



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: June 25, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission
VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292
MEETING ID: 112 221 9704

Present: Chair Cathy Judd-Stein
Commissioner Gayle Cameron
Commissioner Enrique Zuniga
Commissioner Bruce Stebbins
Commissioner Eileen O'Brien

Given the unprecedented circumstances, Governor Charles Baker issued an order to provide limited relief from certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law to protect the health and safety of the public and individuals interested in attending public meetings during the global Coronavirus pandemic. In keeping with the guidance provided, the Commission conducted this public meeting utilizing remote collaboration technology.

Call to Order

9:30 a.m. Chair Cathy Judd-Stein called to order public meeting #310 of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (Commission).

The Chair confirmed a quorum for the meeting with a Roll Call.

Commissioner Cameron: Aye.

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Zuniga: Aye.

Commissioner Stebbins: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

Administrative Update

9:30 a.m. Interim Executive Director Karen Wells noted to the Commission that the Governor indicated that Phase III of reopening businesses in Massachusetts may start as early as July 4th. In response, her team is prepared to open casinos on July

4th, should that be the date of reopening. She described the safety measures that are in place to do so.

Next, Ms. Wells updated the Commission on the agency's migration to a new operating system and stated that there will be a Town Hall this following Monday for the staff to ask questions. She advised all staff to forward their questions to Lead Executive Assistant Maryanne Dooley prior to the Town Hall meeting.

[9:33 a.m.](#) Commissioner Zuniga advised the Commission to allow flexibility for employees to accommodate safety concerns in this changing environment.

Commissioners' Update

[9:35 a.m.](#) **Elaine Driscoll, Director of Communications: Bradford Fellowship**
The Chair stated that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Human Resources Division announced that Director of Communications, Elaine Driscoll, is one of three recipients awarded the [Bradford Fellowship Program](#) for excellence in public administration. Ms. Driscoll will attend the Harvard University Kennedy School for the academic year of September 2020 through May 2021.

[9:39 a.m.](#) Ms. Driscoll thanked the Commissioners for their leadership and support. She stated that she pursued this opportunity because the talented public servants that she has worked with over the last eight years inspired her. Ms. Driscoll hopes that from this program, she will be able to identify a way to expand her contribution to the public and expressed her gratitude with heartfelt remarks. The Chair and each Commissioner took the opportunity to personally congratulate Ms. Driscoll and wished her well in her temporary hiatus from the Commission to pursue the fellowship.

Research and Responsible Gaming

[9:54 a.m.](#) **Updates to the Research Page on Website**
Ms. Driscoll explained that as the number of research studies grew over time to over 40 reports, a user-friendly section of the site became necessary. In response, the team developed a system that categorizes all research in a manner that allows individuals and interested parties to identify the research reports they seek with several different advanced search options.

[9:59 a.m.](#) The Commission viewed an educational video created by Digital Communications Coordinator, Austin Bumpus, that demonstrated its functionality. Ms. Driscoll made note that now when someone searches for a report, all associated documents will be connected to it as well.

[10:03 a.m.](#) Director of Research and Responsible Gambling Mark Vander Linden then described the strategic research plan and stated that the update will do well to

fulfill the legislative mandate. The Commissioners then made remarks in support of the upgrade to make all information available on this research.

[10:09 a.m.](#) The Chair stated that this might be an opportunity for Mr. Vander Linden to provide staff training to navigate the new website. Commissioner Stebbins suggested that this training be provided to the host and surrounding communities and local public health officials to help communities as they construct their Community Mitigation Fund award applications.

[10:12 a.m.](#) **Introducing Massachusetts Open Data Exchange (MODE)**
Next, Mr. Vander Linden announced the launch of a robust online research library and data sharing portal, which will improve transparency and access to MGC's extensive and growing collection of gaming-related datasets.

Mr. Vander Linden described the [new web-based information platform](#), located at MassGaming.com, which offers a categorized and centralized repository of the research program's wide-ranging studies and data.

