



*City of Peabody, Massachusetts*  
*Office of the Mayor*  
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The City of Peabody recently submitted a Waiver Request to the State MEPA office to implement Project 1 of the downtown flood mitigation program. MEPA will release the proposal for public comment and review. Mayor Michael J. Bonfanti is encouraging residents, business owners, and public officials to review the document and submit letters of support to the MEPA office.

The City of Peabody's efforts to resolve the complicated and environmentally sensitive issues surrounding the reduction of flooding within Peabody and downstream to Salem continues with the technical and financial assistance of State and Federal agencies. Mayor Bonfanti said "the State regulators understand Peabody must address our flooding issue and they continue to help us towards that end."

In response to the recommendation of Ian Bowles, Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the City submitted a Phase I Waiver Request to MEPA to allow for implementation of the Goldthwaite Brook Culvert project, known as "Project 1". Project 1 includes the construction of two parallel 6'x10' box culverts extending 1,950' from Oak Street underneath Foster Street through Peabody Square to the North River. This project will augment the 2001 culvert installed under Foster Street; providing a direct connection to the North River further downstream to help redirect stormwater flows around Peabody Square. The current modeling results show that Project 1 will bring peak water elevations in the 50-year storm event below the flood threshold elevation in Peabody Square. The frequency and severity of flooding experienced in this area will also be greatly reduced for larger storm events, where flooding is unavoidable, such as the 100-year storm event. This phased approach will provide more immediate benefits to the downtown area while the environmental permitting process is completed for the North River Widening Projects 2 and 3.

Mayor Bonfanti said "our project engineers completed analyses of Project 1 with enhanced upstream flood storage to demonstrate compliance with all state and federal regulations ensuring that there will be no negative impact to downstream property owners in Peabody and Salem." The upstream storage includes modifications to existing Centennial Park detention basins, improved storage at Cedar Pond and Flume Pond, flood storage and public park development at 45 Walnut Street, as well as new storage using the land recently purchased from Eastman Gelatine known as "Scouting Way". The Mayor will submit a memo update to the Council, followed by a public presentation once the MEPA decision on the Phase 1 Waiver Request is issued. For more information please contact Blair Haney, Assistant Director of Planning at 978.538.5781.