

# Mason Avenue Electrical Upgrade

February 5, 2026

# History

- Streetlight problem on west end of north side. Undersize wiring causes voltage drop that negatively affects lighting.
- Holiday tree lighting is awkward and unsafe. Surface wiring along sidewalk from light poles to trees.
- Invitation for bids issued early 2025. One bid for over \$400K.
- Recent on-site review of the project with the contractor.
- Many impediments should be corrected to prepare site for electrical work.

# Current Situation – North Side

- Ten light poles between Peach & Harbor.
- Twenty-two planting beds (half have trees).
- Five large or poorly positioned trees.
- Sixteen planting beds are too wide:
  - Three provide adequate space for a standard 5' wide sidewalk in RoW.
  - Nine provide less than 4'.
  - The most constricted is about 1.5'.
- Two handicap accessible parking spaces need ramps.

# Current Situation – South Side

- South side is in better condition.
- No undersize wiring.
- Seven light poles between Peach and Harbor.
- Seventeen trees and several long and more narrow planting beds.
- No constricted sidewalk until war memorial.
- One oversize tree.
- One crosswalk needs handicap accessible ramp.

# Corrective Actions

- Remove 6 trees on north side & 1 on south side. Estimate - \$35K.
- Narrow up 16 planting beds on north side, about 380 square feet, to provide 5' wide concrete sidewalk. Estimate - \$10K.
- Construct handicap parking accessible ramps at Strawberry and Pine on north side. Estimate - \$20K.
- Construct handicap accessible ramp at west Strawberry Street crosswalk on south side. Estimate - \$10K.
- Plant appropriate replacement trees and other landscaping in vacant beds. Estimate - \$10K.

# Corrective Actions

- Coordinating with CCMS and CCHDCL on desired streetscape:
  - Number, locations and types of trees.
  - Other landscaping in beds.
  - Structural enhancement of beds.
  - Additional streetlights; north side Mason (Harbor - Bay), Strawberry.
- CCMS has engaged Commonwealth Preservation Group (CPG) to provide recommendations.

# Electrical Upgrade

- Design basis for restructured Invitation For Bids:
  - Increase power supply on north side to 200 amps.
  - New 2” diameter conduit & correctly sized wiring on north side.
  - Intercept existing conduit and wiring on south side.
  - In-ground junction boxes for streetlights and trees.
  - Power pedestals with GFCI outlets in planting beds.
  - Separate circuits for each block.

# Phasing

- Phase 1 - \$164K available in FY 2026 budget.
  - Includes \$50K Northampton Tourism grant available **only** for electrical.
- Estimated \$85K for site preparatory work.
- Estimated \$50K for conduit, wiring, junction boxes, etc., north side of Mason (Harbor - Bay). Provides for future streetlights and power pedestals for tree lighting.
- Prepare estimates for future phases after getting actual cost of Phase 1 work and reviewing CPG recommendations.

# Phasing

- Examples:
  - North side of Mason - conduit, wiring, junction boxes and power pedestals from Peach to Harbor. Connect to Harbor-Bay segment.
  - South side of Mason - junction boxes and power pedestals.
  - Strawberry (Mason-Randolph) - conduit, wiring, junction boxes and power pedestals.
  - Install streetlights Harbor-Bay (6) and Strawberry (6).
  - Enhancement of planting beds.
- Include in CAMP and FY 2027 budget.