[10:15 a.m.](#) Dr. Tom Land, Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, provided a detailed overview of this initiative. He stated that data will be provided to the public data warehouse, using the information concerning gambling effects on health to understand the implications of problem gambling. The Research and Responsible Gaming data will be added to other data sets in this initiative.

[10:19 a.m.](#) Mr. Vander Linden described the process for researchers to obtain data by filling out an application in MODE.

[10:24 a.m.](#) **GameSense Impact Report**
Mr. Vander Linden with Ms. Driscoll, Program Manager of Research and Responsible Gaming Teresa Fiore, and Mr. Bumpus led the Commission through a slide presentation. Mr. Bumpus described the impact of the GameSense program on the gaming community, the program's method of operation, and its promotion.

[10:35 a.m.](#) Ms. Fiore commented on the diversity statistics concerning the program's outreach and listed the languages that the GameSense advisors speak. She also stated that there are currently 25 GameSense advisors across the Massachusetts properties. Ms. Fiore stated that this report is a final draft, but she welcomes any feedback the Commissioners may have. The Chair and commissioners made comments regarding the importance of this program for the local communities.

Community Mitigation Fund

[11:00 a.m.](#) **Community Mitigation Fund (CMF) Application Review – Group 2**

Construction Project Oversight Manager Joe Delaney and Project Manager Mary Thurlow led the Commission through the analysis of 2020 CMF grant applications. Mr. Delaney described that he will be reviewing Transportation grants, Specific Impact grants, Transportation Construction Project grants, and the Tribal Technical Assistance grant. He will provide a summary of each grant application and ask for any questions from the Commission. After reviewing all of the applications, he will request a vote on each application.

[11:01 a.m.](#) **Boston – Sullivan Square / Rutherford Avenue**

The City of Boston is requesting a Transportation Planning grant of \$200,000 for a portion of the design cost of improvements to Sullivan Square and Rutherford Avenue. He then described the responses from the licensee and MassDOT.

Mr. Delaney stated that the Review Team strongly agrees that the design for the improvements is related to impacts directly related to the gaming facility. The team continues to support this year's requested funding for this important project and recommends that the Commission award \$200,000 to the City of Boston for the Sullivan Square/Rutherford Avenue project.

The Chair noted that Encore Boston Harbor is contributing \$25M to this project.

[11:05 a.m.](#) **Everett – Broadway Gondola Feasibility Study**

The City of Everett is requesting a Transportation Planning grant of \$200,000 to evaluate the feasibility of using Broadway's alignment for an aerial ropeway system that would connect Encore Boston Harbor in Everett to Everett City Hall. The aerial connection would serve pedestrians, bicycles, and other non-motorized modes. He noted the responses from the licensee and MassDOT.

Mr. Delaney stated that the Review Team believes that it is premature to award a grant to investigate an extension of Encore's proposed aerial tram due to the uncertainty of that project's status. Therefore, the Review Team does not recommend awarding a grant to the City of Everett for the Broadway Gondola Feasibility Study.

[11:06 a.m.](#) **Everett/Somerville – Silver Line Extension Planning and Design**

The Cities of Everett and Somerville are jointly requesting a Transportation Planning grant of \$425,000 for the advancement of engineering design for city-owned streets and infrastructure to accommodate the MBTA Silver Line and other overlapping bus/BRT services. He discussed the responses from the licensee and MassDOT.

Mr. Delaney stated that the Review Team does not recommend that the Commission award a Transportation Planning Grant to Everett and Somerville for 2020. The recommendation comes from the Review Team's concern regarding the status of Everett and Somerville's collaboration with MassDOT to ensure there would be no duplication of effort in their two related studies. MassDOT is

also concerned about the utility of any detailed design work completed for a Silver Line extension before the completion of the planning study.

[11:08 a.m.](#)

Lynn – Western Avenue

The City of Lynn is seeking a Transportation Planning Grant for \$200,000 to perform preliminary design for the Route 107 (Western Ave) corridor.

