



THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Sarno Announces 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Plan - *Highlights Completed Projects* -

Springfield, MA – Mayor Domenic J. Sarno and Chief Administrative and Financial Officer (CAFO) Timothy Plante announced today, as part of the Sarno Administration’s continuing efforts to develop robust long-term strategic planning initiatives, the city of Springfield’s 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The CIP includes a list of all capital improvement needs throughout the city, 477 in total, and the estimated costs associated with these projects. The estimated cost for all of the 477 requested projects totals \$1.3 billion. The highest priority, “Grade A” projects, those that are most highly ranked on the eight evaluative criteria used to analyze projects, and which best support Mayor Sarno’s strategic priorities, total \$182 million. These projects include investments in public safety, upgrades to schools and municipal buildings, road resurfacing, citywide public safety interventions, and numerous projects aimed at driving economic development, while improving the safety and the quality of life of the residents of Springfield.

Mayor Sarno states, “My administration has been tested and true through a number of natural and man-made disasters, including the June 2011 tornado, the November 2012 gas explosion, economic recessions, various challenging weather events, and most recently the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout it all, my administration has guided our Springfield through these surreal and challenging times, and for the better. From stabilizing our city’s financial health through

smart and sustainable fiscal management, we have built a strategic and well-thought-out plan to enhance the quality of life for our residents and business community. My administration is committed to advancing our Capital Improvement Plan for the betterment of all our residents throughout the city. Our strategic planning and careful analysis of resources has allowed the city to take a transformative approach and make strategic investments for over a decade. These same guiding principals have left Springfield well prepared to weather any possible economic downturn or uncertainty, and to address our capital needs in a way that is fiscally responsible and sustainable.”

CAFO TJ Plante stated, “Under Mayor Sarno’s leadership and sound fiscal management policies, Springfield continues to be in a positive position to advance a diverse and comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan while leverage funds from outside agencies to fund high priority projects identified in the CIP. The city of Springfield has also been able to maintain its ‘AA-’ credit rating from Standard and Poor’s (S&P), which was reaffirmed in March 2022, while also maintaining a healthy stabilization reserve of almost \$50.4 million.”

The city of Springfield has taken a transformative approach to upgrading and modernizing the city’s aging infrastructure and facilities, expanding the city’s economic base, and helping to enhance the city’s diverse and vibrant neighborhoods. This Capital Improvement Plan is the city’s investment roadmap for the next five years and will be strategically implemented to enhance the quality of life for Springfield’s residents, and a more efficient and effective government.

The chart below shows the breakdown of the 477 projects submitted by city departments with the total estimated project cost by priority.

Priority	Range	Number of Entries	FY24 Estimated Total Project Cost
A	100-63	18	182,046,000
B	62-49	173	839,322,570
C	48-26	228	232,799,467
D	25-0	58	53,495,500
TOTAL		477	1,307,663,538

SEE ATTACHED FY 2024-28 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR FULL LIST OF PROJECTS AND DESCRIPTION

Below are some of the highlighted neighborhood projects:

Priority	Project	FY24 Estimated Total Project Cost
A	Forest Park Outdoor Fitness Course	\$250,000
A	Van Horn Park Phase 2	\$1.5 million
A	Yollie Nahorniak Park	\$250,000
B	Chicopee River Waterfront (Indian Orchard)	\$500,000
B	Five Mile Pond Park – Phase 1	\$1.5 million
B	Blunt Park – Bikeway/Walkway & Park Improvements	\$2 million
B	North Riverfront Park Boat House	\$2 million
B	Citywide Playground Equipment Replacement	\$1.2 million
B	Citywide Basketball Court Improvements	\$1.2 million
B	Triangle/Terrace Restorations	\$750,000
B	Citywide Tree Planting	\$2.5 million
B	Bike and Skate Park	\$2.5 million
B	Magazine Park	\$1.2 million
B	North Riverfront Park Expansion	\$1.5 million
B	East Springfield Branch Library Renovation and Addition	\$3.6 million
C	South Branch Parkway (Gunnery Sgt. Thomas J. Sullivan)	\$750,000
C	McKnight Glen Improvements	\$500,000
C	Hubbard Park	\$750,000

