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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### State Grant Brings New Pedestrian Safety to Wellesley

**January 9, 2026 (Wellesley, MA)** – Two highly-used crosswalks along Washington Street in Wellesley are now safer for pedestrians due to new recently installed Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs). The first beacon is near Denton Road by St. Andrew's Church, and the second beacon is at Croton Street providing pedestrian access to the Wellesley Farms Commuter Rail Station. Both beacons are solar-powered, which works well in these areas and makes for easier installations.

The RRFBs were funded with money from a Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) grant. The Town of Wellesley frequently pursues state and federal grants like this one to make local roadways safer and invest in the latest modern traffic safety technology. "The programs are highly competitive with restrictive timelines, but Wellesley was well-positioned for this grant due to the partnership between the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Municipal Light Plant. "We have experience with this type of signal and good relationships with traffic vendors," said DPW Engineer Dave Hickey.

Some of the enhanced TrafficCalm features in these units include updated LED technology and fully potted electronics. Potting encases internal components in epoxy to protect them from moisture, temperature extremes, and harsh New England weather conditions to help with long-term reliability and performance. The units also include advanced crosswalk illuminators that actively light the crosswalk area when pedestrians are present, making people in the roadway significantly more visible to approaching motorists.



"Pedestrian safety is of the highest concern for the Town, and strategic investments like the RRFBs help improve driver awareness, make pedestrians more visible, and contribute to the safety of everyone in Town," said Wellesley Police Department Lt. Micheal Lemenager.

The Town uses both solar-powered and electrically powered RRFBs in uncontrolled marked crosswalks where traditional signage alone may not be sufficient. Research has shown that motorists yield up to 98 percent of the time when the beacons are installed on multilane roadways with posted speeds under 40 miles per hour, like Washington Street.

For information or questions about traffic safety in Wellesley, please email [trafficsafety@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:trafficsafety@wellesleyma.gov)

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