

## **Community Services and Facilities Element**

## **Vision Statement**

Maintain the existing high quality and cost effective municipal services and public utilities, while increasing the efficiency and performance of selected economic, social, and educational services of the City.

## **Recent Infrastructure Improvements**

The Public Works Department provides services to East Providence residents in the areas of street and sidewalk maintenance, refuse and recycling collection, engineering, water distribution, wastewater treatment, and animal control. In addition, the Department is responsible for the maintenance of all City owned buildings, vehicles, and equipment. The Department of Public Works consists of nine divisions, including Engineering, Building Inspection, Central Garage, Highway, Public Buildings, Refuse and Recycling, Water Utilities, Water Pollution Control, and Animal Control. The following Divisions have implement infrastructure improvement projects from 2003 to the present.

### *Engineering Division*

The Engineering Division reviews plans and contracts for City public works projects, as well as private development projects. This Division also develops plans, specifications, and contract documents in house for City projects such was water and sewer improvements, storm drain and flood abatement projects, and roadway improvements. The Engineering Division provides engineering services to the public works divisions and other City Departments. It is responsible for maintaining and updating utility mapping, assessor's maps, and serves as the central source of information to residents and business on these subjects.

Since 2003, a number of capital projects have been undertaken by Engineering Division. The vast majority of these projects have been financed by bond issues approved by City voters in 1998, 1999 and 2002 and/or Community Development Block Grant Funds. Major projects include City-Wide Roadway Improvements, Watchemoket Cove Pump Station Force Main Improvements, Oak Avenue Sewer Improvements, Boyden Boulevard Sewer Improvements, and Crescent View Avenue Culvert Improvements.

With the assistance of an engineering consultant, the Engineering Division prepared the City's Municipal Stormwater Management Plan, which was approved by the RIDEM. This plan identifies the various sources of stormwater into the system and makes comprehensive recommendations on reducing these flows and making qualitative improvements to reduce or eliminate sources which have an actual or potential negative environmental impact. Engineering Division staff are responsible for overseeing and implementing the stormwater plan, preparing annual reports, and updating as necessary.

The City engaged the services of a private consultant to assess and recommend strategies for addressing drainage problems arising from the Southeast Drainage District. In 2005, the first project to address these drainage problems was completed at the intersection of Brook Avenue and Rounds Avenue to eliminate flooding on private properties. Subsequent work included the development of plans and specifications for

further drainage improvements on nearby streets. Construction for these improvements requires future funding.

#### *Water Pollution Control*

The Bucklin Point (NBC) and the East Providence Wastewater facilities continue to serve the sewage disposal needs for the City of East Providence. Bucklin Point, owned and operated by the Narragansett Bay Commission, also continues to serve the cities and towns of Pawtucket, Central Falls, Cumberland, Lincoln and a small section of North Smithfield. The East Providence Wastewater Facility owned and operated by the City, is located at Pomham Terrace in the Riverside section of the City, serves 2/3 of the City and the Town of Barrington. This Division is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of 22 wastewater pumping stations located throughout the City.

The City, with the assistance of a technical consultant, completed a comprehensive Wastewater Facility Assessment and Facility Plan in 2007/2008. The purpose of this planning document was to develop a 20 year Capital Improvement Plan for the City's Wastewater Treatment and Collection Facilities. Further, the City was issued updated regulatory requirements for Nitrogen Removal to improve water quality conditions in Narragansett Bay. In 2009, the City issued a Design, Build, Operate (DBO) Request for Proposals for the implementation of the major capital improvement projects and operation of the plant and collection system.

#### *Water Utilities*

This public works division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the hundreds of miles of underground water and sewer pipelines that serve the residents and businesses of the City. On the sewer collection piping side of the operation, a key component is the implementation of a comprehensive Infiltration and Inflow project to reduce the volume of water into the City's wastewater collection system. This ongoing effort which was started back in 1998 has produced noticeable decrease in the level of non-wastewater flow through the system, leading to a reduction in the number of sewage overflows.

