



SEWER SURVEY

On April 1st the Engineering Department held a Public Meeting at the Dedham Middle School to recap its extensive work since 2007 to remove Inflow & Infiltration (I/I) in our Town-owned sewers and to start the discussion on creating a Private Infiltration Removal Policy. Currently, millions of gallons of groundwater seep into damaged sewer pipes, raising the cost of the sewer rates for all property owners because this clean water gets transported and treated as sewage. Part of your sewer fees goes towards a Sewer Enterprise Fund which has been used to repair the Town's faulty pipes. The next step is to continue this removal, but from the damaged pipes on private property.

The Town has put together a survey which we are urging all sewer rate payers to take some time and participate. The Town needs your input on how to best create this Private Infiltration Removal Policy and address this costly issue. This policy is extremely important in our attempt to keep your sewer rates as low as possible. Your participation is greatly needed and appreciated.

Please answer the survey questions below and then mail this form back to the address at the end of the survey. Survey responses must be returned no later than July 19th to be considered.

We have also created an electronic version of this survey to make responding even easier. You will find the online survey on the homepage of the Town's website at www.dedham-ma.gov. It is on lower half of the page in our "News" section. The news item will be clearly labeled "**Sewer Survey**". Within that news item will be the link to the survey and also a link to the presentation materials from the April 1st meeting that will provide detailed information on the private infiltration problem. The online survey will be available from June 1st through July 19th. We would like to thank you in advance for helping us shape this future policy.

1. In your opinion, who should be responsible for the cost of the repairs to sewer pipes on private property (the lateral pipe that runs from the main sewer line to your home or business)?
 - The property owner should pay 100%
 - The Sewer Enterprise Fund (described above) should pay 100%
 - It should be shared between the two

2. Assuming the property owner is responsible for 100% of the cost, how long should they be given to complete the repair?
 - 6 months
 - 1 year
 - 2 years

3. Assuming the owner is responsible for 100% of the cost, if the owner does not begin repairs within the required timeframe, should the Town impose a financial penalty?
 - Yes
 - No

4. Assuming the owner is responsible for 100% of the cost, should the Town offer to provide a list of pre-qualified contractors?
 - Yes
 - No

5. Assuming the owner is responsible for 100% of the cost, should the Town offer a low interest loan from the Sewer Enterprise Fund?
 - Yes
 - No

6. Assuming the costs are shared between the Town and the Owner, what options should a property owner have for paying their share?
 - Lump sum paid upon completion
 - Low interest loan from the Sewer Enterprise Fund repaid over time
 - Both

7. Assuming the costs will be shared, how much do you think the Sewer Enterprise Fund should pay?
 - Less than 50%
 - Shared equally between Town and Owner (50%/50%)
 - More than 50%
 - A fixed amount regardless of the costs of the repair (e.g. \$2,500)

8. Assuming the costs will be shared, how long should property owners be given to complete the repair?
 - 6 months
 - 1 year
 - 2 years

9. Please feel free to use the space below for any additional comments

Please mail this survey back in a separate envelope to the address below. **DO NOT PLACE THIS INTO THE ENVELOPE MEANT FOR YOUR SEWER BILL!!**

MAIL TO:

Department of Public Works
55 River Street
Dedham, MA 02026
Attn: Sewer Survey