring funding that the City can afford, while maintaining our commitment to maintaining our municipal buildings and other City assets.

CITY CLERK

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CITY CLERK OFFICE  
NEW BEDFORD, MA

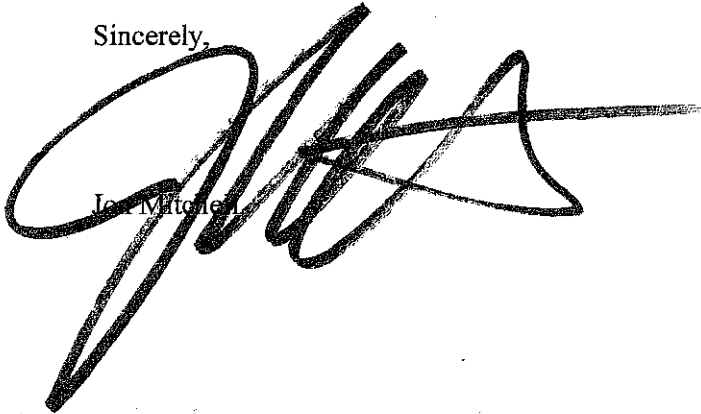
2. **Design of the City Yard project is deferred to FY 2019.** Funding will be requested in next year's bond, so that the City may proceed with its effort to modernize fleet operations.
3. **Funding for grounds work at New Bedford High School is reduced.** The capital bond includes a set of projects that are important to operations and student life at the high school. The decrease in funding for exterior work on campus athletic grounds will require a reduction in the overall scope of the project.

**FY 2018 Capital Bond (Revised)**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
New Bedford High School Renovations	\$1,430,000
Buttonwood Park Zoo (matched by \$840,000 in private donations)	870,000
Main Library Repairs	775,000
West Beach Community Building Repairs	300,000
City Hall Elevator Construction	900,000
Core IT Infrastructure Support & Replacement	430,000
Roads	1,600,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,305,000</b>

I appreciate your constructive feedback, and I am hopeful that this revised proposal will allow us to move forward on repairs and renovations that we all agree are badly needed. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to our continued engagement on this matter.

Sincerely,

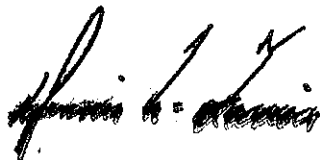


Joe Mitchell

**IN CITY COUNCIL, April 12, 2018**

Referred to the Committee on Finance.  
a true copy attest:

Dennis W. Farias, City Clerk



City Clerk