

*City of Taunton  
Office of the Mayor*



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**O’Connell Announces \$34 Million in Financing from  
Clean Water State Revolving Fund for Mandated Water Updates**

Taunton, MA... Today Mayor Shaunna O’Connell announced the City of Taunton has received \$34 million in financing from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), a low-interest rate loan program offered through a federal-state partnership. The City is now able to implement mandated updates and may qualify for a zero rate of interest and possibly principal forgiveness on a portion of the funds.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) offers affordable loan options to cities and towns to improve water supply infrastructure and drinking water safety, and to help them comply with federal and state water quality requirements that deal with wastewater treatment plants and collection systems. The SRF also supplies financial assistance to communities with septic system problems. One major goal of the program is to encourage communities to undertake projects with meaningful water quality and public health benefits which address the needs of the communities.

“The Clean Water SRF program helps support costly waste water treatment upgrades mandated by law. This is a welcome opportunity for our City to move forward with timely and critical mandatory upgrades that will help to ensure the health, safety and well-being of our community,” said Mayor O’Connell.

Taunton is on the 2021 Massachusetts State Revolving Fund (SRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP) for three projects: Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) Phase 2 Upgrades, Main Lift Pump Station Improvements, and 2022 Sewer & Drain Improvements. The \$34 million financing will fund the final project of a multi-phase upgrade of the WWTF. This phase will focus on biological treatment, which will bring the plant into compliance with its new permit limits for total nitrogen removal. DPW Commissioner Cornaglia explains the added benefits of the financing, “The city has positioned itself to possibly qualify for a zero interest rate for much of the amount to be borrowed as well as receive principal forgiveness for portions of these funds.” This allows the City to make mandated upgrades in the most cost-efficient way possible.

As part of an Earth Day announcement last week, Mayor O’Connell joined MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Martin Suuberg, State Representative Norman Orrall, New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell and other delegates at a press conference announcing SRF financing awards to various cities and towns. Mayor O’Connell expressed her gratitude, “DEP Commissioner Suuberg and his team are collaborative and supportive partners. The City of Taunton is grateful for the support we are receiving as we make strides towards implementing mandated upgrades and improving our city.” ###