Mr. Delaney described the Review Team's analysis that there appear to be minor impacts on Lynn's streets but believes that it is appropriate to provide some additional planning funds to help advance this project. He discussed the responses from the licensee and MassDOT.

The Review Team recommends that the Commission award \$100,000 to the City of Lynn for this project, and that no more funding be provided to this project in future grant rounds unless the City of Lynn can affirmatively demonstrate that the actual impact of the casino significantly exceeds those that were estimated as part of the Encore MEPA process.

[11:15 a.m.](#)

Malden – Transit Action Plan / Transportation Planner

The City of Malden is requesting a Transportation Planning grant of \$150,000 to develop a Transit Action Plan and \$50,000 to subsidize the salary of existing staff in the Engineering Office over two years. The original proposal was to partially use the \$50,000 to fund a new Transportation Planner position; however, due to the pandemic, the City is unable to hire additional staff to oversee the Transit Action Plan. He discussed the responses from the licensee and MassDOT.

Mr. Delaney stated that the Review Team recommends that the Commission award the City of Malden \$150,000 to develop the Transit Action Plan. However, the team does not recommend awarding a grant for Engineering Office staff. It does not believe that existing employees in the Engineering Office would spend sufficient time on the Transit Action Plan to justify the expense.

[11:17 a.m.](#)

Revere/Saugus – Advanced Planning and Design of Route 1 Traffic Improvement

Revere and Saugus seek a Transportation Planning grant of \$425,000 to continue further studies of Route 1 to identify a "stand-alone" project that could be funded through available sources and provide incremental improvement. He described the responses from the licensee and MassDOT.

Mr. Delaney stated that the Review Team does not recommend awarding a grant to Revere/Saugus for Advanced Planning and Design of Route 1 Traffic Improvements. The team is reluctant to award an additional grant when the expenditures on their existing grant have just begun.

[11:20 a.m.](#)

West Springfield – Complete Streets – Main Street Corridor

The Town of West Springfield is requesting a Transportation Planning grant of \$200,000 to design a "Complete Streets" roadway for the Main Street corridor, which connects the Merrick Neighborhood to the two primary travel routes through West Springfield to MGM Springfield. This will include improved and safer access to public transit, accommodations for pedestrians and cyclists, and traffic alleviation.

The Review Team does not recommend awarding a grant to West Springfield for the Main Street Complete Streets Project. The application did not provide specific documentation of the impacts indicated.

[11:23 a.m.](#) Commissioner Cameron asked if there will be additional data that will help the review team's analysis next year. Mr. Delaney explained how this could prove to be difficult, as impact studies were not able to be completed due to business closures. He noted that postponing data collection until the casinos return to a more steady state of operations is necessary for accurate analysis.

[11:26 a.m.](#) **Chelsea – Beacham & Williams Streets Reconstruction**
The City of Chelsea is requesting a Specific Impact grant of \$500,000 for roadway and utility reconstruction, intersection upgrades, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities for Beacham and Williams Streets. The Commission will defer this discussion because it contains a separate construction grant request, and a full review can take place at a later date.

[11:27 a.m.](#) **Everett – Data-Driven Strategies in Marketing and Economic Development**
The City of Everett is requesting a Specific Impact grant for \$150,000 to develop a data-driven marketing and communications growth plan. The plan is a data-mining initiative to identify behavioral patterns of people in the City of Everett, to effectuate targeted marketing and economic development strategies. The City aims to maximize the positive economic development impacts of the Encore facility and mitigate the adverse effects on certain local businesses.

The Review Team does not recommend funding this project for 2020, as there is a concern about the current state of the casino, the expected ramp-up of activities upon reopening, as well as other points. The Review Team does encourage the City of Everett to continue to pursue additional data regarding business impacts and consider applying for CMF funds in a future round.

[11:32 a.m.](#) Commissioner Zuniga remarked that taking a regional approach would be important to consider. The Chair added that she would like to incentivize a regional approach to strengthening, bringing awareness, and sharing ideas.

