

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Gardner Awarded \$30,927.50 Municipal Road Safety Grant

Gardner, MA — November 20, 2025 — The City of Gardner has been awarded **\$30,927.50** through the **Municipal Road Safety (MRS) Grant Program**, administered by the **Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)**. The funding will be used to enhance traffic and road safety initiatives throughout the City through new equipment and programming.

The grant will support a variety of safety measures, including targeted road safety patrols, the purchase of bicycle helmets and car seats for community distribution, and the implementation of educational programming by the Gardner Police Department to promote public awareness on traffic and road safety. Additionally, two new radar speed signs will be installed to help monitor and calm traffic in key areas across the City.

“This funding will allow us to take proactive steps in improving the safety of our roadways and protecting the people who use them every day,” said **Mayor Mike Nicholson**. “From educating residents about safe driving habits to distributing helmets and car seats that save lives, this grant strengthens our efforts to make Gardner’s streets safer for everyone.”

State Representative **Jon Zlotnik** praised the award, saying, “The City of Gardner continues to be a leader in using state resources to make practical, visible improvements that benefit residents. Road safety programs like this one not only prevent accidents but also strengthen the relationship between the police and the community they serve.”

“The continued support from the Municipal Road Safety Grant allows the Gardner Police Department to dedicate patrols to address traffic safety needs, as well as purchase equipment and educate the public,” said **Gardner Police Chief Eric McAvene**. “We are thankful for the support at the state level and appreciate our long partnership.”

“The Municipal Road Safety Grant will provide the Gardner Police Department with the necessary resources to enhance road safety and equip its officers with enforcement and simulation gear,” said **City Councilor Craig Cormier**, who Chairs the City Council’s Public Safety Committee. “Additionally, the grant will support educational programs designed to safeguard our citizens and promote a culture of safety among our youth. This grant will significantly strengthen the department’s commitment to community engagement.”

The Municipal Road Safety Grant Program, administered by EOPSS’s Office of Grants and Research, provides funding to local police departments to address roadway safety issues through a mix of enforcement, equipment, education, and community engagement. Funded through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the program helps municipalities reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities while promoting safe driving practices across Massachusetts.

Mayor Nicholson concluded, “Investments like these go beyond equipment or enforcement — they’re about building a community where people feel safe, respected, and proud to call home. Every step we take to make our streets safer helps us build a stronger, more connected Gardner.”