For the water distribution system, the City completed its Water Supply Management Plan, 5 year update, in accordance with the requirement of the RI Department of Health. This plan is an assessment of the City's water distribution system and makes recommendations on needed capital repairs and/or improvements. Further, a Water Quality Study was implemented in 2005 to assess the needs of the system and recommend improvements in order for the City's system to meet current as well as new water quality standards.

A significant improvement to the water system was the installation of radio read water meters for all water accounts. This work was completed in 2005, with funding assistance from the State Revolving Loan Fund. The radio system allows the staff to read nearly 15,000 accounts in just a few hours.

In 2008/2009, with the assistance of the Engineering Division, plans and specification were developed for the first phase of a comprehensive cleaning and lining water main project. The purpose of this project is to clean and line aging water main infrastructure to improve water quality. The first phase is scheduled to take place in the center of the City,

where some water mains are dated to be over 100 years old. A second phase of this work is planned within the Riverside section of the City.

#### *Highway Division*

The Highway Division is responsible for the maintenance of 160 miles of City streets. Maintenance work includes pothole and trench patching, snow plowing, and street sweeping. Division staff is instrumental in carrying out the maintenance requirements of the City's Stormwater Management Plan as work includes cleaning and maintaining catch basins, manholes, and drain pipes. This work, along with regular street sweeping, removes debris that otherwise may flow into rivers, streams, and Narragansett Bay. Further duties include the repair and replacement of traffic signals, signs, and pavement markings.

#### *Public Buildings Division*

The Public Buildings Division is responsible for maintenance of all City owned buildings including City Hall, the Public Works complex, the recreation center, police station, animal shelter, senior center complex, and the four libraries. The Division also provides assistance when requested to the Fire Department for the maintenance of the four fire stations. This Division assisted in the construction management of the recent addition to the Senior Center, and the construction of the new Riverside Library.

#### *Refuse/Recycling Division*

The Refuse/Recycling Division is responsible for the following collection programs: rubbish and recycling (paper, plastics, glass, metal), yard waste, and household appliances. Rubbish and recycling items are picked up by a contractor and disposed of at the State operated Resource Recovery Corporation in Johnston, RI. The City operates and manages its own, successful compost site for the disposal of yard waste. Leaf and yard waste is composted into a rich soil material to be used by residents and the City's Parks Department. The City also operates a drop off recycling area at the public works complex at 60 Commercial Way. Residents are able to drop off used motor oil, car batteries, discarded electronic equipment such as computers, monitors, and televisions. Through this Division's efforts and providing educational materials to residents, the City has been able to meet the State's mandated goal of 20% recycling, and has received grants from the Resource Recovery Corporation for meeting this objective. However, in an effort to further increase the City's recycling rate, in 2008, this Division instituted a recycling program called "No Bins-No Barrels" which required all residents to place recycling bins at the curb with their household rubbish to ensure pickup. This program dramatically increased the recycling rate from 20% to 25% in a short period of time.

#### *Central Garage Division*

The Central Garage Division is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the City's fleet, including all police vehicles, fire apparatus, dump trucks, snow removal vehicles, and public works heavy equipment. In recent years, the City has improved conditions within the Central Garage Facility including new vehicle lifts, new exhaust system, and improved lighting and interior painting.

## Capital Improvements

The City's Ordinance requires a 5-year capital budget to be made part of the City's annual budget to be adopted by the City Council. On November 17, 2009, the City Council adopted the 2009-2015 Capital Budget, which assigned the highest priority to the following three projects:

- Removal and replacement of an aging in-ground 20,000 gallon fuel tank located at the City's garage facility. The tank must be removed from service by December 2012 to avoid RIDEM fines since the tank poses a threat of groundwater contamination;
- Improvements to Silver Spring School Playground. The basketball courts need complete rehabilitation and playground equipment has not been updated in nearly 20 years. Seeding and irrigation are needed for the playing field and the surface material of the playground needs to be updated to be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant; and
- Funds in the amount of \$15,000 to be used as a grant match or as start-up funding for improvements to Tranquility Place at Jones Pond. The project involves the beautification and enhancement of a city-owned property south of the Pierce Field Athletic Complex for passive recreational purposes.

## Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Development of the City's waterfront requires a number of infrastructure improvements that include road construction, utilities, acquisition of private/public land, and creation of public areas. In August 2008, the City Council adopted *the City of East Providence Special Development District Tax Increment Financing plan* to meet the future infrastructure needs of the waterfront sub-districts, see objective 1.7.

## Renewable Energy

The City is actively investigating the use of renewable sources of energy and is studying options to achieve greater energy efficiency. A City Energy Committee has been formed to aid in this effort and pursue outside funding for projects that will realize long-term energy savings for the City. See objective 2.11 of the Community Sustainability Element, which proposes to develop a comprehensive energy plan for all city buildings.

## Community Services and Facilities Goals and Objectives

### Goal 1.0: Maintain high quality and cost effectiveness of municipal services and public utilities in East Providence.

Objective 1.1: Evaluate and renegotiate, if possible, the sewage treatment agreement between the City of East Providence and the Town of Barrington.

Objective 1.2: Study and analyze the present methods and procedures for the treatment of sewage and develop a long-term recommended system of improvements, as is appropriate.

Objective 1.3: Continue upgrades to the City’s stormwater collection system to reduce the non-point source pollution of the Providence and Seekonk Rivers.

Objective 1.4: Reduce the City’s solid waste stream and provide for cost effective solid waste disposal.

Objective 1.5: Continue the City’s yard waste composting program and consider expanding into a regional solid waste and yard waste program.

Objective 1.6: Continue to identify and map the location of all City infrastructure on a GIS based mapping system.

Objective 1.7: Encourage developers to seek tax increment financing (TIF) for the future infrastructure needs of the City’s waterfront as identified in the City of East Providence Special Development District Tax Increment Financing plan.

**Goal 2.0: Expand and improve the delivery of economic, social and educational services of the City**

Objective 2.1: Continue to study the community’s needs for neighborhood facilities for senior citizen and youth services.

Objective 2.2: Adopt development incentives for providing employer-based child care facilities as part of the City’s Development Plan Review.

Objective 2.4: Encourage and expand educational partnerships between local businesses and the School Department.

Objective 2.5: Encourage and assist in coordination between public and private non-profit providers of social services.

Table 4. Community Services Implementation Strategies

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible for Implementation</b>
1	Identify and map the location of all City infrastructure on a GIS based mapping system (ongoing)	Public Works Director, City Engineer
2	Install stormwater drainage in the Southeast Drainage District	Public Works/City Engineer
3	Implement Stormwater Control Strategies and Regular Maintenance Activities in accordance with Stormwater Management Plan	Public Works/City Engineer/Highway
4	Implement improvements at the East Providence Wastewater Facility to meet new nitrogen removal requirements and improve processes.	Public Works Director, Water Pollution Control
5	Implement improvements at Watchemoket Pumping Station, along with new force main and interceptor to eliminate sewage overflows.	Public Works Director, Water Pollution Control

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible for Implementation</b>
6	Develop a Pavement Management Program for Roadway Improvements	Public Works Director/Engineering/Highway
7	Investigate and Implement Energy Efficiency Programs or Retrofits for Municipal Buildings	Public Works/Public Buildings
8	Implement upgrades to the Animal Control Shelter	Animal Control/Public Buildings
9	Implement a regular maintenance schedule for sewage collection system for continued reduction in infiltration and inflow	Public Works Director; Water Pollution Control, Water Utilities
10	Implement recommendations stated in the water supply management plan	Public Works Director; Water Utilities, Engineering
11	Evaluate recommendations within the Water Quality Study and implement needed improvements	Public Works Director, Water Utilities, Engineering
12	Implement Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation Plan, specifically Repair and Replacement of aging water infrastructure or Cleaning and Lining Projects where practicable	Public Works Director, Water Utilities, Engineering