[11:35 a.m.](#) **Everett Fire Department Supplemental Personnel and Operational Funds**
The City of Everett Fire Department seeks a Specific Impact grant of \$629,455.75 to supplement the additional personnel and operational costs incurred due to the increased staffing levels and service calls in response to Encore's operations.

Based on the analysis discussed, the Review Team recommends that the Commission award a grant for \$200,000 City of Everett for additional costs associated with fire details needed during the casino opening period.

11:39 a.m.

Everett Police Department Supplemental Personnel and Operational Funds

The City of Everett Police Department is requesting a Specific Impact grant for \$183,783.75 to supplement the additional personnel and operational costs incurred as a result of the increased staffing levels, equipment, and service calls in response to the Encore's operations.

The Review Team recommends that the Commission award a grant to the City of Everett for \$184,000 for Police Department operating costs.

11:42 a.m.

The Chair noted that the core of the Commission's mission is to ensure public safety in the licensed facilities. Mitigating the impact of the casinos through this funding is a vital component of the CMF team. The Commission also must consider external factors, such as training the police departments to ensure public safety in these large venues where people congregate. She also suggested that for police applications, the Commission may consider encouraging training on community policing and unconscious bias by inserting it into the guidelines. The Commissioners all made comments in support of the Chair's suggestion.

11:49 a.m.

Foxborough Police Department Traffic Mitigation Vehicle

The Town of Foxborough is requesting a Specific Impact grant of \$82,467 to purchase traffic safety equipment and a full-size pickup truck to mitigate traffic and tow the town's equipment trailer.

Mr. Delaney stated that the Review Team that the Commission award a grant for \$83,000 to the Town of Foxborough. He further recommends that the Town of Foxborough make this vehicle available to their mutual aid partners.

11:53 a.m.

Hampden County District Attorney's Office

The Hampden County District Attorney's Office is requesting a Specific Impact grant of \$75,000 to be used for personnel to mitigate the additional burdens in caseloads created directly and indirectly by the influx of people into the downtown area due to the casino presence.

The Review Team recommends that the Commission award a grant to the Hampden County District Attorney's office for \$75,000, as there is a direct benefit to citizens when the District Attorney's Office has the resources to absorb the work of additional prosecutions created by the presence of the casino in downtown Springfield.

[11:54 a.m.](#)

Hampden County Sheriff's Department

The Hampden County Sheriff's Department is requesting its annual Specific Impact Grant of \$400,000, to supplement its fifth year of a ten-year lease due to the relocation of Western Massachusetts Recovery and Wellness Center from 26 Howard Street to 155 Mill Street Springfield, MA. The application states that the Sheriff's Department has experienced a significant lease offset due to this forced move to make way for the MGM Casino.

The Review Team recommends that the Commission approve \$400,000 in funding to assist the Hampden County Sheriff's office with its lease costs through FY2021.

[11:55 a.m.](#)

Commissioner Zuniga asked how much longer the Commission should anticipate seeing this impact to continue funding. Mr. Delaney stated that this is an item on the Review Team's agenda to discuss when preparing the guidelines for next year.

[11:57 a.m.](#)

Malden Fire Department

Malden is requesting a Specific Impact Grant of \$500,000 to purchase a new fire engine equipped with a built-in, automatic, rapidly deployed firefighting foam system to extinguish flammable liquid fires. This equipment would improve Malden's response time in a hazardous materials situation in a densely populated region, which has experienced strong economic growth resulting from Encore's opening.

Mr. Delaney stated that the applicant could not demonstrate a direct connection to an impact from the casino, or that there has been an increase in hazardous material fires since the opening of the casino. Therefore, the Review Team does not recommend funding this project.

[12:00 p.m.](#)

Springfield – Implementation Blueprint

The City of Springfield is requesting a Specific Impact grant for \$500,000 to advance its Implementation Blueprint plan and develop a property stabilization fund to secure and prevent properties from further disrepair.

After an exhaustive analysis, the Review Team recommends a grant of \$250,000 to advance the Implementation Blueprint in the Main Street corridor across from MGM, the Court Square area, and Willow Street from State Street to Union Street.