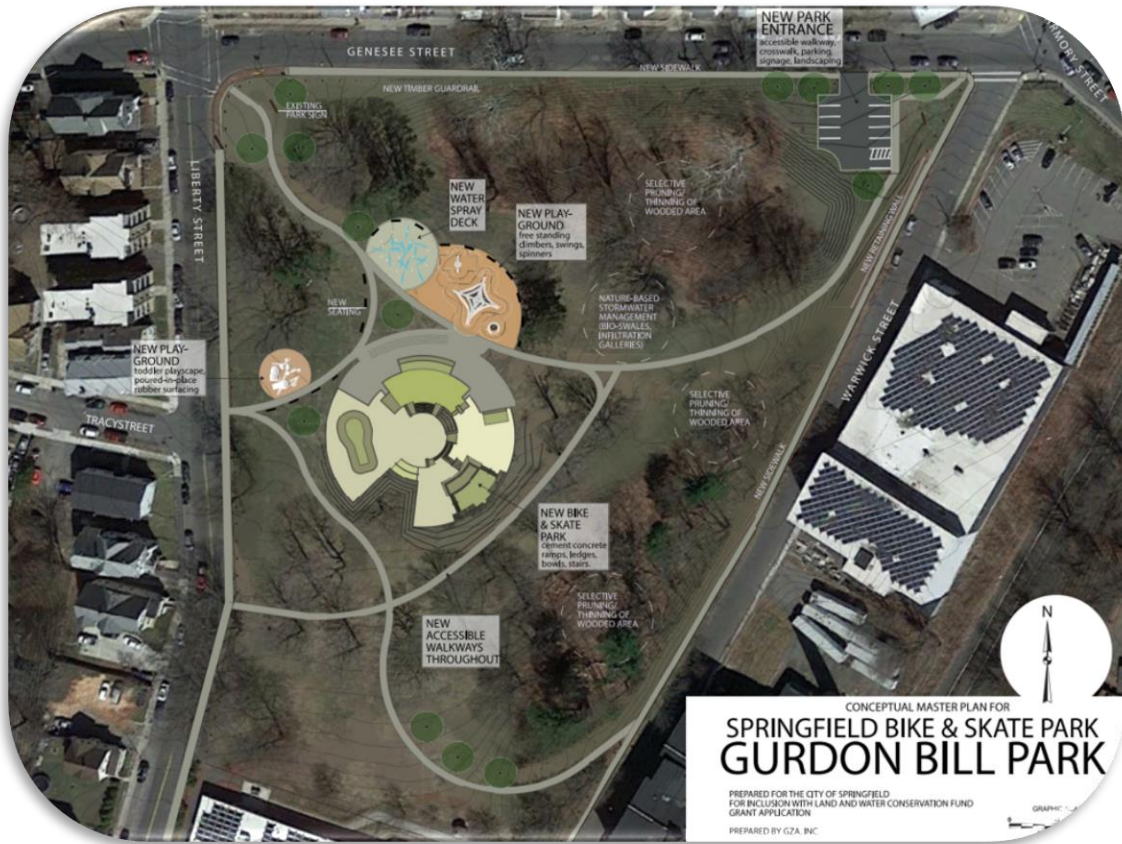
C	Myrtle Street Park	\$500,000
C	Marshall Roy Park	\$410,116
C	Neal Park (Solutia)	\$2 million
C	Freedman School – Park Design and Construction	\$750,000
C	Citywide Baseball Field Repair	\$1.5 million
C	Gordon Bill Park	\$2 million
C	Adams Park	\$500,000
C	Calhoun Park	\$500,000
C	Emily Bill Park	\$650,000
C	Jaime Ulloa Park	\$1.2 million
C	Beauregard and Schiavina Memorial Park	\$850,000
C	Harriet Tubman Park	\$500,000

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Boathouse and North Riverfront Park





Below is a short description highlighting some of the major ongoing and upcoming projects throughout the city.

