

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS ON ITS INVESTIGATION AND
STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCT-
ING A BRIDGE OR BRIDGES ACROSS THE
MERRIMACK RIVER IN THE CITY OF LAW-
RENCE.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,
100 NASHUA STREET, BOSTON 14, December 7, 1955.

*To the Honorable Senate and the House of Representatives of the Common-
wealth of Massachusetts.*

In accordance with the provisions of chapter 121, Resolves of 1955, the Department of Public Works submits its report on its investigation and study relative to the feasibility of constructing a bridge or bridges across the Merrimack River in the city of Lawrence.

Chapter 121 of the Resolves of 1955 provides as follows:—

Resolved, That the department of public works is hereby authorized and directed to make a study and investigation of the feasibility of constructing one or more bridges over the Merrimack river, west of the O'Leary bridge, so called, in the city of Lawrence, as provided for in current house document numbered 2689. Said department shall make a report of said investigation and study by filing the same with the clerk of the senate, together with its recommendations, if any, and drafts of legislation necessary to carry said recommendations into effect, on or before the first Wednesday of December in the current year.

The text of the resolve restricts the study to that portion of the river west of the O'Leary bridge. This bridge is the present westerly bridge in the community and lies on the present location of Route 28.

During 1955 the Department has conducted a study of the Lowell, Lawrence and Haverhill Metropolitan Area,

with a view to issuing a Master Highway Plan for these communities. Although these studies have not as yet been finally completed, sufficient detail is available to permit the drawing of certain conclusions.

In view of the relocation of Route 28, which crosses the Merrimack River between Andover and Methuen approximately one mile west of the Lawrence line, traffic desire lines as developed by the study indicate that there is not a sufficient traffic potential in the foreseeable future to justify the construction of a new bridge between the Route 28 relocation crossing and the O'Leary bridge.

The Department therefore recommends at this time that no legislation be enacted which would direct the construction of a bridge or bridges within the area embraced by chapter 121 of the Resolves of 1955.

Respectfully submitted,

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

PATRICK F. COX,
Acting Commissioner.

FRED B. DOLE,
Associate Commissioner.