However, the Review Team does not have enough information to make an informed decision to grant the remaining \$250,000 for a property stabilization fund to secure and prevent further disrepair, threats to public safety, and address growing blight around the casino district. The Review Team suggests that the applicant reapply next year after the Blueprint Implementation portion of the project has been conducted and provides the necessary information to move forward with the proposed Stabilization Fund.

12:06 p.m. **Springfield – City Stage**

The City of Springfield is requesting a Specific Impact Grant of \$300,000 to perform significant capital improvements and system upgrades to the City Stage building in downtown Springfield. City Stage is a public, multi-use cultural and entertainment venue with a main theater and a Black Box studio theater.

The Review Team recommends that the Commission award a grant for \$300,000 to the City of Springfield for improvements to the City Stage space. The Team further recommends that Springfield re-evaluate the proposal as the design progresses, to identify possible savings from the application, especially the need for constructing an additional new elevator in particular.

12:09 p.m.

Commissioner Stebbins remarked that the Commission would be remiss if it did not stress to the licensee that once Focus Springfield vacates its current location, the desire is not for that very visible corner of Springfield to lose its vibrancy. He added that he would like to know what plans are being formulated to reinvigorate that corner.

Next, Commissioner Stebbins stated that he has questions regarding the budget items within the proposal but will consult with Mr. Delaney and his team as they prepare the budget scope and contract award.

12:12 p.m.

Springfield Fire Department

The Springfield Fire Department is requesting a Specific Impact grant for \$436,602.34 to staff their Tactical Unit's Emergency Response Vehicle with two firefighters 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Based on the Review Team's understanding of the Host Community Agreement, it has concluded that increased calls to the fire department associated with MGM were anticipated by the City and were accounted for in the annual Community Impact Payment. Therefore, the Review Team does not recommend awarding a grant to the City of Springfield for the Tactical Unit.

12:14 p.m.

Springfield Police Department

The City of Springfield Police Department is requesting a Specific Impact grant for \$124,325 to purchase specific equipment (a list is provided in the application) to address public safety needs at MGM Springfield as part of the Springfield Police Department's Metro Unit.

Mr. Delaney stated that in the Review Team's initial review earlier in the year, it had recommended that the Commission award the full amount of the grant. Given recent events around the country, there was a discussion about whether it is appropriate for the Commission to fund all items listed in the application. He urged the Commission to consider whether it should fund or not fund any part of this grant.

[12:15 p.m.](#) Commissioner Zuniga expressed that he is not in favor of providing protective riot shields to the Springfield Police Department.

[12:16 p.m.](#) Commissioner O'Brien, in agreement with Commissioner Zuniga, noted that much of the requested equipment is for working large events and was requested during the aftermath of the MGM Las Vegas shooting. She asked if there could be a broader discussion in terms of the request potentially being in response to that incident. Senior Enforcement Counsel Kate Hartigan stated that the request for shields is considered part-and-parcel of a request for police protection gear. She noted that the term "riot shield" may not do this versatile piece of equipment justice, as shields can be used for crowd control when walking in formation. Ms. Hartigan acknowledged the timing of the request.

[12:20 p.m.](#) Commissioner Cameron clarified the difference between shields and active shooter gear. She stated that she is in favor of funding everything except for the military-style shields. Ms. Hartigan explained that the shields are a replacement for the existing outdated shields they already have. There was discussion around the replacement of the old shields that would perpetuate a military-style approach.

[12:26 p.m.](#) Mr. Delaney suggested changing the dollar amount in the motion to reflect the denial of the cost of the shields, as the Commission has determined that there is no nexus between the necessity of riot shields in connection with the presence of a casino.

[12:28 p.m.](#) *Commissioner O'Brien moved that in consideration of the recommendations made by the Community Mitigation Fund Review Team, as it relates to the Springfield Police Department's request, that the total application be amended to reflect the deletion of \$15,000 for the protective riot shields and amount to a total of \$110,000. Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.*

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Cameron: Aye.

