

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ASKED AT THE INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON
June 14, 2018
Church of Christ, 1264 High Ridge Road, Stamford CT 06903**

1. **Why is this project necessary?** Numerous septic system failures have been reported in the project area, which have increased the bacterial counts in the Rippowam River over the years. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's and US Environmental Protection Agency's Stormwater Phase II regulations issued under the Clean Water Act require municipalities to address water pollution. Since the lot sizes in the project area are relatively small, it would be difficult, if not impossible to replace some of the failing systems and meet current health code requirements for separation distance from property lines and structures.
2. **What is the City's responsibility versus the homeowner's responsibility?** The City will install the sanitary sewer main in the roadway, and will install the sanitary sewer lateral from the roadway main to just inside the homeowner's property line. It is then the homeowner's responsibility to make the connection from their house to the lateral stub at the property line, unless the house requires a grinder pump. Where grinder pumps are required, the City will make the connection to the house, including furnishing and installing the pump and electrical work required to power the pump.
3. **Why do some houses require grinder pumps?** Some houses, because of topography, or because of the depth of their basement plumbing, may be too low to connect to the main by gravity. Instead of lowering the entire sewer main in all the streets, some houses will be equipped with a grinder pump. The house plumbing will discharge to a grinder pump outside of the house. The grinder pump will then pump the waste up to the main. The grinder pump sits outside the house in a "well" such that the pump is buried below grade, with only a small access hatch at grade. The pump is electrically powered.
4. **Who is required to maintain the grinder pump?** The grinder pumps will come from the manufacturer with a 2-year warranty. Beyond the 2-year warranty period, the homeowner is responsible for pump maintenance and repair. The Owner is responsible for the cost of the electricity to operate the pump from the day of installation. Annual average cost for electricity for an average household would be \$52 to \$77 per year.
5. **What keeps the main from backing up into the grinder pump?** Each pump is equipped with a check valve that would prevent flow reversals.
6. **What happens if the contractor damages my mailbox or shrubbery?** The contract stipulates that the Contractor is responsible for replacing materials damaged as a result of their operations. At the start of the project, the Contractor is required to perform a photographic / video survey to document existing conditions in the work area. The contractor will also be doing a seismic survey of the properties to document any pre-construction damage that will be identified.
7. **What happens to the roads after construction?** All the roads in the project area will be repaved curb to curb at the conclusion of the project. Curbing will also be replaced.
8. **Are any other improvements proposed while the roadways are under construction?** Additional storm drainage will be installed along Brantwood Lane and Willard Terrace. Additionally, some existing drainage structures found to be at the end of their serviceable life will be replaced throughout the project area. No other utility upgrades are proposed at this time.
9. **Will I be able to access my driveway?** Yes, the Contractor is required to facilitate access to and from driveways at all times. There may be a small delay if the Contractor needs to move machinery. The Contractor will inform the City of their anticipated operations, and the City, in turn, will communicate with the residents.
10. **What will be done to manage the traffic on High Ridge Road?** The proposed sewer will be installed down the center of High Ridge Road, with northbound and southbound traffic being pushed to the outside edges on 11' wide lanes through the construction zone. It is important to note that the Stamford Police Department will be on hand during the construction to maintain safe traffic flow

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through the work zone, and the length of the work zone would be limited to approximately 30 to 50 feet. Therefore, the length of High Ridge Road north of the Parkway will not be a continuous work zone, instead, the work zone will be confined to smaller, more discrete locations to accommodate a day's work. As always, motorists are advised to exercise caution and stay alert in work zones.

