Groundbreaking moment for New Bedford's arts community: grant awards totaling \$509,200

"NEW BEDFORD, MA - In a groundbreaking moment for the City's arts community, New Bedford Creative this week is announcing the release of 82 grant awards, totaling an unprecedented \$509,200.

This monumental grant allocation, the highest ever awarded to a broad cross-section of individual artists, purveyors of special events, and cultural non-profit organizations in New Bedford, marks a significant milestone in the recovery from the challenges posed by the pandemic. It also puts an exclamation point on the City's decades-long journey towards defining itself as a regional destination for arts and culture.

"New Bedford's arts and culture scene is thriving," Mayor Jon Mitchell said. "This significant investment in the arts is a testament to the artists' creativity and talent, as well as to the City's place as the center of a region rich in arts and culture offerings."

This substantial investment supports a diverse range of initiatives as proposed by a broad range of individual residents and arts and culture partners in New Bedford. Projects receiving funding in 2024 include 14 innovative Art is Everywhere! projects, 18 transformative Wicked Cool Places projects, and the empowering inclusion of 50 ARTnet artists. The breadth and depth of these grants reflect a commitment to enriching the cultural fabric of New Bedford, making the arts more accessible and impactful than ever before.

"This grant program is not just a financial boost; it's an investment in the vibrant arts community that defines New Bedford," said Tony Sapienza, President of the New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC). "These grants recognize the essential role of the arts in our recovery and reflect the dynamism culture brings to our local economy. We are witnessing a transformative moment that will resonate for years to come."

You can see a full list of grant awards and summaries of individual projects here. An independent Review Committee, representing a broad cross- section of community interests, scored grants for Wicked Cool Places and Art is Everywhere! ARTnet artists were selected based on eligibility.

Funding for this ambitious initiative is provided by the City of New Bedford, through American Rescue Plan awards, and its Arts, Culture and Tourism Fund. Additional support comes from the Barr Foundation, Bristol County Savings Bank, and Mass Cultural Council, reflecting a collaborative effort to fortify the cultural landscape of the city.

The grant recipients span a wide array of artistic disciplines and will contribute to making arts and culture in New Bedford richer, deeper, and more meaningful than ever before. These initiatives promise to engage diverse audiences, foster community connections, and stimulate economic growth, positioning New Bedford as a beacon for artistic innovation in Massachusetts for years to come.

ARTnet is an artist recovery and training network to help artists recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic by providing financial support, business planning support, training workshops, and access to a network of creative-entrepreneur peers.

Art is Everywhere! is a grant program that prioritizes creative solutions to expedite the recovery of the COVID-19

pandemic in New Bedford's neighborhoods. This grant was originally created in 2020 with funding by MassDevelopment's Transformative Development Initiative (TDI) and the Barr Foundation as one component of a broader "TDI Creative Cities" initiative to boost arts-based economic development.

Wicked Cool Places, a grant program for making or keeping a place where things are happening and people want to be, are for projects that involve and impact residents, visitors and/or businesses in New Bedford's neighborhoods. This grant was originally created in 2019 with funding by the City of New Bedford's Arts, Culture and Tourism Fund, with additional support by Bristol County Savings Bank.

New Bedford residents and visitors will begin to feel the effects of these grant awards immediately and throughout 2024.

Remarks NBEDC's Margo Saulnier, Director of Creative Strategies: "From individuals to the staff and directors of non-profit organizations, the persons who practice arts and culture in the city constitute a professional class without peer. They're eager and ready to go — and these awards will enable them to get busy with the business of creating an abundance of unique experiences which will uplift and enrich the entire city."

New Bedford High School athletes not allowed to raise funding to compete on the

National Stage in New York

"My name is Taylor Jasinski and I am one of the assistant track coaches at New Bedford High School. We have 7 athletes who have earned a spot to compete on the National stage.

We are hoping to take 3 of them to the Nike Indoor Nationals in New York City and all 7 to the Adidas Indoor National in Virginia Beach. Unfortunately, due to MIAA rules, the school is not allowed to fund either trip.

We as a coaching staff, led by head coach Paul Jasinski, do not want to pass up these once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for our athletes due to funding. We are looking for help with the costs of our trip from any avenue of donations we can think of.

These athletes have put in the work and deserve this chance to compete! Please consider helping them represent New Bedford!! Want to help them shine? Here's how."