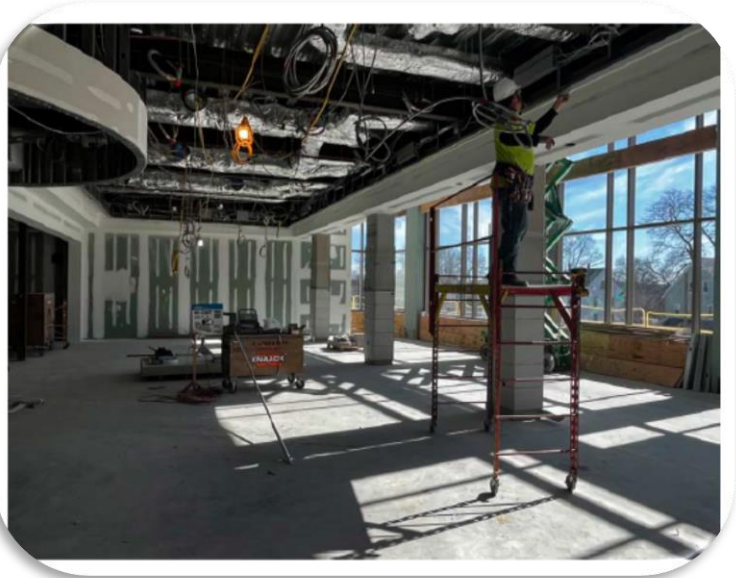
DeBerry-Swan Elementary School Project



Planning for another state-of-the-art elementary school consolidation project is underway (first being Brightwood-Lincoln). With unwavering support from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), the city has begun the first steps of this multiyear project by commissioning a feasibility study. This project will be similar in scope to the Brightwood/Lincoln project – which earned the prestigious LEED Gold Certification for its construction and energy efficiency. Both new school buildings

will utilize shared spaces, in an effort to maximize efficiency, while the design also maintains the individual identities of the schools. These new construction projects ensure that the students of Springfield’s Public Schools will have access to the best learning environments possible.

The city has selected the site of the existing DeBerry school property on Union Street and DeBerry Park. The topping off ceremony for the project occurred in January 2022, and construction is ongoing and should be completed before the start of the new school year. The school is scheduled to open by August 2023. The old DeBerry School is slated to be demolished, with a parking lot created in its place, in 2024. Closely tied to this project is the former MCDI site clean-up and DeBerry Park projects. Together these three (3) projects represent significant public investment in the Mason Square neighborhood.



Ted Plumb Athletic Field at Duggan Academy



Consisting of the construction of a new state-of-the-art synthetic turf football field surrounded by a new rubberized running track, this project will be performed in three separate phases with the athletic field being rededicated to former Springfield Trade (Putnam) coach Ted Plumb.

- Phase One will include the construction of the football field in the summer of 2023, and be completed in the fall of 2023.
- The Second Phase will begin in the summer of 2024, and will be completed in the fall of 2024, which will include a new fitness area for the community as well as upgrades to the existing grass baseball, softball and soccer fields.
- The Third Phase will begin in the summer of 2025, and will be completed in the fall of 2025, and will include improved parking areas and an amenity's building to accompany the field.

Central Athletic Field

The Central High School Athletic Field Upgrade project is slated to begin during the summer 2023, and completed in October of 2023.

This project provides the Central High School community and student athletes with two new state-of-the-art synthetic turf fields; the new field will accommodate baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, and football. This project will introduce the first synthetic turf baseball and softball fields available for Springfield Public School use.

The new field's area will provide a significant benefit to the school community, a reduced maintenance burden, and will provide accessible walkways for spectators to enjoy the game.

This athletic field upgrade project is a unique opportunity to expand the world class facility at Central High School and nurture the Athletic community for many years to come.

\$30 Million Authorization for Various City Projects

The City has authorized \$30 million to be allocated for municipal projects, which includes:

- \$14.6 million toward the construction of the new Ted Plumb athletic field at Duggan Park
- \$1 million grant funding match for improvements to Walker Grandstand located in Forest Park
- \$1 million grant funding match for improvements to Greenleaf Park
- \$7.4 million towards improvements for new roofs at the DPW building located on Tapley Street in Springfield and the Fire Headquarters
- \$6 million allocated for road and sidewalk improvements throughout the city

\$10 Million Toward Public Event Facilities

Mayor Sarno has appropriated \$10 million toward renovations and improvements of event and public facilities throughout Springfield.



Improvements are being made at the Carriage House at the Barney Estate, located in Forest Park, which holds public events such as weddings, large gatherings, etc.

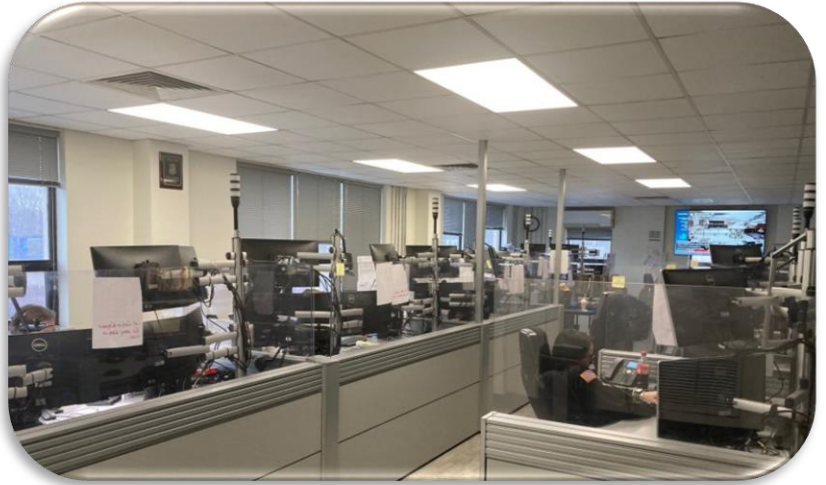
Improvements are also being made to Cyr Arena, which holds public skate night and hockey events for all ages, open to residents and visitors.

Renovations are also scheduled at Veterans and Franconia Golf Course Club Houses, which is an opportunity to complete necessary repairs at both buildings while fostering continued growth of the renowned golf courses in Massachusetts. All of these venues are revenue sources for the city.



Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System

The city is planning a consolidation of Springfield's two current CAD systems onto one platform. This \$3.4 million project will allow for the ability to run both Police and Fire Departments dispatch communications through a consolidated system which allows for a coordinated public safety response, decreasing call processing time, the delivery time of incident-related supplemental information, and ultimately reducing emergency response time.





Over the past three years, Springfield and the rest of the nation continues to grapple with the unprecedented pandemic. Once again, the city was faced with economic uncertainty. However, it was Springfield’s commitment to strategic planning and careful analysis of the resources available to meet City needs, which has allowed the city to take a transformative approach and make strategic investments for over a decade. These same guiding principals have left Springfield well prepared to weather any possible economic downturn, and to address its capital needs in a way that is fiscally sustainable. Springfield has been tested before, has succeeded and will continue to do so.

A major focus in capital improvement over the past couple of years has been the rebuilding of four elementary schools in the city.

The new Brightwood-Lincoln co-located elementary school campus opened its doors to students, teachers and faculty for the 2021-2022 school year. The newly constructed school, located in the City’s North End neighborhood, is a leading example of a high-performance green building. It was awarded the LEED (Leadership in Energy, Efficiency, and Design) gold certification, which is an award that is globally recognized, by implementing measurable strategies like carbon offsets and low-emission materials.

In addition, construction continues for the new \$95 million state-of-the-art DeBerry-Swan co-located elementary campus. The new school is expected to open its doors to students, teachers and staff for the 2023-2024 school year, while the old DeBerry School is slated to be demolished for a new parking lot to be created by August 2024.



(DeBerry-Swan School Construction: October 2022)

The investment of these new schools shows Mayor Sarno's continued commitment to education, neighborhoods, and residents.

A great focus has been placed on the construction of athletic fields throughout the city, which will provide significant benefits to the public and school communities, and its residents. The creation of Ted Plumb Field at Duggan Academy is currently underway. The project will consist of constructing a new state-of-the-art synthetic turf football field surrounded by a new rubberized running track, athletic field lighting, two new basketball courts, a community garden, accessible walkways, a new fitness area for the community, as well as upgrades to the existing grass baseball, softball and soccer fields, improved parking areas and an amenity's building to accompany the fields. This project will be completed in phases and is on track to be fully completed in the fall of 2025.

Another athletic field project the city is proud to begin is the Central High School Athletic Field Upgrade. The project provides the Central High School community and student athletes with two new state-of-the-art synthetic turf fields, which will accommodate baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, and football. This project will introduce the first synthetic turf athletic field available for Springfield Public School use. The new field's area will provide a significant benefit to the school community, a reduced maintenance burden, and provide accessible walkways for spectators to enjoy the games. This upgrade project is a unique opportunity to expand the world class facility at Central High School and continue to nurture the athletic community for years to come.

In fiscal year 2023, \$30 million has been authorized to make future improvements on various projects throughout the city. This includes \$1 million in improvements to Walker Grandstand in Forest Park and \$1 million to Greenleaf Park, which are both slated to begin in summer of 2023.

Walker Grandstand is a centralized location for many athletic events in the city of Springfield. Improvements will include painting and refinishing of the existing steel structure in the seating area, replacements of new windows and the existing exterior door, roof replacement, repair of the brick façade, and masonry work.

