



# From Crisis to **RECONSTRUCTION** City of Lawrence, MA

**Public Ways,  
Parks & Fields,  
Multi Year  
Reconstruction  
Project**

## **The Columbia Gas Disaster** **September 13, 2018**

an over-pressurization of the natural gas lines in the Merrimack Valley region resulted in a series of fires and explosions, and rendered the gas distribution system inoperable. As a result over 15,000 residents were displaced from their homes.

Consequently, nearly 30 miles of underground gas piping was replaced in the City of Lawrence, resulting in major impacts to the City's roadways and sidewalks. A total of 123 streets suffered damage from excavation.

In the spring of 2019, Columbia Gas entered into an \$80 million settlement agreement with the affected municipalities, in which funding was provided for the restoration of the affected roads and sidewalks. The share of funds designated for restoration in Lawrence amounted to \$31.9 million.





# The Damage Done: Restoration Overview (work that needed to be done)

A total of 30 miles of roadway and 27,500 linear feet of damaged sidewalks will be repaired as part of the Roadway Restoration Project. Additionally, a total of 1,120 damaged sidewalk panels will be replaced. Finally, new ramps will be installed in order to achieve ADA compliance. The City contracted with Environmental Partners Group, an engineering consulting firm, to coordinate and oversee all aspects of the restoration, including design, procurement, and construction administration.

The South Lawrence Roadway Restoration Project will take place in four (4) phases, which began in 2019, and is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.



# Wasted No Time: Sullivan Park & O'Connell South Common Fields; Basketball Courts, Trees & Infrastructure Work Schedule: December 2018 - September 2019 Status: Complete



Replacement of damaged gas piping continued even as winter drew near and the weather turned cold. Many City residents found themselves without gas service, and consequently, without heat. Temporary housing was provided to those affected, in the form of mobile homes installed at both the Sullivan Park and O'Connell South Common. These mobile homes were heated using propane. At its height, more than 350 mobile homes were present at both parks.

Due to the amount of traffic, including trailing the mobile homes in and out of the parks, severe damage was inflicted on the grass areas, walkways, and playing fields. As part of the Settlement Agreement, funds were set aside to make repairs to the Sullivan Park and O'Connell South Common.

The City contracted with WES Corporation and, in the spring of 2019, work began at both parks. The project involved the replacement of baseball diamonds, basketball courts, tennis courts, and playground areas, as well as new grass plantings, walkways, and sidewalks. Construction of the Sullivan Park was completed in the fall of 2019; the O'Connell South Common is expected to be reopened in the spring of 2021.



New Baseball Field at O'Connell Park



New Tennis Courts at Sullivan Park



New Basketball Courts at O'Connell Park



## Wasted No Time: Phase 1 Roadway Restoration Work

**Schedule:** August 2019 –  
December 2019  
**Status:** Completed

The roads paved in Phase 1 included:

Cabot Rd.	Cathedral St.
Chickering St.	Colonial Dr.
Colonial Rd.	Colonial Ter.
Corbett St.	Crestshire Dr.
Durso Ave.	Fowler St.
Gilbert St.	Marlboro St.
Montrose Ave.	Pilgrim Rd.
Proctor Rd.	Springfield St.
Standish Rd.	Stevens Ave.
Sylvester St.	Zanni Ave.



Work for Phase 1 consisted of milling and paving roadways within the affected area that, after thorough investigation, were found to be free of any foreseeable underground infrastructure needs. Water mains were found to be in good condition, and sewer pipes were found to be free of defects. These areas largely had no sidewalks, so paving took place immediately. In the fall of 2019, the City contracted with P. J. Albert, Inc., of Fitchburg, and P. J. Keating, of Dracut, to perform the paving work within the areas that were designated to be “cleared” by the City and its consultants. Over 20,000 linear feet (approximately 4 miles) of roadway was re-paved in this short period, mainly in the Colonial Heights neighborhood and a small portion of Mount Vernon.

**Water & Sewer Work:** The City and its engineers inspected the water and sewer infrastructure in this work zone and was found to be in sound shape and clear of defects. As a result, no water and sewer work was required in this zone, which allowed us to expedite road paving.



## Wasted No Time: Phase 2 Roadway Restoration Work

**Schedule:**  
May 2020 – December 2021  
**Status:** In progress  
(50% Complete)

Roads in Phase 2 include:

Abbott St.	Adams St.
Andover St.	Ayer Rd.
Bailey St.	Beacon St.
Bourque St.	Bowdoin St.
Boxford St.	Boyd St.
Brookfield St.	Burlington St.
Cambridge St.	Castle St.
Chester St.	Cleveland St.
Clifton St.	Cyr Dr.
Danforth St.	Dracut St.
Dunstable St.	East St.
Exeter St.	Farley St.
Farnham St.	Ferguson St.
Foxcroft St.	Gorham St.
Granville St.	Groton St.
Hamlet St.	Hawley St.
Hough Rd.	Inman St.
Jefferson St.	Kathleen Ter.
Kenneth St.	Leeds Ter.
Lenox Cir.	Lenox St.
Liberty Ave.	Loring St.
Louisburg St.	McCarthy Rd.
Monroe St.	Mount Auburn St.
Mount Vernon St.	Osgood St.
Roberta Lane	Shaw St.
South Bowdoin St.	South Broadway
South Union St.	Stevens Ave.
Stevens St.	Sylvester St.
Taft St.	Thomas Rd.
Weare St.	West Hawley St.
West Kenneth St.	

