



SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

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Established

1996

Date of Issuance: May 20, 2019



Press Release
For Immediate Release

Groundbreaking for the York Street Pump Station and Connecticut River Crossing Project

*Congressman Richard Neal and Local Officials Kick-off
Largest Regional Wastewater Infrastructure Project in Decades*

Congressman Richard Neal joined officials from the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission today in a groundbreaking for one of the region's largest wastewater infrastructure projects in recent decades. Congressman Neal joined the Commissioners of the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission as well as Commission Executive Director Josh Schimmel and Mayor Sarno to break ground on the \$115 million York Street Pump Station and Connecticut River Crossing project, located at West York Street and Hall of Fame Avenue.

The \$115 million project will serve 70% of the region's population by conveying wastewater from Springfield, Ludlow, Wilbraham, and East Longmeadow across the Connecticut River to the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. A new higher capacity wastewater pump station will be constructed as well as three new wastewater conveyance pipes across the Connecticut River. The project is a cornerstone of the Commission's years-long efforts to comprehensively plan projects that will meet multiple pressing needs such as combined sewer overflow reduction, climate resiliency, system redundancy, and infrastructure renewal. Construction is expected to last through 2020.

The groundbreaking took place during [Infrastructure Week 2019](#), an annual advocacy campaign calling for more investment in the nation's infrastructure. "Investment in our infrastructure is vital to the success of any community," said Congressman Richard E. Neal. "I have been advocating for more infrastructure funding on the federal level and have held hearings on the importance of this kind of expenditure of the public purse as Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Projects like the one here on York Street show the federal-state partnership in action. These upgrades will serve the region for decades and is a smart endeavor."

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno also commented on the project, which will provide more capacity to accommodate future economic growth. Mayor Sarno stated, “Just as important, we have one of the best water and wastewater systems in the country and in turn the world. This investment will only continue to enhance this reputation.”

“The York Street Pump Station and Connecticut River Crossing Project is a sign of the Commission’s smart and future-oriented approach to stewarding the region’s water and wastewater infrastructure,” Commission Executive Director Josh Schimmel said. “These types of projects may not always be the most glamorous, but they are critical to maintaining public health, service reliability, and environmental protection in the region for the 21st century. We are proud to initiate this project that will maximize ratepayer dollars by meeting multiple needs and by utilizing low-interest SRF loans. We also call on our elected officials to recognize the fundamental importance of water and wastewater infrastructure and allocate more funding for infrastructure renewal.”

MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg, EPA Region 1 Acting Administrator Deborah Szaro, and MassDEP Western Regional Office Director Mike Gorski also provided comments at the event, which was attended by area state legislators and other local and state officials.

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission serves 250,000 people in the lower Pioneer Valley with water and wastewater service. More information about the Commission is available at waterandsewer.org.

Infrastructure Week is an annual campaign to increase awareness of the need more infrastructure investment. More information about Infrastructure Week can be found here: <http://infrastructureweek.org/>.

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