Massachusetts Gov. Healey signs executive order establishing A.I. strategic task force

Governor to seek \$100 million in upcoming Economic Development Bill to create Applied AI Hub in Massachusetts.

"Governor Maura Healey signed an Executive Order establishing the Artificial Intelligence Strategic Task Force to study AI and Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) technology and its impact on the state, private businesses, higher education institutions, and constituents. The Task Force will conduct outreach and collect input from stakeholders and experts, advise the Governor and executive branch on the state's role in AI implementation, and find ways to encourage leading industries to adopt this technology to ensure continued success.

The mission of the Task Force is to create specific recommendations for how the state can best support the state's businesses in leading sectors around AI adoption. It will also produce recommendations focused on startups' ability to scale and succeed in Massachusetts.

"Massachusetts has the opportunity to be a global leader in Applied AI — but it's going to take us bringing together the brightest minds in tech, business, education, health care and government. That's exactly what this task force will do," said Governor Maura Healey. "Members of the task force will collaborate on strategies that keep us ahead of the curve by leveraging AI and GenAI technology, which will bring significant benefit to our economy and communities across the state."

"Our administration acknowledges AI as a transformative technology set to influence various aspects of our nation's economy," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "This Task Force will position Massachusetts as a hub for talent and business excellence, as we examine economic shifts driven by AI with the goal of establishing our state as a global leader in its effective and responsible utilization."

AI is a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human objectives, make predictions, recommendations, or decisions. GenAI as used in this Order, is a type of artificial intelligence technology that can generate many forms of content including but not limited to texts, images,

and multimedia.

The Task Force will have subject-specific working groups that will create recommendations to leverage AI in leading sectors, such as education, healthcare, life sciences, robotics, and financial services. The launch of the Task Force delivers on a commitment from the Administration's Economic Development Plan, Team MA: Leading Future Generations.

The AI Strategic Task Force consists of 26 individuals representing members of the business community, higher education institutions, and state and local government. The Secretaries of Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) and the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS) will serve as state co-chairs. Mike Milligan of the UMass system and Santiago Garces of Boston will serve as cochairs from the academic community and local government.

"Massachusetts is the great state that it is because of our ability to harness the ingenuity and knowledge of our greatest natural resource, our residents," said Senate President Karen Spilka. "As technology enters its next era, that of Artificial Intelligence, I commend the Governor and the Administration for putting together some of our brightest minds in various cross sectors of the Commonwealth to help us reap AI's great potential and position Massachusetts to be a global leader in the technology."

"Artificial intelligence is already changing aspects of daily life and the world around us, which is why it's critical that we ensure that the Commonwealth's businesses are well prepared for that transition, and that Massachusetts is positioned to benefit from the growth of emerging technologies related to AI," said House Speaker Ron Mariano. "The House looks forward to reviewing any recommendations made by the task force, as we work to better understand the impact that AI will have on our economy, schools, and on the Commonwealth as a whole."

"Technology is critical to delivering services and connecting residents in Boston and across Massachusetts to opportunity," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "As we continue to address our most urgent challenges, it's essential to understand the opportunities, key questions, and impact of AI. I look forward to the leadership of this task force and partnering with the Healey administration and all sectors to grow our strongest economy and community."

"Massachusetts leads in adopting innovative technology, and we are proactively embracing the emerging field of AI," said Secretary of Economic Development Yvonne Hao. "The AI Strategic Task Force shows our Administration's commitment to collaboratively advance AI development and adoption. Our goal is not only to propel the growth of AI, but to employ it to stimulate job creation, elevate our state's economy, and lengthen our lead in key sectors."

"We have the conditions in place here in Massachusetts to cement our standing as the hub of AI and emerging technology in the future," said Secretary of Technology Services and Security and State Chief Information Officer Jason Snyder. "Today's executive order recognizes the urgent need for the state to engage with AI now, with the understanding that we do our best work together, with state policy leaders, the innovation industry, and higher education all at the table. We are working on projects that capitalize on this rich ecosystem to move our entire state forward."

"This new partnership with Northeastern University is an exciting opportunity for the state to leverage the strength of our higher education system to test ways that generative artificial intelligence can improve the efficiency and accessibility of state services. AI represents a unique and promising new frontier for Massachusetts, but it's going to take all of us working together through initiatives like this to realize its full potential and do so with the proper safeguards in place," said Secretary of Administration and

Finance Matthew J. Gorzkowicz.