Work for Phase 2 consists of several phases, including mill-and-overlay of sections of roadway in the Mount Vernon and South Lawrence West neighborhoods, and full sidewalk rehabilitation in the O’Connell South Common neighborhood. The City has contracted with Newport Construction, of Nashua, NH, and P. J. Keating, of Dracut, to perform the work in this phase. Some sections of road will require full-depth reclamation, which involves extensive excavation and rebuilding of the road from the bottom up. This process is very lengthy, but results in improved drainage and more pronounced sidewalks and curbs.

While roadway work is being completed in the above areas, water and sewer pipes will be replaced in sections of the O’Connell South Common and Carletonville neighborhoods. This will allow the trenches to settle through at least one freeze-thaw cycle and ensure that the road does not sink or crack once the final paving is complete.

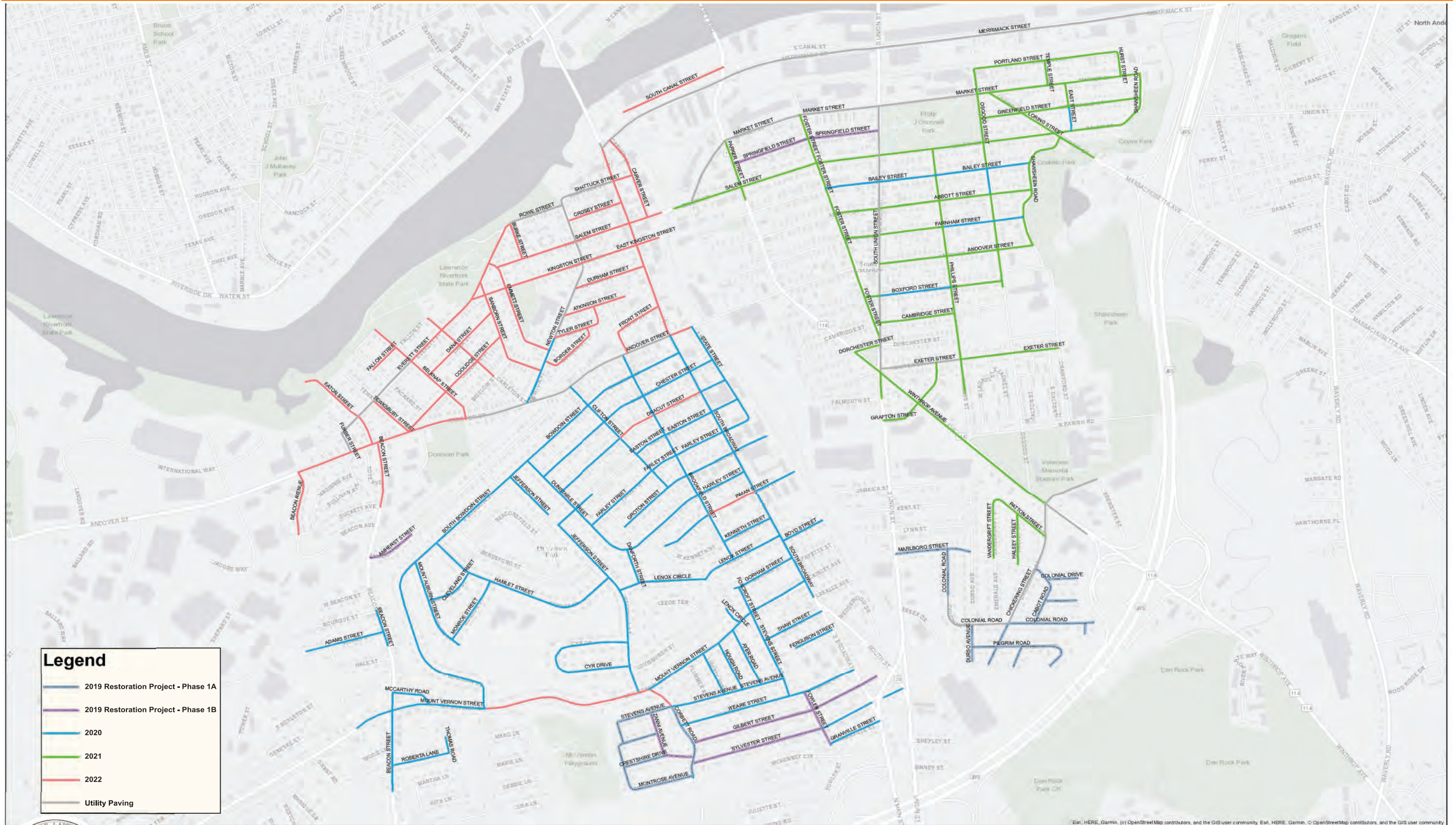
In the late summer of 2020, the City was contacted by State officials, alerting us to safety violations committed by one of our vendors, which resulted in the termination of their contract. As a result, a portion of the work was suspended pending the re-bidding of the work. The City is excited to bring on a new contractor to complete the remaining work in this phase.