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Zuniga: Aye.

Commissioner Stebbins: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously.

[12:30 p.m.](#) **Springfield – Revenue Recovery**

The City of Springfield is requesting a Specific Impact grant for \$100,000 to conduct updated parking demand and feasibility studies downtown and furthering solutions that reestablish sources of revenue for the Parking Authority. The plan will also effectively identify premium parking in areas while clearing open land for critical redevelopment.

The Review Team recommends that the Commission award a grant for \$100,000 for Springfield to study parking demand in the downtown area.

[12:32 p.m.](#) Commissioner Stebbins commented that MGM is currently dealing with people using MGM's free parking, but not patronizing the casino.

[12:34 p.m.](#) **West Springfield – Police and Fire/EMS Direct Impact**
West Springfield is requesting a Specific Impact grant of \$200,000 to offset costs associated with additional Police and Fire/EMS personnel hired for the impact on municipal services resulting from the opening of MGM Springfield.

This is the first time the Review Team has considered public safety personnel costs as part of the CMF review process and did not reach a consensus on this application. After careful review and discussions, the team concluded that this should be a policy decision by the Commission to interpret the use of CMF funds in the supplement versus supplant argument.

[12:39 p.m.](#) Delaney presented both sides of the argument for the Commission.

[12:41 p.m.](#) There was a discussion around what portion of the increased calls needed the requested staffing. Mr. Delaney stated that it is difficult to put a dollar amount on this. Commissioner Stebbins noted that he would lean in favor of approving this request with a major stipulation.

[12:51 p.m.](#) Commissioner O'Brien stated that she is inclined to allow the funding with a deeper dive. Commissioner Cameron said that she would like to move forward with the caveat that more information will need to be provided to the Commission in the future, and noted that there was no access to required information due to the current circumstances.

[1:02 p.m.](#) The Commissioners reached a consensus to defer this request until additional information can be provided to the Commission. The Commissioners will send along their questions to Mr. Delaney, no later than July 30th so those can be shared with the applicant.

[1:04 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Stebbins moved that the Commission defer consideration of the application from the Town of West Springfield for police and fire assistance as presented in the Commissioners' Packet and as discussed here today.*

Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Cameron: Aye.

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Zuniga: Aye.

Commissioner Stebbins: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission took a 30-minute recess.

[1:40 p.m.](#)

Boston – Connecting the Lost Village

Mr. Delaney stated to the Commission that Transportation Construction Project grants are a new category this year.

The City of Boston is seeking a Transportation Construction Project grant for \$533,900 to make geometric changes to the intersection of Brighton Street and Cambridge Street in Charlestown, creating safer crosswalks and driving conditions, as well as a fiber connection from Sullivan Square to the Park Street intersection.

The Review Team recommends that the Commission award the City of Boston up to \$295,000 for the Lost Village project. The Review Team further recommends that the City of Boston refine their work scope to only use the grant funds on the Cambridge Street and Maffa Way portions of the project.

[1:45 p.m.](#)

Chelsea – Beacham and Williams Street Reconstruction

The City of Chelsea is requesting a Transportation Construction grant for \$1,000,000 for the comprehensive reconstruction of Beacham and Williams Streets, from Spruce Street to the City's boundary with Everett. This project consists of roadway and utility reconstruction, intersection upgrades, and the installation of pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Mr. Delaney stated that the Review Team strongly recommends that the Commission award a Specific Impact Grant for \$500,000 and a Transportation Construction Project Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Beacham and Williams Street Reconstruction project. He noted that this is precisely the type of project envisioned when the scope of the CMF was expanded to include construction projects. Even though the total amount of this grant exceeds the \$1 million maximum identified in the guidelines, the review team felt strongly that the City's use of multiple sources of funding and the relatively modest contribution from the CMF as compared to the overall construction cost made this request appropriate.

[1:51 p.m.](#)

The Chair made comments in support of this application, stating that Chelsea could perhaps be one of the guest speakers as any outreach effort events that would help interested parties with their applications.

