



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

March 18, 2021

City Council President Joseph P. Lopes, and
Honorable Members of the City Council
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

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

I am submitting for your consideration three bond allocations which will constitute this year's round of projects for the FY 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Much like previous capital funding rounds, these projects are intended to continue essential renovation and repair efforts while also designating local funding to supplement state aid for much-needed road and sidewalk repairs.

The capital program was initiated in FY 2014 as a roadmap for the City's long-range capital needs, and the City Council has approved rounds of projects included in the plan on an annual basis. The CIP has guided the City in financing much-needed renovations to the City's schools, libraries, public safety facilities, senior centers, City Hall, the Hillman Street complex, Buttonwood Park Zoo, the Zeiterion Theatre and the Art Museum. In addition, the CIP was instrumental in prioritizing limited resources to make the new Taylor and Jacobs schools, development of the South Public Safety Center, and long-needed repairs at several of the City's elementary schools, possible.

Our utilization of a five-year CIP has also been a key component in our efforts to demonstrate responsible fiscal management to rating agencies and investors, and was cited as a factor in our achieving a AA- bond rating in 2014, as well as the recent rating from Standard & Poor's, which affirmed the City's AA- status. The CFO updates the CIP annually in light of funding opportunities and input from other department heads.

The CIP totals \$120.7 million from FY 2021 through 2025. Of this amount, \$18.2 million would be allocated for capital asset preservation projects for public safety, road repairs, public use buildings and other government facilities, and approximately \$11.3 million would be allocated for ongoing replacement of capital vehicles and general fleet replenishment. \$31.4 million would be allocated for major renovations and/or replacements at general government facilities, while \$59.8 million would be allocated for school projects. The CIP will be funded by a combination of general obligation debt and lease purchases. The program is designed to work within the City's existing debt profile as much as possible, thereby minimizing the impact on ongoing debt service requirements.

Accompanying the CIP are three loan orders intended to finance the City's capital needs for FY 2021. The FY 2021 capital improvement bond increases the annual commitment to roads and infrastructure and restores projects which were eliminated from last year's initial proposal in response to the pandemic. In addition, I am submitting a loan order to finance renovations to the City's fleet management facility, whose design was initially funded through a Free Cash allocation in 2019. Finally, this year's package also includes a multiyear proposal to improve water quality at Sassaquin Pond. It is worth noting that we are fortunate that the introduction of this combination of badly needed projects is ready for submission during the current period of historically low interest rates.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal, and I look forward to the discussion ahead.

Sincerely,

Jon Mitchell
Mayor





CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

March 25, 2021

A BOND ORDER TO AUTHORIZE THE BORROWING OF FUNDS TO PAY COSTS OF RECONSTRUCTION, EXPANSION AND RENOVATION OF THE CITY YARD CAMPUS INCLUDING THE CENTRAL GARAGE, WASTEWATER GARAGE, POLICE GARAGE, FIRE GARAGE AND TRUCK SHED.

ORDERED, that \$3,700,000 is appropriated to pay the costs of reconstruction, expansion and renovation of the City Yard Campus including the City's Central Garage, Truck Shed and Wastewater Garage located at 334 Liberty Street, Police Garage located at 291 Liberty Street and the Fire Garage located at 304 Liberty Street, including the payment of all other costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"); that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor and the Committee on Finance is authorized to borrow \$3,700,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes therefor.

FURTHER ORDERED: That any premium received by the City upon the sale of any bonds or notes hereunder, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to pay project costs, and further, the amount authorized to be borrowed hereunder shall be reduced by the amount of any such premium so applied.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the appropriate officials of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the "Commonwealth") to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all bonds of the City authorized by this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as such officials of the Commonwealth may require in connection therewith.

March 15, 2021



**MOUNT VERNON GROUP
ARCHITECTS**

47 NORTH SECOND STREET
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740

508.991.7500 T
508.991.7501 F

Mark Champagne
Director of Facilities & Fleet Management
City of New Bedford
294 Liberty Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

**RE: NEW BEDFORD CENTRAL GARAGE ADDITION & RENOVATION
281 Liberty Street, New Bedford, MA 02740**

Dear Mr. Champagne:

The DFFM's Fleet Division consisting of two facilities, the Lawrence D. Worden Central Garage and the Police Garage which are both located at the City's Central Yard at 281 Liberty Street are in need of some major improvements.

The Central Garage as we've been informed is typically open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and is comprised of 4 drive-through bays, 13 individual bays, a parts room, a welding shop, and a metal shop. It contains the Garage Superintendent's office, clerk's office, locker room, and a mezzanine used for storing large parts as well. Shop equipment consists of four four-post lifts, one six-post lift, a 50,000 lb. drive-on lift, and one in-ground lift. After 42 years of constant use the Central Garage has shown its age.

It is our understanding that in the Fiscal Year of 2019 a Free Cash award was made to support the cost of designing a renovation of the facility as well as constructing an addition that will house 4 additional work bays to consolidate the Police Garage into the main operation at the Central Garage. Additional work required will consist of the following:

- Resurfacing the floor which is pitted and stained after many years of use,
- Painting the interior,
- Replacing old lighting fixtures,
- Replacing the air compressors,
- Securing the parts room,
- Installing overhead lubricant reels

In addition to the modernization of the building's interior and workspace, the heating system and the pneumatic air delivery system which are both well past the end of their life cycle will also be replaced. A new exhaust gas management system will be installed as well to further ensure the safety of the dedicated work force that maintains the City's fleet.



Based on our programming and review by our Consultants for the project, it is our assessment that the aforementioned work is necessary to ensure continued optimal and successful operation at the Central Garage for many years to come. Our estimate for this work to be completed is approximately \$2,900,000.

Should you require additional information or clarification please feel free to contact me directly.

Very truly yours,

Mount Vernon Group Architects, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JF", is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Jorge Figueiredo, MCPPO
Associate Principal

March 12, 2021



**MOUNT VERNON GROUP
ARCHITECTS**

47 NORTH SECOND STREET
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740

508.991.7500 T
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Mark Champagne
Facilities & Fleet Management Director
City of New Bedford
294 Liberty Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

**RE: FIRE APPARATUS, CARPENTRY & WASTEWATER STORAGE BUILDING
313 Liberty Street, New Bedford, MA 02740**

Dear Mr. Champagne:

Based on our visual inspection on 3/05/2021 of the existing roof system, it is our assessment that it has exceed its lifetime expectancy. Upon our review, it is our recommendation that the existing roof system be completely replaced with a new PVC fully adhered membrane roof system in accordance with local & state building codes. Our estimate for this work to be completed is approximately \$800,000.

Should you require additional information or clarification please feel free to contact me directly.

Very truly yours,

Mount Vernon Group Architects, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JF' or 'Jorge Figueiredo', written over a large, loopy initial 'J'.

Jorge Figueiredo, MCPPO
Associate Principal