**Water & Sewer Work:**





The below map highlights the roads included in the restoration project, and are color-coded by planned year of completion.



# Lawrence - Preliminary Restoration Paving Plan - Roadway Work





## Wasting No Time: Phase 3 Roadway Restoration Work

**Schedule:**  
**May 2021 – December 2022**  
**Status: Not yet started**

The work in Phase 3 consists primarily of sidewalk and curb replacement, as well as, a combination of roadway treatments. Roadwork will include mill and overlay as well as full-depth reclamation. The roads in this phase have greater needs which need to be addressed prior to paving, as to avoid having to excavate once the road is newly paved. This work includes water main replacement, sewer main replacement, and structural lining. New drainage pipes, catch basins, and manholes are being installed in the areas that need them the most. In addition, some areas where sidewalks are almost level with the roadway will be completely reconstructed to provide for improved pedestrian safety.

Due to the amount of work that needs to take place prior to paving, these roads are being scheduled for later in 2021. Water & Sewer Work:

### Roads in phase 3 include:

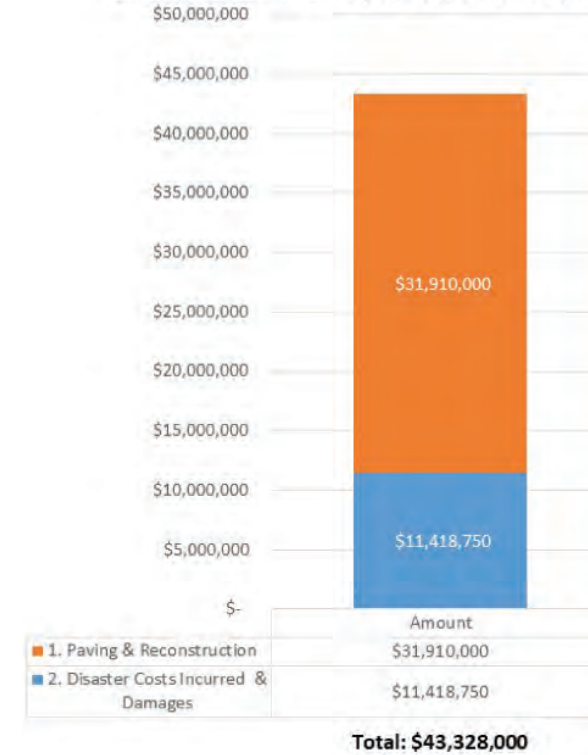
- Abbott St.     Andover St.
- Atkinson Crt.     Atkinson St.
- Beacon Ave.     Beacon St.
- Belknap St.     Border St.
- Burke St.     Cambridge St.
- Carleton St.     Carver St.
- Chickering St.     Colonial Rd.
- Coolidge St.     Corbett Rd.
- Crosby St.     Dana St.
- Dorchester St.     Dracut St.
- Durham St.     East Kingston St.
- East St.     Eaton St.
- Emmett St.     Everett St.
- Exeter St.     Fallon St.
- Farnham St.     Foster St.
- Front St.     Furber St.
- Grafton St.     Greenfield St.
- Halsey St.     Hurst Street
- Inman St.     Kingston St.
- Loring St.     Market St.
- Mount Vernon St.     Newton St.
- Osgood St.     Packard St.
- Patton St.     Phillips St.
- Portland St.     Rowe St.
- Salem St.     Sanborn St.
- Shattuck St.     Shawsheen Rd.
- South Broadway     Temple St.
- Tewksbury St.     Tyler St.
- Vandergrift St.     Winthrop Ave.
- Wolcott Ave.



