

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 5007

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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SPECIAL

REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

RELATIVE TO A TRAFFIC SURVEY ON WEST STREET

IN THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD

(Chapter 37 of the Resolves of 1971)

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December 1, 1971

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The Committee on Education

WILL

REPORT

ON

PROPOSALS FOR THE

REVISION OF A PROPOSED BILL IN THE HOUSE

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

AND IN THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

December 1, 1911

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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Department of Public Works  
100 Nashua Street, Boston 02114, December 1, 1971.

*Clerk of the House of Representatives, State House, Boston, Massachusetts.*

DEAR SIR: – In accordance with Chapter 37, Resolves of 1971, the Department of Public Works has conducted a traffic survey on West Street in the City of Pittsfield.

Attached hereto is our report.

Very truly yours,

**BRUCE CAMPBELL,**  
*Commissioner.*

Att.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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Resolves of 1971. Chapter 37.

RESOLVE DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO CONDUCT A TRAFFIC SURVEY ON WEST STREET IN THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD.

*Resolved*, That the department of public works is hereby authorized and directed to conduct a traffic survey on West street in the city of Pittsfield. Said department shall consider the capability of West street to sustain an increase of traffic attendant upon its future use by vehicles from Berkshire Community College and the proposed Berkshire Mental Health Center, the speed limits, traffic control and other safety regulations that may be required to protect school children, and the estimated cost of widening and improving said street. Said department shall report to the general court the results of its survey, and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry such recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the house of representatives on or before the first Wednesday of December, nineteen hundred and seventy-one.

*Approved July 29, 1971.*

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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SPECIAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
ON THEIR TRAFFIC STUDY ON WEST STREET  
IN THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD

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December 1, 1971.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:*

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 37, Resolves of 1971, the Department of Public Works submits its report on the traffic survey conducted on West Street in the City of Pittsfield as stipulated in the Resolve.

We have found the following traffic generators to be existing or planned for the near future in the West Street sector of the City of Pittsfield:

1. *Berkshire Community College (New Campus)*

to be opened in 1972 with partial facilities

Item	1972	1981
Students	2000 per day	4500 per day
Faculty	130 per day	300 per day
Employees	150 per day	350 per day
Parking	850 vehicles	2000 vehicles

2. *Hillcrest Hospital, now operating*

Patients . . . . .	150 capacity
Employees . . . . .	200± employees
Parking . . . . .	300 vehicles

3. *Berkshire Mental Health Center*

(proposed opening on 1-1-75)

(located off West Street)

Patients . . . . .	340 capacity
Employees . . . . .	235 employed
Parking . . . . .	430 vehicles

At the present time West Street is classified an F.A. Primary "Type "II" from North and South Streets to the Churchill Street intersection. This classification qualifies that segment for "TOPICS" improvements, not necessarily the type that may be proposed in a final improvement plan. That segment from Churchill Street to the Hancock TOWN LINE is not classified as a Federal Aid route.

Department personnel have concurred with the City of Pittsfield's recommendation that West Street, from the Pittsfield Bypass Interchange to Park Square at North and South Streets, be added to the Urban System classification.

Department personnel have also recommended consideration of a possible extension of Massachusetts Route 41 – (FAS 131) northerly to connect with Outer West Street near the new college campus. This would provide a good loop connection from the S-W quadrant to the downtown area in Pittsfield as well as other beneficial pattern movements. As such the entire route (Bypass Interchange to Route 20 at Route 41) could well be classified a Federal Aid Secondary Highway.

The existing road characteristics are as follows: –

- a. R.O.W. – City L.O., 115 feet wide, entire length.
- b. Pavement – 2500' Bit. Conc. (Cem. Conc. Base) 36' Wide  
                   3500' Bit. Conc. (Macadam Base), 20' Wide  
                   3000' Surface Treated Macadam, 20' Wide
- c. Alignment – horizontal, excellent  
                   vertical, fair to good
- d. Traffic volumes present –  
                   16,000 A.D.T. at Onota St.  
                   7,000 A.D.T. at Valentine Road  
                   3,500 A.D.T. at Churchill Road  
                   1,500 A.D.T. West of Churchill Road
- e. Speeds (tentative speed zoning) –  
                   Park Square to Valentine Road 20–35 M.P.H.  
                   Valentine Rd. to Churchill 40 M.P.H.  
                   Churchill Rd. to Campus 35 M.P.H.  
                   Campus Area 20 M.P.H.

4. *Taconic Senior High School, now operating*

(off West St. on Valentine Rd.)

Students .....	1400
Staff .....	150
Parking .....	500 vehicles

5. *Crosby Junior High School*

Students .....	1000
Staff .....	90
Parking .....	75 vehicles

6. *Berkshire Life Insurance Co. Housing Site – Deering Street  
Urban Renewal Parcel – HUD Funding*

*Proposed Mixed-Income Housing in multiple unit construction proposed as 120 units with parking for 185 vehicles*

7. *Other traffic generators or improvements worthy of consideration:*

A. Long-range plan of Berkshire Medical Center envisions a new joint-use facility with Hillcrest Hospital and Berkshire Mental Health Center for a total Regional – Community Medical Center located in this sector of Pittsfield.

B. Current planning is under way to locate a Fire Sub-Station on West Street near Hillcrest Hospital.

C. Pittsfield Bypass, North-South Highway Route 7 is proposed to *Interchange* on West Street for the main and central access to the Central Business District, including the Urban Renewal Areas, “Jubilee” and “Columbus”.

D. This road provides a good access to the Pittsfield State Forest from the downtown area and approaches from the East and South.

In addition, the Department has received requests from the Mayor and City Public Works Commissioner for assistance in major improvements to that local road (now only a city street). The President of Berkshire Community College has expressed his interest in an upgrading of this road to accommodate the increase in volume expected when the College moves to West Street on the campus of approximately 200 acres.

f Accident History —

From 1966 to the present time the reportable accidents on West Street are (over \$200 damage or personal injury)

a. total accidents recorded . . . . .	201
b. involving personal injuries of . . . . .	129
c. plus the total fatalities . . . . .	5
d. total vehicles involved . . . . .	390
e. pedestrians injured . . . . .	4

These accidents were distributed uniformly from Onota Street to Churchill Street and grouped from Onota Street to Park Square.

The estimate of construction cost to improve West Street from the limit of the Urban Renewal Project Area to the Community College Campus site is \$3.5 million. This estimate is based upon a Boulevard — type improvement within the existing Right-of-Way.

In summary, the western sector of Pittsfield is not now developed but has been pointed to as the potential growth area by the City Planners. This development and growth will follow extension of utilities to service this area. Some extension has already taken place to service the college area. We feel the need exists for a major improvement in West Street with consideration of a connector to Route 41 and 20.

No legislation is considered necessary.

Approval Recommended

DANIEL S. HORGAN, P.E.

*Chief Engineer*

Respectfully submitted,

BRUCE CAMPBELL

*Commissioner*

JOHN P. KING

ROBERT S. FOSTER

PETER E. DONADIO