

CITY OF WORCESTER

TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 25, 2026
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 5:01 P.M.
Adjourned: 7:00 P.M.

MAYOR

Joseph M. Petty

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Jose A Rivera
Vice Chairperson Luis A Ojeda
Councilor Robert A Bilotta



CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Nikolin Vangjeli

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City Hall - 455 Main Street Worcester, Massachusetts

Present Were:

Chairperson Councilor Jose A. Rivera
Councilor Luis A. Ojeda
Councilor Robert A. Bilotta, who participated in the meeting remotely

Also:

Chairperson Councilor Tony Economou
Councilor Satya B. Mitra, who arrived at 5:03 p.m.
Councilor John P. Fresolo
Commissioner of Public Works John J. Westerling
Assistant Commissioner of Engineering Jay Mello
Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility Stephen S. Rolle
Assistant Director of Transportation and Mobility Todd Kirranne
Principal for Apex Companies Francis Marinaccio
Deputy City Clerk Stephen A.J. Pottle, clerk

1. Virtual Attendee Call-In Information

- a. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 and in order to ensure active, public engagement, the City of Worcester currently allows for both in-person and remote participation at all City Council and Standing Committee meetings. To partake in the meeting, you may attend the meeting in-person within the meeting location, follow the below link to join via Zoom or dial the direct line as indicated. If you join a Zoom meeting by dialing in with a phone number, you can raise your hand by dialing *9.

Public Works Committee and Traffic and Parking Committee Zoom Link:
<https://worcesterma.zoomgov.com/j/1615992759>

Public Works Committee and Traffic and Parking Committee Zoom Phone Number: +1
646 828 7666

Public Works Committee and Traffic and Parking Committee Zoom Access Code: 161
599 2759

2. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Order - That the City Council Standing Committee of Traffic and Parking hereby approves the minutes of the Traffic and Parking Committee meeting of August 19, 2026.

**Chairperson Councilor Rivera read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays**

3. Miscellaneous Item

- a. Order of Councilor Tony Economou - Request Standing Committee on Public Works meet jointly with the Standing Committee on Traffic and Parking for the purpose of reviewing and discussing the city's strategic pavement management plan. Further, request Commissioner of Public Works and Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility attend the joint committee meeting to present the city's 2025 Pavement Management, prepared by Apex Companies, LLC and Cyvl.ai. (see attached).

12m CC July 21, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Economou read the item and recognized the Commissioner of Public Works, who provided an overview of the item, including how the Department of Transportation and Mobility and Department of Public Works collaborate for the city's pavement management plan.

Chairperson Councilor Rivera recognized the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility and the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works, who provided a presentation relative to the city's street construction and pavement management program. Said presentation included information concerning the importance of pavement preservation, advanced and flexible project planning and project selections based on pavement condition index (PCI) data, the process relative to developing the 2025 Pavement Management Plan, an overview of how to classify road PCI with estimated treatment costs, impacts of pavement preservation on PCI, the importance of performing routine/preventative maintenance to avoid road deterioration, the requirement for major rehabilitation with the goal to maintain the majority lowest road classification at eighty (80) PCI, monetary advantages associated with maintaining acceptable road conditions over a longer period of time, the 2023 average PCI of the city's road network rated at 69.6 with the estimated cost at \$19.4 million annually towards pavement management to fix the worst classified roads first, considerations to inflation since 2023 with an estimated thirty percent (30%) increase for pavement management supplies and labor, the 2023 estimated cost at \$16.2 million annually towards pavement management by following a balanced pavement preservation program, and routine maintenance options to maintain roads at eighty (80) to ninety (90) PCI such as crack seal, fog seal, and permanent patch methods.

Chairperson Councilor Economou recognized Councilor Fresolo, who discussed the whether the permanent long patch program addresses issues related to manholes with the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works.

Chairperson Councilor Rivera recognized Councilor Ojeda, who discussed concerns related to the chip seal treatment method, feasible alternative treatment options in lieu of chip seal, best practices for using chip seal, benefits to using the cape seal treatment method, cost differentials between chip and cape seal methods, and subsequent treatment limitations after using the cape seal and microsurfacing methods with the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering and Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility.

Chairperson Councilor Rivera recognized Councilor Bilotta, who discussed concerns related to excess chips impacting stormwater infrastructure, issues related to hot in place recycling treatment, cold in place recycling and mill and overlay treatment methods with the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works.

Chairperson Councilor Economou discussed the feasibility of cape sealing and microsurfacing roadways that did not withstand chip seal with the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering.

Chairperson Councilor Rivera recognized Councilor Ojeda, who discussed pavement management budget allocations available for piloting cape seal treatment methods with the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering.

Chairperson Councilor Economou recognized Councilor Fresolo, who spoke concerning when the projects associated with street and sidewalk selections made by district councilors would begin, as well as project delays due to utility holds with the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering, Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility, and Commissioner of Public Works.

Chairperson Councilor Rivera recognized Councilor Ojeda, who discussed the street and sidewalk resurfacing process, whether there have been changes to the inspection process for street construction projects and challenges related to construction work done by utility companies with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility and the Assistant Commissioner of Public Works.

Chairperson Councilor Economou discussed issues with the process used to inspect contracted work, the ability to hold said contractors accountable for the quality of the work performed, communication methods used to inform residents of scheduled roadwork, and the process used by residents to obtain specific project information with accompanying contact information to file a complaint/express concerns with Councilor Ojeda and Commissioner of Public Works.

Chairperson Councilor Rivera recognized Councilor Bilotta, who highlighted the importance of holding contractors to higher standards and a timeline of roads in each district identified to be treated with crack seal with the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering and Commissioner of Public Works.

Chairperson Councilor Economou then recognized the following Speakers:

1. Maria Kaplanes, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor of nor opposed to the item
2. Fred Nathan, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor of nor opposed to the item

Chairperson Councilor Rivera discussed the poor sidewalk conditions, construction status, and drainage issues on Coombs Rd. with Speaker #1, Traffic and Parking Committee Member Councilor Ojeda, and Commissioner of Public Works.

Chairperson Councilor Economou discussed the benefits and positive progress made since establishing the city's pavement management program and highlighted challenges associated with inflation with the Assistant Commissioner of Engineering.

Chairperson Councilor Mitra recognized Councilor Mitra, who highlighted the importance of improving processes in the city to create a more inviting community for residents and business owners, the feasibility of resurfacing major arteries in the city in the next three (3) to four (4) years, the process used for District Councilors to select streets/sidewalks for resurfacing, and the process used to allocate funds for each street/sidewalk selected for resurfacing with the Commissioner of Public Works and Principal for Apex Companies.

Chairperson Councilor Economou discussed the benefits of establishing a pavement preservation program, highlighted the notion that significant pavement preservation results takes time, and the impact of an insufficient pavement preservation program with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility.

Chairperson Councilor Rivera discussed how many streets in the city fell into each PCI classification, the process used to fund the city's various pavement projects, and the number of streets in the city's road network with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility and Principal for Apex Companies.

Chairperson Councilor Economou recognized Councilor Fresolo, who spoke concerning Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) resurfacing budget allocations, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) funding opportunities associated with resurfacing Grafton St., and why twenty-one

percent (21%) of the city's streets classified as being in poor condition with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility, Assistant Commissioner of Engineering, and Commissioner of Public Works.

Chairperson Councilor Economou discussed inspecting failed chip seal treatments with the Commissioner of Public Works.

Chairperson Councilor Economou moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be held.

Recommend Hold on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays