



# CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

**Mayor David J. Narkewicz**

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** State Senator Stanley Rosenberg  
State Representative Peter Kocot

**From:** Mayor David J. Narkewicz

**Date:** November 9, 2012

**Subject:** Transportation Bond Bill – HB No 4371  
NORTHAMPTON DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

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### Background

On July 31, 2012 the Governor signed into law "An Act Financing Improvements to the Commonwealth's Transportation System" also known as the Transportation Bond Bill. This bond bill included a critical line item for Northampton supported by our legislative delegation: "...that not less than \$3,000,000 shall be expended for storm water and drainage improvements in the Meadows area along the Interstate 91 corridor to the Northampton Airport in the city of Northampton." This memorandum summarizes information about this project for communications with the Administration advocating for the release of this funding.

### Project Need

The need for drainage improvements in the Meadows area was described in detail in a May 2012 report by CDM Smith prepared for the City. The drainage system in the Meadows area includes densely developed residential areas along and west of Bridge Street (Route 9), Pomeroy Terrace and Williams Street, as well as less developed areas east of Bridge Street in the Connecticut River floodplain. This watershed is about 185 acres in size. The drainage area includes over 200 parcels of land, with 137 residential properties and the balance of property being retail, office and multiuse space. The Three County Fairgrounds and the Northampton Airport are also in this drainage area.

The flood plain area has experienced repetitive flooding in Sheldon Field and the adjacent commuter lot, the Three County Fairgrounds, Old Ferry Road, Cross Path Road, and Fair Street. In addition, the undeveloped area to the south of Fair Street to the west of Cross Path Road and along the alignment of the under-sized Williams Street "brook" drain pipe also experiences routine flooding. Another problem is that the same under-sized Williams Street "brook" drain pipe conveys drainage through a flood control dike that protects the City. When the Connecticut River water level rises a valve is closed on this drain line, causing flooding impacts up stream. This flooding has caused local roads to become impassable in moderate storms and causes dangerous icing conditions in the winter months. Also, the Three County Fairgrounds has a master plan for future redevelopment and upgrades to the existing city drainage infrastructure are needed to facilitate this important economic development project.

**Proposed Solution**

CDM Smith reviewed several solutions to this drainage problem. In order to relieve the under-sized William Street "brook" drain pipe and to mitigate flooding that occurs in this part of the City a new 48-inch drain pipe is proposed from Old Ferry Road under Interstate Route 91 to the Connecticut River. About 4,800 linear feet of 48-inch diameter pipe are needed for this improvement. This new drain line would be effective in conveying stormwater from the densely developed areas west of Bridge Street to the Connecticut River thus relieving the Meadows area from drainage from the developed area at higher elevations.

Another benefit to this improvement in municipal drainage infrastructure would be to support the redevelopment of the Three County Fairground by providing access to the new drain line. The Three County Fairground project is a \$42.7 million plan to make the site a year round regional venue for small to mid-sized events. It is projected to add over 500 jobs to the area and have a total economic output increase from \$25.9 Million currently to about \$62.9 Million.

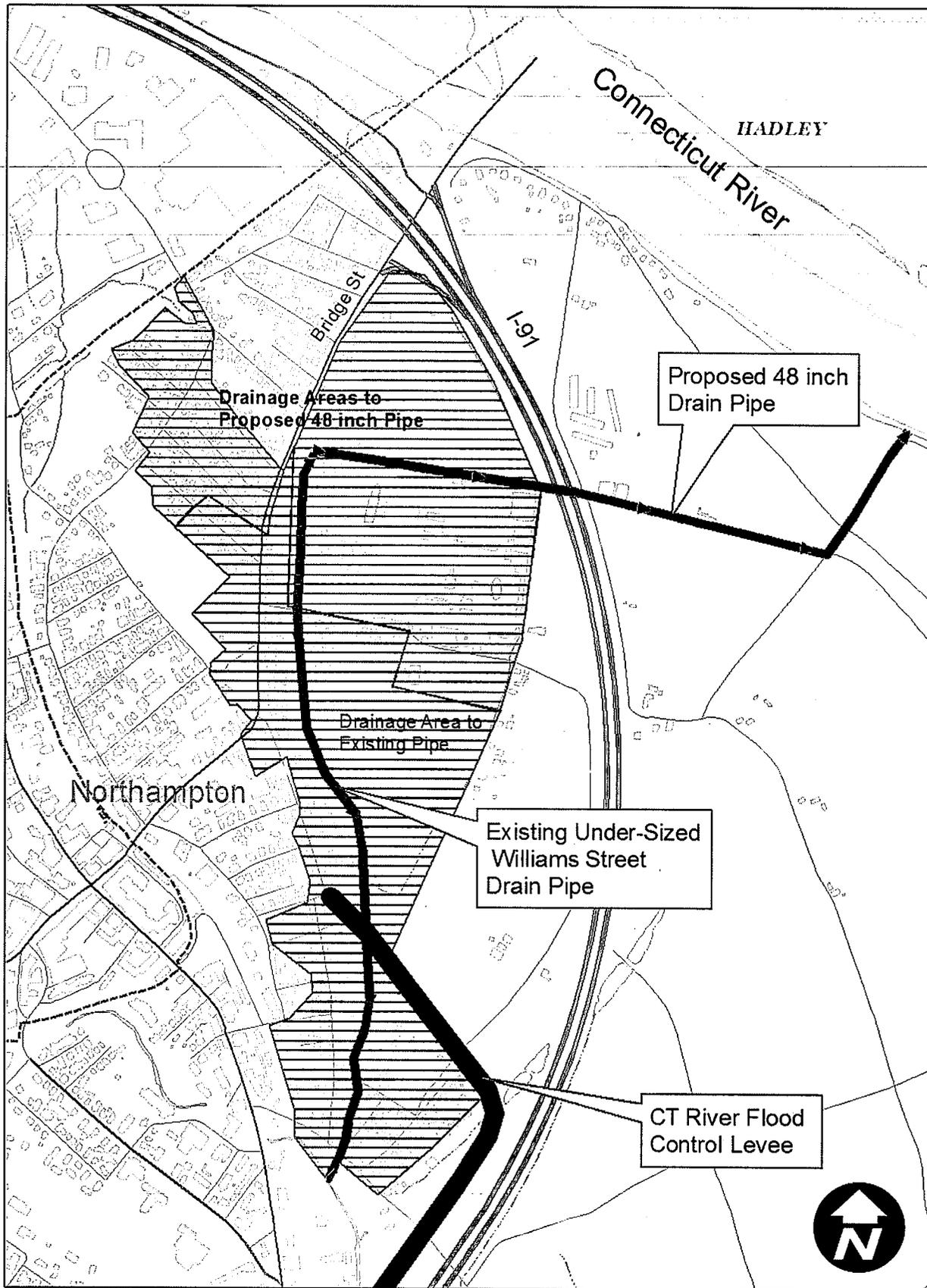
The attached plan depicts the proposed location of the new drain line.

**Estimated Project Cost**

CDM has provided a preliminary project cost estimate of \$5.5 million for this project. Of that total, about \$1.1 million is needed for final design, permitting, and construction management and oversight. To date, the City has expended over \$220,000 in fieldwork, pipeline assessment, and engineering analyses of the drainage problems in this part of the City.

The City of Northampton cannot move this important municipal and economic development infrastructure project into final design, permitting, and construction without the funds earmarked for it in the Transportation Bond Bill. I look forward to working with you and the Patrick Administration to secure this critical funding.

# Proposed Bridge Street/Meadows Drain Pipe



City of Northampton  
Public Works