Governor Healey will seek \$100 million in her upcoming economic development legislation to create an Applied AI Hub in Massachusetts. The funding will be used for a capital grant program to support the adoption and application of AI capabilities to solve public policy problems and to advance the state's lead in technology sectors, including life sciences, healthcare, financial services, advanced manufacturing, robotics and education. Subject to the legislative process, this capital fund will position the state to act on the strategic goals and priorities of the AI Strategic Task Force established by this Executive Order and will focus on capital expenses related to the incubation of AI firms, adoption of AI technologies and the development of AI hardware technology development and software and commercialization. The Governor's recently filed FutureTech Act includes a \$25 million authorization for IT capital AI projects within the Executive Branch.

In addition, the Executive Office of Administration and Finance (A&F) and EOTSS have announced a partnership with Northeastern on InnovateMA, a collaboration between higher ed and the Healey-Driscoll administration to leverage AI across state government.

Northeastern co-ops have started assisting the state with implementing an AI solution in the following use cases:

- *Policy Hub:* Create a tool for MassHealth call center staff to more efficiently navigate policy documents needed for beneficiary customer support.
- Resource Gateway: Create a tool for MassDOT's Highway Division engineers to more efficiently navigate the large quantity of Standard Operating Procedure's governing highway projects.
- User Navigation: Create a tool for the riders and potential

riders of the MBTA RIDE paratransit service to better understand how to access services.

• Grant opportunities: Predict grant program eligibility for potential applicants within the suite of grants offered by agencies and programs under the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (e.g. farmers impacted by floods).

Members of AI Strategic Task Force

- Secretary Yvonne Hao, EOED (Co-Chair)
- Secretary Jason Snyder, EOTSS (Co-Chair)
- Mike Milligan, Vice President and Chief Information Officer, University of Massachusetts (Co-Chair)
- Santiago Garces, Chief Information Officer, City of Boston (Co-Chair)
- Erica Bradshaw, Chief Technology Officer, Harvard
- Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier, Massachusetts House of Representatives
- Usama Fayyad, Professor and Executive Director, Institute for Experiential AI, Northeastern
- Patricia Geli, Co-founder, C10 Labs/MIT
- Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, City of Boston
- Dr. Robert Johnson, President, Western New England University
- Meghan Joyce, CEO and Founder, Duckbill
- Chrissy Lynch, President, AFL-CIO
- Patrick Larkin, Deputy Director, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
- Jeffrey Leiden, Executive Chairman, Vertex Pharmaceuticals
- Spyros Matsoukas, Vice President and Distinguished Scientist of AI, Amazon
- Vipin Mayar, Executive Vice President, Head of AI Innovation, Fidelity
- Sears Merritt, Head of Enterprise Technology and Experience, MassMutual
- Armen Mkrtchyan, Origination Partner, Flagship Pioneering

- Senator Michael Moore, Massachusetts Senate
- Jane Moran, Chief Information and Digital Officer, Mass General Brigham
- Ed Park, Co-Founder and CEO, Devoted Health
- Rudina Seseri, Founder and Managing Partner, Glasswing
- Soundar Srinivasan, Director, AI Program, Microsoft New England
- Fernanda Viegas, Principal Scientist and Co-Lead of People + AI Research (PAIR), Google
- Grace Wang, President, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Jeremy Wertheimer, Visiting Scientist, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

The Task Force will begin its work in February and present final recommendations to the Governor later this year. InnovateMA began its work in mid-January and the pilot will conclude in July."-Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll's Office.

Boston officials proposing \$15 fee if you drive into the City instead of using public transportation

Like to drive when you visit Boston? You might soon be faced with a \$15 fee when choosing to drive into the city rather than take public transportation. Boston City Councilor, Tania Fernandes Anderson is pitching the idea of "congestion pricing" for drivers heading into the city.

Congestion pricing is a fee placed on drivers intended to be a

form of revenue for the city, reduce traffic, limit car crashes, increase public transit use, and improve air quality.

The Boston City Council most likely got the idea from New York City which is in the process of putting congestion pricing in place. This came with plenty of pushback including a lawsuit from Bergen County, New Jersey who will be directly affected by an influx in traffic due to this new fee.