[1:53 p.m.](#)

Everett – Northern Strand Community Trail Extension

The City of Everett is requesting a Transportation Construction grant for \$375,000 towards the extension of the Northern Strand Community Trail from its current terminus north of Route 16 to the Gateway Connector that was constructed as part of the Encore Boston Harbor Development. The original application was for \$1,000,000, but based on more recent cost estimates, the City of Everett has reduced the request to \$375,000.

The Review Team recommends that the Commission award a grant in the amount of up to \$375,000 to the City of Everett for the Northern Strand Community Trail Extension. The Review Team further recommends that the exact dollar figure of the grant be determined after project bids have been received and final costs are allocated.

[1:57 p.m.](#)

The Chair asked if any data on bicycle use in Everett has been collected for analysis. Mr. Delaney stated that Everett had conducted some studies showing the amount of traffic on Broadway and other locations around the City, so they have robust data on bicycle use. He opined that many cyclists that use Broadway would then use this new route. The Commission agreed that this is a sound request.

[2:01 p.m.](#)

Lynn – Citywide Traffic Signals Upgrade at Various Locations

The City of Lynn is requesting a Transportation Construction grant for \$750,000 for a project that would include traffic signal upgrades associated with the CMF planning grant that inventoried traffic signals citywide. Work would consist of retiming of signals, optimizing traffic operations, repairing and/or replacing equipment, including 53 intersections with damaged or missing equipment and 17 intersections requiring new cabinet equipment, vehicle detection, or both.

The Review Team agrees that this project would provide benefits to travelers on Lynn's streets. However, because of the relatively small impact of Encore related traffic on the City of Lynn's roadway network and the lack of matching funds associated with this project, the Review Team does not recommend funding this project.

[2:05 p.m.](#)

Medford – Wellington Greenway

The City of Medford is requesting \$945,000 towards the construction of Phase IV of the Wellington Greenway. This grant would construct the last phase of the Wellington Greenway. This 0.3-mile path will connect residents/employees to the Encore Resort via waterfront paths along the Mystic and Malden Rivers.

The Review Team recommends that the Commission award a grant of up to \$530,000 for Phase 4 of the Wellington Greenway. The review team further recommends that the exact value of the grant be established after the project is bid and final costs have been determined.

[2:13 p.m.](#)

Commissioner Zuniga stated that the recommendation feels fair, and the Commission can monitor whether there has been progress over time. If necessary, they could come back and revisit this request.

[2:14 p.m.](#)

Revere/Saugus – Route 1 Improvements

Revere and Saugus are jointly requesting a Transportation Construction grant of \$500,000 to undertake limited improvements to the Route 1 north right of way

just beyond the planned relocation of exit and entrance ramps to Salem Street in the Overlook Ridge development.

The Review Team agrees that this project would provide benefits to travelers on Route 1. Still, analysis and deliberations brought the Review Team to determine that it does not recommend that this project be funded under the Transportation Construction Project Grant category.

[2:17 p.m.](#) The Chair noted that the training she mentioned earlier regarding assistance with the applications would apply here.

[2:17 p.m.](#) **West Springfield – Complete Streets – Park Street/Park Avenue**
The Town of West Springfield is requesting a Transportation Construction grant for \$1,000,000 for “Complete Streets” transportation improvements to the Park Avenue and Park Street corridors from the Elm Street/Union Street intersection to the North End Rotary.

The Review Team recommends that the Commission award a grant of up to \$1,000,000 to the Town of West Springfield for the Park Street/Park Avenue Complete Streets project. The Review Team further recommends that the award of these funds be contingent upon the Town of West Springfield appropriating their share of the project funds and certifying that they are available for use.

[2:28 p.m.](#) **Southeast Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SPREDD)**
SRPEDD is requesting \$200,000 to provide technical assistance to communities in geographic proximity to the potential Tribal Gaming facility in Taunton concerning traffic capacity and operational impacts should the construction of the Tribal Gaming facility move forward.