While in the schematic design phase, improvements to Greenleaf Park will include a new playground, water spray area, repairs to existing tennis courts, new basketball courts, new site amenities such as park benches and the repair of a culvert along the southern end of the park.

Also included in this authorization is \$7.4 million in funding for municipal roof replacements for the DPW facility and Fire Department Headquarters. The replacements will comprise rebuilding, repointing, and replacing components that are necessary to meet current code standards. The

remaining authorization will fund \$14.6 million of the Duggan Field project, mentioned above, as well as \$6 million towards roads and sidewalks throughout the city.

Another \$10 million has been appropriated to fund renovations at Veterans and Franconia Municipal Golf Course Club Houses. This project aims to repair critical building infrastructure such as the roofs, ventilation system, and upgrading to energy efficient windows This project will also update the kitchen equipment at both courses to allow for an improved quality of



service to the customers and will reduce maintenance costs over the long term for the city. Both courses are renowned in Massachusetts for their quality with Veterans Golf Course hosting the 2023 USGA Qualifying for the US Junior Amateur and US Girls' Junior Amateur.

This allocation will also allow for improvements to Cyr Arena, that hosts public skate events and hockey tournaments for all ages, and improvements to the Carriage House, both located in Forest Park, which is an event venue open to the public. All of these sites located within Springfield serve as attractions for residents and visitors from all over New England and beyond. These projects will allow for maximization of the venue's value, as well as continue to bring in future revenue for the city.

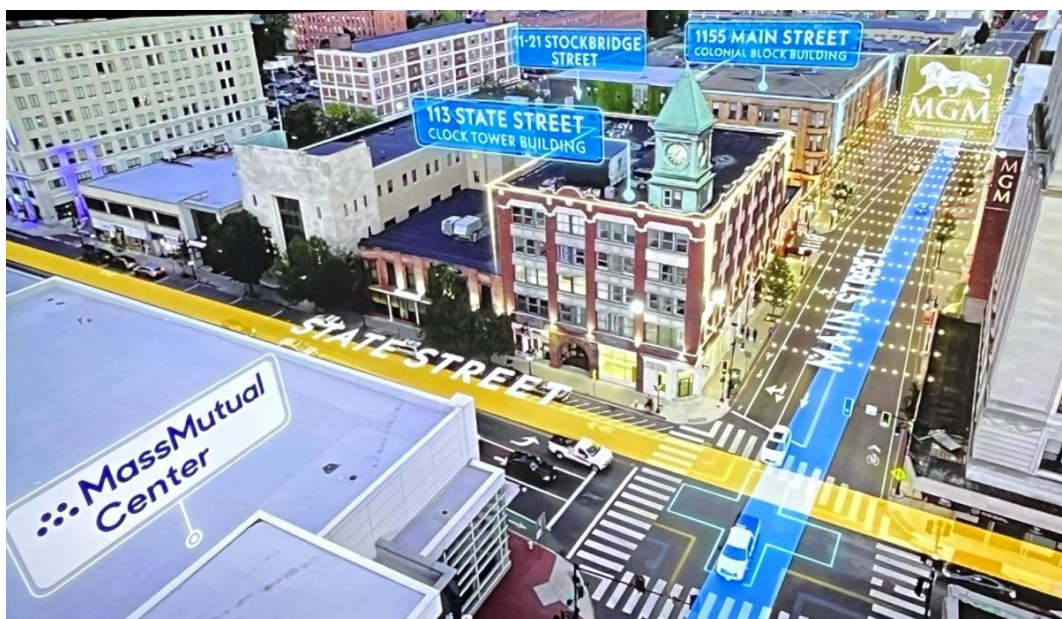
As of this past year, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding for the school department is now able to be used for capital improvement projects. Much of this funding has been slated to be used toward making improvements within the city's school system. These projects include \$46.5 million toward energy-efficient upgrades to existing HVAC systems in schools. This project will provide a cost savings and improve air quality to ensure safe and healthy learning environments for students and staff. \$3.8 million has been put towards virtual school locations. In FY22, ESSER funded instructional and support staff for the new Springfield Virtual School, which is now offered for grades K-12 and provides students with the option of virtual learning. This program will continue moving forward as an option for parents and students who prefer virtual learning to in-person classes. Another \$5 million will be put toward creating a data network to 4G throughout all schools. Of that, \$1.5 million will launch a

city-wide private 4G/5G network for at-home internet access and \$3.5 million will replace the in-school wireless network that is approaching the end of its useful life. Another highlight of this funding was allocating \$7.2 million toward technology such as Imagine Learning, which is a personalized learning program that accelerates both literacy skills and English language development for students.