Personally, I'm having a tough time seeing this actually become implemented in Boston. We all have been stuck in Boston traffic and thought "There is nothing worse!" Well, imagine being stuck in Boston traffic and then getting slapped in the face with a \$15 fee because you didn't want to take the train?

Dartmouth Police Blue Envelope Program will benefit those with autism spectrum disorder

"Chief Levesque and the members of DPD are pleased to announce that we are now participating in the Blue Envelope Program.

This beneficial program allows for people with autism spectrum disorder to place their driver's license, registration and insurance card in a blue envelope which can be handed to a police officer in the event of a traffic stop. On the outside of the envelope will be specific instructions relative to the driver's diagnosis, impairments, triggers, emergency contact information and best practices for communicating.

If you're interested in obtaining one, the envelopes are currently available to the general public, and can be picked up 24/7 in our main lobby.

PLEASE SHARE!"-Dartmouth Police Department.

BLUE ENVELOPE" IMPORTANT MOTOR VEHICLE PAPERS 1. Keep your hands on the steering wheel until otherwise directed, even if the officer is not at your car. 2. The officer may shine a light in your car, may have a radio, and may have flashing lights on their car. 3. When the officer gets to your car let them know you have a blue envelope, answer the officer's questions, and ask the officer if it's okay to retrieve your license and blue envelope.

POLICE OFFICER SPECTRUM AWARENESS GUIDE ON BACK OF ENVELOPE

Dartmouth Police Department photo.



- 1. I am autistic.
- 2. I may have trouble communicating.



3. Eye contact may be difficult for me.



- 4. I am easily overwhelmed by intense sensory input like sounds and lights.
- 5. When I am scared or frustrated, I may act aggressively.



6. If I am lost or in trouble, my emergency contact is on the back of this card.

S

7. Please be patient with me.



M

THANK YOU

Dartmouth Police Department photo.

I HAVE AUTISM

My Name:	
My Parent/Guardian:	DARTMOUTH
Their Phone #:	
Someone Else I Know:	
Their Phone #:	922
My Local Police Department:	

Dartmouth Police Department photo.

IMPORTANT VEHICLE PAPERS

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

CONTACT CARD

Police Officer:

Driver may exhibit signs of anxiety due to bright lights and noises (your radio/siren).

Driver may display repetitive body movements or fidgeting, and may have unusual eye contact.

Speak clearly and use the most simplistic explanations possible, and limit unnecessary details.

Allow driver extra time to respond. Driver may need more time to formulate a response.

Clearly tell the driver when the stop is over and they can leave.

If the driver becomes upset, consider contacting the person listed on the contact card contained in the envelope.

Dartmouth Police Department photo.

New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of February 19, 2024 - February 23, 2024

"The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of February 19, 2024 — February 23, 2024, and they are as follows:

City offices will be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents' Day.

Eversource will be working on gas main relays and services on:

- Main relay on Acushnet Ave from Phillips Rd to Fox St
- Main relay on Central Ave from Church St to Brook St
- Main relay on Central Ave from Acushnet Ave to Ashley Blvd
- Main relay on County St from Cove St to Mosher St
- Main relay on Hicks St from Acushnet Ave to N Front St
- Main relay on Jouvette St from County St to Crapo St
- Main relay on W Rodney French Blvd from Calumet St to Bayview St

Other:

- MassDOT will be staging installation and beam end cleaning and concrete encasements at I-195 East and West bound lanes over Purchase St, County St and State St work is scheduled during the overnight hours starting and is scheduled until May 31st of 2024. Work will take place Sundays to Thursdays. Police will be on site for detour and safety setups.
- MassDOT will be closing street highway ramps overnight from

- 8:00 PM to 5:00 AM for the following locations to conduct bridge work for the pedestrian walk across RT 18. Work will being on Tuesday, February 20th Acushnet Ave, Wednesday, February 21st Route 18 North Bound, Thursday, February 22nd Route 18 South Bound, Sunday, February 25th Route 18 South Bound or Purchase St ramps and Monday, February 26th Purchase Street ramp.
- Contractor (SCR Constructors) will continue site work at the future South Coast Rail station platform locations in the city. (Church St at Carlisle St and Wamsutta St at Acushnet Ave.) If you have questions, please email the project team at SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us
- Contractor (SCR Constructors) will continue site work at the future pedestrian bridge across Route 18 impacting parking along Purchase Street between Willis Street and Pearl Street and at the Division of Career Services on Acushnet Avenue. Temporary detours may be in place pending construction activities occurring. If you have questions, please email the project team at SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us