The Review Team recommends that the Commission award SRPEDD a grant for \$200,000 for technical assistance to the communities surrounding the Tribal Gaming facility in Taunton. The Review Team further recommends that this grant only be awarded when it is determined that the Tribal Gaming facility has restarted construction.

[2:30 p.m.](#) **Holyoke Community College**
Holyoke Community College is requesting \$350,000 for a Workforce Development grant for its Work Ready 2021 initiative. Work Ready 2021 is a collaborative effort between Holyoke Community College, Springfield Technical Community College, Springfield Public Schools, MGM Springfield, and the region's workforce development partners. It proposes to provide a combination of Adult Basic Education, work readiness preparation, and occupational skills training to connect the un- and underemployed to employment opportunities currently available in the marketplace, including MGM Springfield's urgent need for line cooks, dealers, and hospitality industry workers.

The Review Team recommends that the Commission does not fund the culinary training or gaming school portions of the proposal, resulting in a grant to Holyoke Community College for \$199,000 for the Hampden Prep, Springfield Public Schools and Ahead of the Game portions of the grant application, as well as the Regional Collaboration award

[2:33 p.m.](#) (Title) Crystal Howard explained that the applicant had modified the program to accommodate social distancing requirements. They would like to rollover funds to complete the program with social distancing in place.

[2:34 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Stebbins moved that the Commission approve the rollover of \$40,965.73 from the CMF FY19 award to the FY20 award for the use of completing the Cohort of Culinary Training. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion.*

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Cameron: Aye.

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Zuniga: Aye.

Commissioner Stebbins: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously.

[2:35 p.m.](#) Commissioner Stebbins suggested that the Commission defer action on the balance of the request above what is requested here today for specific skills training. When work resumes after the business closures in Massachusetts, more technical training may be provided as it may be identified. Commissioner Cameron stated that if keeping the funds aside is legally sound, she has no objection.

[2:42 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Stebbins moved that the Commission approve the expenditure of \$199,000 of the Hampden Prep Springfield Public Schools and the Ahead of the Game portions of the grant application and defer consideration on the balance of the request for Holyoke Community College.*

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Cameron: Aye.

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Zuniga: Aye.

Commissioner Stebbins: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously.

Masshire Metro North Workforce Board and the City of Boston (MBRGHC)
MBRGHC is requesting a Workforce Development grant of \$400,000 for a regional project to address the workforce needs of the hospitality sector impacted by the Encore Boston Harbor gaming facility. The consortium of partners proposed providing career and employment services, English for Speakers of

Other Languages, and occupational skills training to prepare residents for high-quality hospitality careers.

In summary, the Review Team recommends that the Commission does not fund the NECAT and BEST portion of the proposal, resulting in a grant to MBRGHC for \$172,000 for the Community Engagement, Career Advising, and Employment Services as well as the Regional Need portions of the grant application.

Commissioner Stebbins moved that the Commission approve the grant to the Masshire Metro North Workforce Board for \$172,000 for the community engagement career advising and employment services, as well as the regional needs portion of the grant application and defer consideration on the balance of the application request. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

*Commissioner Cameron: Aye.
Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Zuniga: Aye.
Commissioner Stebbins: Aye.
Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.
The motion passed unanimously.*

[2:48 p.m.](#)

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission approve the applications for the Community Mitigation Fund grants consistent with the recommendations set forth in the memorandum included in the [Commissioners' Packet](#), and as amended during the Commission meeting today. Commissioner Zuniga seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

*Commissioner Cameron: Aye.
Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Zuniga: Aye.
Commissioner Stebbins: Aye.
Commissioner Judd-Stein: Aye.
The motion passed unanimously.*

[2:59 p.m.](#)

With no further business, Commissioner Stebbins moved to adjourn. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

*Commissioner Cameron: Aye.
Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Zuniga: Aye.
Commissioner Stebbins: Aye.
Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.
The motion passed unanimously.*

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated June 25th, 2020
2. GameSense Impact Report
3. Community Mitigation Fund Analysis Memo

/s/ Bruce Stebbins
Secretary