



***City of Saratoga Springs***  
***Department of Public Works***  
***Anthony “Skip” Scirocco, Commissioner of Public Works***  
***Joseph J. O’Neill, III, Deputy Commissioner***

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## **Seward Street Drainage Improvements Nearly Complete DPW Workforce Performs Work for Substantial Taxpayer Savings**

Saratoga Springs, NY – Department of Public Works Commissioner Anthony “Skip” Scirocco announced today that drainage improvements, performed by DPW, are nearly completed on Seward Street. The improvements are the result of neighborhood flooding issues communicated to DPW by residents and an engineering study identifying drainage solutions. The engineers opinion on probable construction cost estimated that the improvements would cost \$632,000. With DPW performing the work internally, the current expenditures equaled \$63,824.64, with the anticipated remaining costs less than \$10,000.

“Not only does this project resolve a longstanding flooding issue that has only gotten worse over time, but with DPW performing the construction work taxpayers have gotten their money’s worth,” said Scirocco. “At a fraction of the estimated cost, this neighborhood will have significantly improved drainage.”

The drainage improvements were precipitated by residents contacting DPW in May of 2019 about flooding issues along Seward and Van Dorn Streets. Rob Symon, who lives in the area, emailed DPW staff and setup a meeting to review the situation. Mr. Symon’s initial outreach and subsequent follow-up led to the engineering study that provided guidance on drainage solutions. The hydraulic study was performed by Barton & Loguidice, which analyzed flooding events, suggested corrections, and provided the \$632,000 construction estimate.

"I'm appreciative of the work DPW has put into resolving these flooding issues that are a concern for me and my neighbors," said Symon. "It takes time to solve flooding issues but it's important to advocate for yourself and work with DPW to get things done. At the end of the day we all just want to solve the problem and I'm hopeful this will do it."

After reviewing the report by Barton & Loguidice, DPW Deputy Commissioner Joe O’Neill and the City’s engineering staff recommended that the work be performed in-house by the Utilities Department crew. The addition of a storm line connected to a “live” line on Church Street, drainage structures, and curbs were all part of the work completed by DPW. The final phase when the stormwater infrastructure is installed, will be to pave the roadway with CHIPs funding at no cost to the taxpayers.

“DPW has an incredibly talented Utilities Department and we’re lucky to be able to perform this skilled work in-house through a wise investment of taxpayer dollars,” said O’Neill.

“We appreciate the cooperation of the residents in this neighborhood as the work has been disruptive but this will hopefully solve the long term flooding issues for a great final product,” added Scirocco.

Residents can contact DPW dispatch at 518-584-3356.

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