



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

Date of Issuance: February 2, 2018

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Connecticut River Walk and Bikeway Re-Opened to the Public
Main Interceptor Sewer Rehabilitation Project Work Completed**

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce that the closed portion of the Connecticut River Walk and Bikeway between Liberty Street and Riverfront Park is re-opened to the public as of Friday, February 2, 2018, following completion of the Main Interceptor Sewer (MIS) Rehabilitation Project.

The MIS Rehabilitation Project involved rehabilitating 3,200 feet of 60- and 66-inch diameter sewer pipe and associated manholes, and the repair of three combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfall structures on the banks of the Connecticut River. The Commission's Wastewater Collection System Asset Management and Maintenance Program identified that the pipe needed immediate rehabilitation and that the CSO structures at Worthington, Bridge, and Longhill Streets were at risk of collapse due to river erosion. The repair of the Worthington Street and Bridge Street outfalls in particular necessitated the closure of the River Walk segment in late 2015, which traverses over the outfall structures.

"We wish to thank our customers and all Connecticut River Walk users for their patience and understanding during this complicated but incredibly important project," said Josh Schimmel, executive director of the Commission. "We encountered many unexpected conditions and delays that required us to extend project work much longer than anticipated, but we are very proud of the final result that will help to provide reliable sewer service to our customers for decades to come. The CSO outfall repair work also ensures the integrity of the River Walk and railroad tracks above, increasing safety for all users. We are glad that walkers and bikers will get to enjoy the full length of the River Walk once again."



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The MIS is one of the most critical pipes in the City of Springfield's sewer collection system, collecting and delivering approximately 60% of the city's wastewater to the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility on Bondi's Island in Agawam. Average flows through the MIS are above 20 million gallons a day. The total project cost was approximately \$23.4 million.

More information about the Main Interceptor Rehabilitation Project can be found at

<http://waterandsewer.org/current-projects/main-interceptor-rehabilitation-and-combined-sewer-outfall-improvements-project/>.

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