



Critical Route 1 Sewer Extension Project Moves Forward, Stakeholder Group to Hold First Meeting
Residents, business leaders, and state and local officials will analyze cost, benefits and project logistics before it goes to voters

May 1, YORK, Maine – The York Sewer District and the Town of York have assembled a working group that will seek community feedback on their collaborative Route 1 sewer expansion project from Spur Road to Old Post Road. The project will add 1.2 miles of infrastructure along a busy section of Route 1 and enable over 120 businesses and residences to tie into it. Municipal leaders say the expansion is critical to fulfilling climate resiliency goals and will facilitate smart economic development in a designated growth area.

“The Town recognizes this project could have immediate environmental benefits to the Little River Watershed and could also help to mitigate environmental impacts from future development in the area,” said Town Manager Peter Joseph.

York Sewer District supports the expansion saying it will diminish reliance on inadequate, aging private septic systems which are at risk of threatening the Town’s most important resource – the beaches.

“This expansion will alleviate major capacity issues that businesses on private systems face during peak season,” said Phil Tucker, Superintendent, York Sewer District. “Private septic systems are good for small-scale waste removal in low density areas, but there is great benefit for coastal communities, to invest in centralized infrastructure that will better protect vulnerable waterways that all lead to our beaches,” Tucker added.

Currently, there are businesses along Route 1 that must take extra actions to manage capacity issues, which include proactive replacement of leech fields and weekly pump outs to manage overflow during peak season.

“I have proactively invested hundreds of thousands over three decades to protect the Little River. Many private systems are unable to perform to the clean water standards that we’ve come to expect in York and we all have a responsibility uphold them,” says Mark Graziano, owner of Anthony’s Food Stop, a popular store on Route 1 for 32-years.

Graziano is one of thirteen selected by municipal leaders to serve on the stakeholder committee tasked with gathering community input; identifying traffic and environmental impacts; uncovering the climate benefits; and most importantly, identifying ways to finance the \$11.5M project and minimize impact to rate and taxpayers. “I’m happy to be part of this stakeholder group because I understand the problems plaguing our community and I want to help everyone understand why this project is critical for our future,” Graziano added.

Lisa Adams' home would be one of 100+ homes and businesses that could tie into the future sewer expansion project, but she too has questions about accessibility and cost implications. "We've had issues with drainage related to our private system, so we know this project is critically needed on a personal level. My role on the stakeholder committee will be to determine whether this project will ultimately benefit the entire community, and to find ways to make it affordable for all," Adams concluded.

The stakeholder group will meet regularly through the duration of 2023, and then make a formal recommendation to the Town and York Sewer District. Should the stakeholder group recommend that the expansion project move forward, it will go to York voters via referendum in May of 2024. If approved, the project would be completed by 2026.

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