Project: Lead Service Line Replacement Program Phase II
 General Contractor: C. Naughton Corp. (Monday-Friday 7:00am
-5:00pm)

• The contractor will be working Lead Service Line Replacements. Tuesday through Thursday, the contractor will be on Bedford Street, between Brigham Street and Palmer Street. On Thursday, the contractor will be on Brigham St, between Bedford Street and Farm Street. On Friday, the contractor will be on Farm Street, between Brigham Street and Brownell St. During working hours, these roads may be closed with signs posted to detour traffic around work areas. Police details will be on-site allowing access to residents only and assist with traffic management.

Project: Grape Street Collector Rehabilitation General

Contractor: Green Mountain Pipeline Services Subcontractor: Duke's Root Control (Friday 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM)

• The Subcontractor is scheduled to complete the root control in the wastewater system at the north and south sides of Buttonwood Park Pond. There may be a brief lane reduction along Brownell Ave while work is being completed.

Project: Phase 4 Transmission Main Reinforcement Project
 Contractor: C. Naughton Corp. (Monday-Friday 7:00 AM to 4:00
PM)

• The Contractor will continue replacing a section of the existing 48-in water transmission main north of the railroad crossing at Chipaway Road in East Freetown.

Project: Shawmut Avenue and Howland Street Pumping Station Improvements Project General Contractor: WES Construction Corp. (Monday-Friday 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM)

• The Contractor will continue installing the new sewer force main along Nash Road and Shawmut Avenue and Mt Pleasant Street. Lane restrictions will be in place during working hours, with one lane of alternating traffic open. Police officers will be on-site to assist with traffic management."-City of New Bedford.

Crypto Advocate, Attorney, & Swansea Resident looking to challenge Elizabeth Warren in

Senate race

John Deaton is taking a "serious look" at running as a Republican candidate against Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren. Deaton is a private attorney, a vocal advocate for the crypto industry, and a Swansea resident.

According to the Boston Globe, if Deaton runs, the Republican Party may be aiming not only at a direct victory over Warren in Massachusetts but also to engage her in a competitive race and prevent her from raising money for other candidates and causes.

Deaton was born in Detroit, is a former U.S Marine, and now owns Deaton Law Firm in Providence, Rhode Island. With over 300,000 followers on twitter, he is a leading voice online in the Crypto community. He has also used his platform to point out his disagreements with Senator Warren.

A reflection of our times:

Senator Warren's misleading comments being corrected by regular people. https://t.co/7v5k00kKk8

John E Deaton (@JohnEDeaton1) January 22, 2024

Elizabeth Warren is known as one of Congress' most prominent crypto skeptics, aggressively pushing legislation that cracks down on the industry. A spokesperson for Warren recently said in a statement.

"Senator Warren is taking nothing for granted. She has a strong record of delivering for working families and continues to fight hard for the people of Massachusetts,".

New Bedford SROs committed to keeping our schools safe while building relationships

"We would like to take a moment to recognize our AMAZING SROs during National School Resource Officer Day!

Our SROs serve as important bridges between our youth, law enforcement, and the Community. We appreciate your commitment to keeping our schools safe while also building positive relationships with the students, staff, and their families.

Thank you for your dedication and service ? \Box \Box ?"-City of New Bedford Police Department.



From Left to Right: SRO Bland, SRO Chevalier, SRO Demello, Rosie, SRO Reedy, SRO Harris, and SRO Fisher. City of New

PSA: Presidents' Day schedule for trash and recycling collection in New Bedford

The City of New Bedford Solid Waste & Recycling Collection sent out a notice that trash pickup will be delayed next week in New Bedford. In observance of Presidents Day, there will be no trash collection on Monday, February 19th.

- For residential collection, all trash, recycling, and bulky pickups will be delayed 1 day.
- For Downtown & Commercial collection, there will be no collection on Monday. Tuesday-Friday will be on schedule.
- For Business cardboard pickup, Monday & Tuesday collection will be delayed 1 day. Fridays will be on schedule.

The recycling center will be closed on Monday.





NOTICE

City of New Bedford Solid Waste & Recycling Collection

In Observance of PRESIDENTS DAY
There will be no collection on
Monday, February 19, 2024

Residential Collection

ALL Trash, Recycling & Bulky Pickup.