Public safety also remains a top priority. One of the major projects this year is to continue implementing the city's newly integrated Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management system. The city is planning a consolidation of the city's two current CAD systems onto one platform. The ability to run both Police and Fire Department dispatch communications through a consolidated system will allow for a coordinated public safety response, decreasing call processing time, the delivery time of incident-related supplemental information, and ultimately reducing emergency response time. Our public safety departments have also seen major investments in facilities and technology in recent years.

The city will be putting a total of \$18.7 million, \$15 million of which is grant funded with a \$3.7 million city match, towards safety improvements to 10 corridors and 15 intersections throughout Springfield in 2023/2024. This project will allow for the city to keep up with the constant deterioration of roadway by addressing resurfacing and reconstruction every 20 years. This funding will allow the city to meet this requirement and keep local roads safe for residents and visitors.

The city will continue to build on the hundreds of millions of dollars in private and public investment in Springfield's downtown that occurred over the last decade. One of the recent investments of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds was used for the acquisition of three properties in the city's Metro Center census tract for \$2.75 million.



The portfolio totals over 130,000 gross sq. ft of economic development opportunity in the heart of downtown's central business and entertainment district. Funding is being used to reduce the negative impacts that the properties currently have on the neighborhood and to position them for future productive and adaptive reuse. The City anticipates final negotiations with a preferred developer during the summer of 2023. Reactivation of these long-underutilized buildings will have a transformative impact on the neighborhood and overall stability of the city's downtown. The portfolio's redevelopment and reuse will produce jobs, increase the tax base and potentially creating additional housing units to bring a balance to the current stock seen within the Metro Center area. The building's return to the tax rolls is also emblematic of how public investment can help spur private development, which in turn allows the city to provide more resources for residents.

Thoughtful financial planning and adherence to our fiscal policies has allowed the city to make these investments, and they will continue to be essential to the city's capital planning process. During Springfield's debt issuance in 2022, Standard and Poor's (S&P) reaffirmed the city of Springfield's AA- rating. The affirmation of the AA- rating demonstrates that Standard & Poor's strongly believes in the city's financial management and ability to make difficult decisions to balance the budget. Strategic investment and restructuring the city's outstanding debt, when possible, has enabled Springfield to afford more large-scale projects, and Springfield's strong bond rating continues to allow the City to borrow money at low interest rates.

Under Mayor Sarno's leadership, Springfield has seen more than \$4 billion worth of public and private economic development, development that has been supported by investments made through the city's capital planning process.



Mayor Sarno also highlighted some of the projects that have been completed through previous Capital Improvement Plans, including:

- The Department of Public works was able to complete a handful of crucial projects in FY23
 - \$1.6 million toward citywide Private Way paving
 - \$650,000 toward citywide sidewalk replacement
 - \$205,000 toward the St. Lawrence Ave drainage project
 - \$272,000 for pedestrian crossing at Wilbraham Road

Another highlight was the completion of Flood System Repairs in the amount of \$3.6 million, which has been an on-going project for the past few years. The project included new toe drain systems along the Connecticut River South System, structural repairs to various flood walls throughout the city, repairs to the Mill River conduit, removal of stream and flood wall

encroachments, and an upgrade of landslide drainage systems. These repairs brought certain items to acceptable standards for the city.

Furthermore, \$1 million in bond funding was used for the purchase of new replacement vehicles and equipment necessary in order to support various City departments. Many of the vehicles being replaced have exceeded their useful life. This purchase included marked and unmarked patrol cars, a transport van, mobile radios, and mobile data terminals.

Additionally, Mayor Sarno continues to build upon the already \$750 million of rehab improvements to all schools working in close partnership with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), the most in the Commonwealth.



Windows being installed at the High School of Sci-Tech

These projects include building new state-of-the-art schools as previously mentioned and numerous repairs and upgrade projects through the MSBA Accelerated Repair Program, including window replacement upgrades at Glickman Elementary, Balliet Elementary and at the High School of Sci-Tech, and a boiler upgrade at Central High School, just to name a few.



Air Handling Unit (AHU) being installed at DeBerry-Swan School

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