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City of Salem

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Canal Street Water, Sewer & Drain Project Update December 16, 2013

As 2013 approaches its conclusion, so is the first phase of the Canal Street flood mitigation and drainage project. Most of the utility upgrades and associated work will be complete by the end of this month. On December 16 part of the older existing conduit roof near St. Paul Street gave way while the conduit was under excavation (photo below). No one was injured in the incident, however it will delay total completion of Phase 1 of the project until the end of January.

Phase 1 of the multi-year project was a \$5.9 million investment in subsurface utility work in over 6,800 feet of roadway that is heavily susceptible to flooding. Over 30 acres and 50 buildings in the corridor are severely impacted by storm events. \$3 million of the Phase 1 work was funded through a FEMA flood mitigation grant. Construction crews made repairs to aging water, sewer and drainage pipes in and near Canal Street, in addition to installing new 60-inch drain pipes that are a part of the Phase 3 flood mitigation plan.

Phase 2 will be the state-funded \$8 million improvement to the roadway surface level which is planned to start in the Fall of 2014. This phase of the project includes enhancing the gateway to the City of Salem while improving safety for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles. Phase 2 work will provide streetscape improvements including new trees lining the street, enhanced pedestrian crossings, and curb extensions at crosswalks. This phase will better define access locations and curb cuts to businesses, improve pavement, signage, and pavement markings as well as add wheelchair ramps and sidewalks following ADA standards. Phase 2 plans are currently close to the 75% design point, after which time the City and MassDOT will hold a public hearing for neighbors and other interested parties to review the proposed improvements.

Phase 3 improvements, which will provide 100-year flood protection for the Canal Street/Salem State University corridor, will start as the roadway improvements near completion, sometime in 2015.

The City would like to thank the residents and businesses of Canal Street for their patience the first chapter of this very important improvement project is brought to a close over the next few weeks. The City and its contractors have endeavored to keep lines of communication open and to respond to inquiries and concerns from the neighborhood. The final outcome of this project will be a first-class roadway and an end to flood damage that ruins homes and causes severe economic losses.