Monday-Friday Routes · Collection will be delayed 1 DAY

Downtown & Commercial Collection
No collection on holiday, Monday 2/19/24
Tuesday-Friday routes · On schedule

Business Cardboard Pickup

Monday 2/19/24 and Tuesday 2/20/24 · Collection will be delayed 1 Day,
Friday Route 2/23/24 · On schedule

Recycling Center CLOSED Monday, February 19th.

To learn what can be dropped off, visit:

NewBedfordRecycling.org 1103 Shawmut Ave

Monday, Wednesday, Friday · 12:00PM to 5:00PM Saturday · 7:30AM to 3:00PM

PSA: New Bedford's Route 18 closing for South Coast rail construction

As part of the South Coast Rail Project construction of the new pedestrian bridge across Route 18 and Acushnet Avenue, the MBTA's contractor will be erecting temporary support steel structures (falsework) over Route 18, which will be used to support the placement and construction of the new permanent bridge steel.

When complete, the pedestrian bridge will provide a neighborhood connection to the new MBTA Station on Acushnet Avenue at the Whale's Tooth Parking Lot in New Bedford. This work will require overnight closures of Route 18 and adjacent roads.

The following is a tentative schedule of closures, subject to change:

- Tuesday Night Feb. 20 Acushnet Avenue: traffic will be diverted to Herman Melville Blvd.
- Wednesday Night Feb. 21 Route 18 Northbound at Route 6/Mill St. and Hillman St.: traffic

will be diverted to Herman Melville Blvd. and Purchase St. (see map on back)

- Thursday Night Feb. 22 Route 18 Southbound at Purchase St. exit: traffic will be diverted to Purchase St. (see map on back)
- Sunday Night Feb. 25 Route 18 Southbound or Purchase

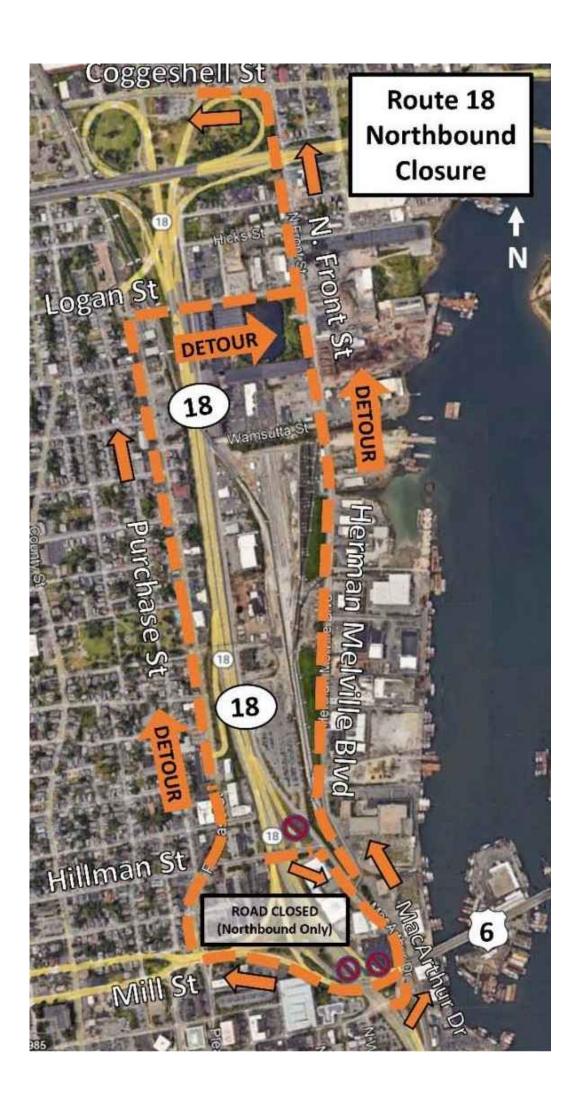
Street Ramp: traffic diversions as described above or below.

• Monday Night Feb. 26 - Route 18 Purchase St. Ramp: Traffic will be diverted to the next Route 18 exit (Route 6 West exit onto Pleasant St./Purchase St.).

Overnight work hours and detours are scheduled for 8 PM to 5 AM.



Google Maps photo.



Google Maps photo.