

To: Paul Cohen

From: Christine Clancy

**Subject:** FY27 State Budget Earmarks Hi Paul,

Here are some earmark suggestions ( in no particular order):

1. Conduct a comprehensive lake management study of Heart Pond - similar to what we performed on Freeman Lake. This could be a regional earmark - supporting both Westford and Chelmsford. Estimate \$60,000.
2. Conduct a watershed study on another identified flood prone area in Chelmsford. We have a total of 16 flood prone areas in Town identified through our Stormwater Masterplan. The Town has had advanced watershed studies in 4 of the 16 areas. One of the next identified flood prone areas is in the Noble Drive, Bishop Drive, and State Street area. Estimate \$75,000.
3. Design funds to advance the assessment and development of conceptual designs of reconfiguring the Boston Road/Harvey Road/Hazen Street intersection. This is an awkwardly configured intersection with crash data history and it has been brought up throughout the years from the community and at the traffic committee meeting as an intersection that should be evaluated for safety improvements. The scope of this project would conduct a traffic analysis of the intersection and develop up to 3 concepts and estimated costs on how the intersection can be reconfigured to improve safety for all users. Estimate \$30,000.
4. Begin to advance the traffic assessment at the Chelmsford center for the upgrade to the 5 existing traffic signals. Improvements of all 5 existing traffic signals are needed so that they are adaptive signals that can operate as a collective system and adjust as needed in response to traffic. This is not a benefit to just the Chelmsford community but also to the region since Chelmsford is often used as an alternative commute to neighboring towns when Rt 495 and Rt 3 are at capacity. Pedestrian and bicycle signal upgrades at the center will be evaluated as well as part of this scope. This assessment would provide a schematic design and cost estimate. Estimate \$25,000.
5. Evaluate Bruce Freeman Rail tree root systems and invasive management as it relates to pavement and bridge management of the trail. There are areas along the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail where vegetation or tree roots are impacting and uprooting the pavement area of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. This scope would be exclusive to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, identifying trees and other invasives directly adjacent

to the trail within the limits of Chelmsford. The plan will conduct this assessment and provide recommendations for maintenance or removal of invasives and tree root systems that are impacting pavement and bridges as well as recommendations on pavement or bridge repairs in these impacted areas. The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is a regional asset connecting communities through the Middlesex county and so this project provides a benefit beyond the residents of Chelmsford. Estimate \$25,000.

6. Continuation of the Front Yard Tree Planting Program. The Town just recently launched its first pilot front yard tree planting program through the availability of a state MVP grant. Planting will commence later this spring. The program has been well received by the community, almost "selling out" within the first 2 weeks of launching the program. An earmark would help continue this program in 2027. This program is great community benefit to residents but also to the Town's goal of revitalizing the diminishing tree canopy. Estimate \$40,000.
7. Launch a Town sponsored pilot curbside composting program. We currently work with Black Earth to provide a preferred monthly rate. We have about 120 residents signed up. Launching a pilot program supported by the Town would allow the Town to study the potential impact it has on reduction of waste generation/disposal. Data indicates that composting can reduce disposal tonnage by up to 40%, which could have a significant impact, or reduction, in trash disposal fees. Provide pilot program for up to 500 residents for 6 months - April 2027 - October 2027. Estimate \$45,000.

This is not an earmark, but an initiative that might want to be mentioned to the State is the ban of black plastic. Our recycling committee is studying it and a few towns throughout the state have passed warrant articles banning the sale and use of black plastic in communities. This is similar to the recent ban of plastic bags and straws. Black plastic is created because is more cost effective to produce that clear plastic and it. but it cannot be recognized by the technology at the recycling facility and so it is thrown away as trash.

Available to talk through any of these ideas tomorrow. I had not planned attending tomorrow night but if you want me there to present any of these topics, I'd be happy to attend.

Thanks,

Christine

**Christine Clancy, P.E.**

DPW Director

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**From:** Cohen, Paul <[pcohen@chelmsfordma.gov](mailto:pcohen@chelmsfordma.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 6, 2026 12:04 PM

**To:** Christine Clancy <[cclancy@chelmsfordma.gov](mailto:cclancy@chelmsfordma.gov)>

**Subject:** FY27 State Budget Earmarks

Christine,

The Select Board will be discussion FY27 State budget earmarks on Monday evening.

Do you have any earmark suggestions?

Sincerely,

Paul E. Cohen

Town Manager