

River Road 36-Inch Storm Sewer Outfall Flood Relief Project

Project Description

The proposed project is located immediately north of the Seymour Street Bridge over Tonawanda Creek. The project site is adjacent to the west side of River Road, NYSDOT Route 265, in the City of North Tonawanda.

The project involves the construction of approximately 200 linear feet for new 36-inch diameter high density polyethylene (HDPE) storm sewer pipe and the construction of a steel sheet pile headwall outfall at the northern most slip at the City owned Weatherbest site, ultimately discharging to the Niagara River. There is the potential for dewatering of a portion of the work site trench during construction.

The project also involves the demolition of nine (9) boathouses and the remediation of the existing storm sewer outfall, by means of excavation and disposal and as directed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Illicit sanitary sewer connections from the existing boathouses have polluted the existing storm sewer.

Alignment and discharge of the new outfall sewer will require acquisition of an easement through private property. Permit approval from both the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is also required.

In 1959, the State of New York Department of Transportation began construction of the River Road Arterial, a four lane (now five lane) highway which included a new alignment of the previous River Road from its intersection with Main Street and continuing south to a then new bridge crossing of Tonawanda Creek to connect to Seymour Street in the City of Tonawanda. The portion of this new roadway between Island Street and the bridge was collected and discharged into the Bond Street sewerage sub-system, down stream (west) of the River Road interceptor diversion chamber. This use was unanticipated in the City's 1955 sewerage report and imparts an additional critical use to this outfall.

The flow characteristics for the existing outfall, originally designed and constructed in the early 1900's, are no longer applicable to its current uses and so has rendered the sewer ineffective by silting in and becoming damned at its river side end, which is no longer visually discernable. This project seeks to provide a proper outfall conduit which functions to accordance with its current and future uses so that it can function in a reliable manner. Currently, traffic on River Road can be restricted to a serious degree during adverse rainfall conditions from flooding caused by the defective outfall.

River Road is a major route corridor between the Cities of Niagara Falls and Buffalo along the Niagara River. Elimination of the potential for highway flooding is critical in keeping traffic and commerce moving during any storm event. This route would remain

open in case of disaster or National emergency once the drainage improvements are implemented.

The proposed project will eliminate short duration, high intensity storms, as well as large magnitude storm events, from flooding the River Road area of downtown North Tonawanda, by providing replacement to the existing Bond Street outfall with a large diameter storm sewer and new outfall that has the capacity to handle the anticipated flow rates.