



Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, City of Amsterdam Announce the Start of \$1.73 Million Route 5 Sewer Infrastructure Reconstruction

Will Improve Flood Resiliency and Protect Public Health; Improve Drainage To Protect 40 Homes and Four Businesses Along the Mohawk River

Amsterdam, N.Y. July 25, 2018 The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery and the City of Amsterdam today announced the beginning of a \$1.73 million effort to reconstruct stormwater and sanitary sewer infrastructure under Route 5 between Caroline Street and Division Street. During Hurricane Irene, this low-lying area of Route 5 was inundated with flood waters, causing damage that has resulted in continued backups and flooding of the manholes along Route 5.



Over the next few months, crews will reconstruct stormwater and sanitary sewer infrastructure under Route 5 between Caroline Street and Division Street, necessitating the partial closure of the road. Plans include disconnecting the existing sanitary sewer line from the stormwater system to decrease the potential for overflow and benefit emergency responders by reducing the risk of driving into unsafe conditions while responding to calls during storm events.

GOSR Regional Director Laurice Salamack said: "Governor Cuomo directed that GOSR's Community Reconstruction project selection and design process be driven by the localities that experienced the worst of the storms. This infrastructure project is hugely important to keep a thriving community intact and growing, protect it from future damage and keep both residents and first responders safer when storms hit."

The Route 5 project is one of hundreds funded by GOSR through the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program. In the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee and Superstorm Sandy, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo established the NYRCR Program to empower residents and business owners in the recovery and resiliency process. Altogether, more than 650 New Yorkers served on 66 NYRCR planning committees across the State, holding public meetings and large-scale engagement events to discuss and propose projects geared to meet present needs and mitigate future risks to their storm-damaged and flood-prone communities.



Amsterdam Mayor Michael J. Villa said, “Our city took hard hits from both Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Our partnership with the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery has made the critically important Route 5 stormwater reconstruction possible. This project will eliminate the continuing backups in the sanitary system and reduce the flood risks in the area thus benefiting the residents and local businesses in this area by reducing loss of business activity and work days from flooding and expensive home repairs. It will also prevent the loss of road infrastructure and expenses associated with emergency repairs.”

Senator George Amedore said, “The City of Amsterdam is in critical need of these long overdue infrastructure improvements that will finally repair damage caused by Hurricane Irene and help to mitigate the water and sewer issues that continue to plague the City. This investment will lead to a stronger, healthier and safer community.”

"Across the state, communities are still facing the challenge of aging infrastructure," said **Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara**. "As a civil engineer, I know how smart investments like this can help us get ahead of the problems. By replacing old pipes and strengthening sewer systems we can prevent the problems from happening in the first place. This funding will help the City of Amsterdam build safer, more reliable infrastructure that is critical to ensuring the health and safety of local residents."

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates Statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program— as well as its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business, Infrastructure and Rebuild By Design programs— GOSR invests \$4.5 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to better prepare New York for future extreme weather events. More information about GOSR and its programs is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.

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