11. **What are the anticipated working hours?** The working hours north of the parkway will generally be from 9am to 3pm, while night work is expected south of the Parkway. The hours may vary, and more information will be provided once a contractor is selected.
12. **Where will the project start?** That will depend upon the individual contractor, but it is common to start at the downstream end and work upstream. Work locations will be coordinated with the City in advance, who will keep the residents apprised.
13. **I'd prefer my lateral in a different location than those shown on the plans. Can I change it?** Absolutely. Before the lateral is installed, a representative from the City will visit each homeowner to discuss the lateral location.
14. **Can two properties sharing a common driveway share a lateral?** No, only one lateral is permitted per property.
15. **I have utilities on my property near where the lateral will be installed. How will they be protected?** Prior to excavation, the Contractor is required to have a utility markout performed to identify potential utilities in the area. The Contractor is responsible for repair of any utility damage.
16. **How far do I have to bury my lateral?** At least 4 feet for frost protection, and to protect the pipe from getting crushed.
17. **I will have a lateral, but not a grinder pump. What do I need to do for maintenance?** Very little, other than being sure keep plantings off the top of your lateral, and not flushing things that should not be flushed. Please refer to Stamford WPCA's guidance on what not to flush here: <http://www.stamfordwpca.org/Data/Sites/20/foginfo/fogbrochures-signs-pics-posters/dont-flush-that-sign.docx>
18. **Do I need an EPB Permit to install the connection from my house to the new lateral stub?** No. The project overall has an EPB permit.
19. **I have questions about some of the specifics of the project. Who do I speak to?** You can speak to your local member of the Board of Representatives, or you can contact Prakash Chakravarti, PE, Stamford WPCA Supervising Engineer. Phone: (203) 977-5896 E-mail: pchakravarti@stamford.gov.
20. **What happens to the existing sewer force main from the Northeast School?** The force main will be abandoned, and the school will connect to the proposed main.
21. **Can the City recommend plumbers for the work on private property to connect to the sewer?** No, the City cannot make recommendations. However, local plumbing contractors will be aware of the project and will likely reach out to local property owners. Please refer to the Connecticut Department's Guide to Hiring Home Improvement Contractors at <https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Trade-Practices-Division/Contracting-and-Working-With-a-Home-Improvement-Contractor> for additional guidance.
22. **Will the Phase 1 assessments for the High Ridge Road Sewer and Turn of River Road Pumping Station be offset by Phase 2 and 3 assessments since these phases will benefit from the infrastructure to be installed in Phase 1?** Yes the assessment costs for the pump station and the downstream infrastructure will be offset by phase 2 and 3 assessments.
23. **Will the City assume garbage collection in the sewer district once the Phase 1 project is complete?** Following completion of the project and acceptance of the sewer the Stamford Board of representatives will pass a resolution to change the district classification from C (non sewer district) to CS (sewer district), garbage collection will be initiated.

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24. **How is the assessment determined?** The assessment is based on forty percent (40%) of the sewer related project costs. The costs will be distributed based on the number of bathrooms for residential properties and square footage for commercial properties. The engineers' estimated total cost of project for phase 1 is \$6.9 million and the sewer related costs is about \$5.2 million. The estimated assessment for a typical two bath room residential unit will be in the range of \$900 to \$1200 annually for 15 years.
25. **How long do I have to pay for the assessment?** The assessment is payable over fifteen (15) years.
26. **What is the sewer usage fee and how is it determined?** Sewer Usage fees are charged bi-annually in April and October and is based on the water discharged to the sewer system in six winter months (October to March).
27. **Am I obligated to connect to the sewer?** Yes, the Stamford Ordinance stipulates the following:
- Sec. 200-32. - Use of public sewers.**
- A. The owner(s) of all houses, buildings or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation or other purposes situated within the City of Stamford and abutting on any street, alley or right-of-way in which there is now located or may in the future be located a public sanitary sewer of the City of Stamford, shall, at the option of the WPCA and at the owner's(s') expense, be required to install a building lateral to connect their building drain to the public sewer in accordance with the provisions of this article, within one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of official notice to do so, provided, however, that such requirement shall not be imposed on any house, building, or property within the sewer avoidance area.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any person to construct or repair any privy, privy vault, septic tank, cesspool or other facility intended for the disposal of sewage if public sewers are available.
28. **Can the cost to connect the house to the lateral stub also be spread over 15 years?** NO, the cost to connect the house to the lateral stub is at the property owners' expense, and the lateral is considered as private property, hence is not an assessment.