



Lisa Hall Blackmer, City Council President  
City of North Adams  
City Council  
RE: Council Paper #11,986

Dear Council President Blackmer,

As requested by the City Council in the April 26, 2022 City Council meeting, the Public Arts Commission has re-reviewed Council Paper 11,986 in our meeting July 18, 2022.

Council paper 11,986, submitted by former Councilor Ben Lamb July 27, 2021, requested *"a joint review of the concept of artistic crosswalk installations by the Traffic Commission and the Public Arts Commission, to include an opinion from KP Law as the City Solicitor. The goal being to review the specific issues that such installations would present, what methods we have at our disposal to mitigate those issues, and if the risks associated create a true impasse to pursuing artistic crosswalks."*

The PAC originally reviewed this paper at it's October 2021 meeting and agreed that the PAC ordinance did not include crosswalk oversight and voted to forward the paper to the Traffic Commission for their review. The Traffic Commission unanimously moved to file this paper.

In the July 18 meeting of the PAC, I provided a brief history of this Council Paper for the PAC's two new commissioners. This brief included the reasons why the Traffic Commission voted to file the paper: "state and federal standards would not be met (which would jeopardize funding), federal studies have shown artistic crosswalks to be distracting, and the incorrect paint could create dangerously slippery surfaces".

Following the brief, each member of the PAC was asked to provide their opinion of the Artistic Crosswalks question and what they thought the role of the PAC should be.

Following this discussion, it was moved, and unanimously agreed upon, to respond with the following:

- The PAC does not want to jeopardize any state/federal/grant funding availability in regards to road or crosswalk maintenance, or otherwise create unsafe conditions by altering the standard crosswalks.
- The PAC would like to investigate and further discuss other ways to create artistic streets that would result in traffic calming and promote foot traffic downtown. Examples of this might include artistic interventions such as creating crosswalk "zones" on either side of crosswalks, bump out "zones" at sidewalk connections, or artistic intersections (artwork at the center of the intersection). None of which would interfere with the standard crosswalks.
- The PAC proposes to work towards identifying sources for funding for artistic streetscape projects, and is committed to working towards developing such project(s), with the understanding that the City will fully support the PAC's efforts as outlined in the North Adams Public Art Master Plan section IV. Administrative Guidelines/B. Roles and Responsibilities. This would require that the City assign a City Staff Person to the PAC who would be available to assist the PAC in the project(s) development, management, oversight, and coordination with City Hall.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Anna

Anna Farrington  
Chair, Public Arts Commission  
City of North Adams, Massachusetts