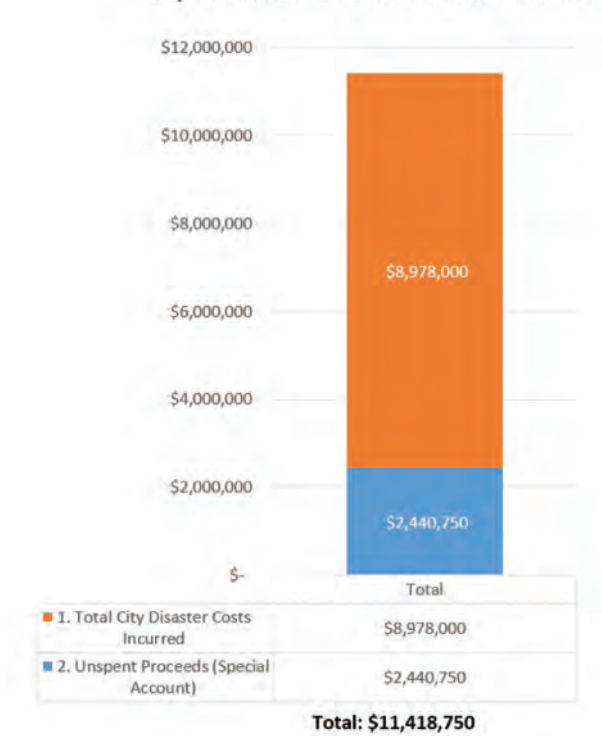
# The Budget

## “How the money was invested”

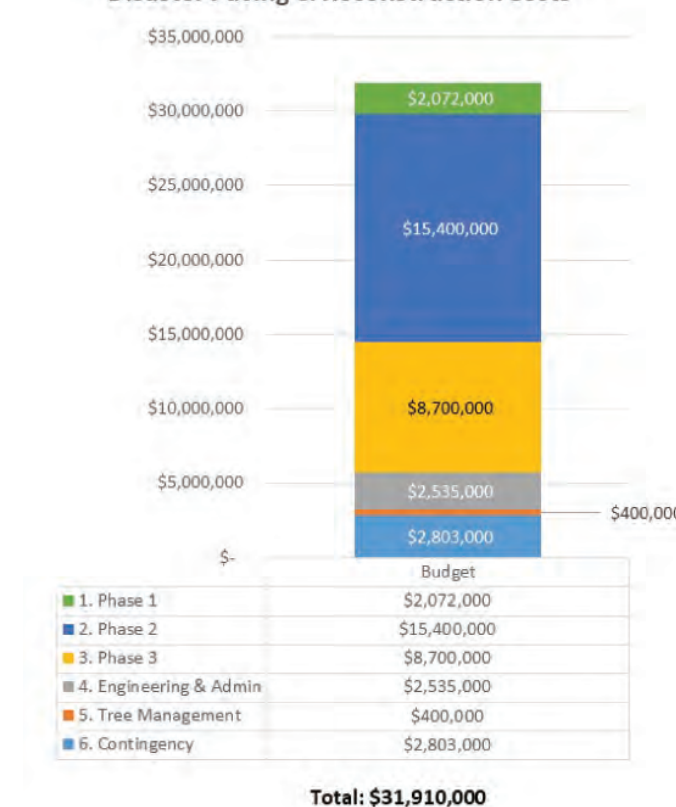
Columbia Gas Municipal Settlement Funds



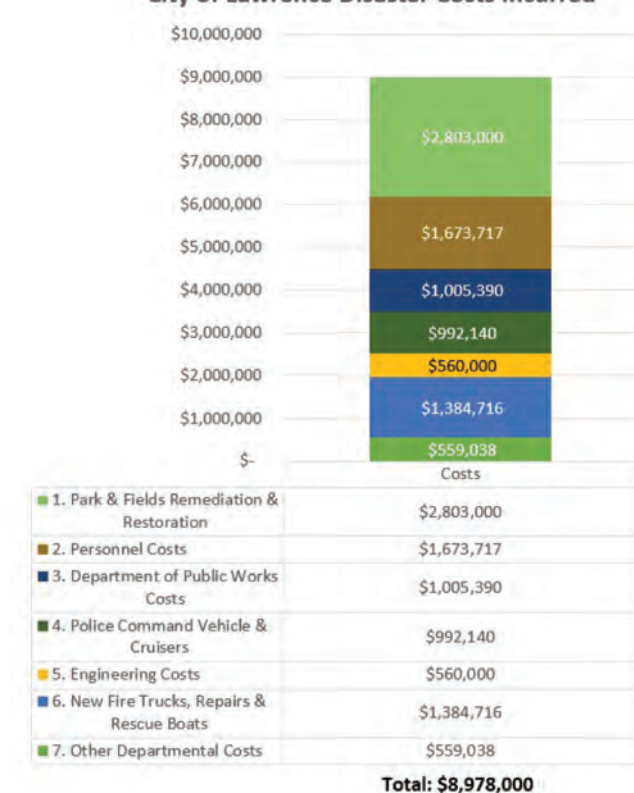
City of Lawrence's Settlement Funds Invested



Disaster Paving & Reconstruction Costs



City of Lawrence Disaster Costs Incurred

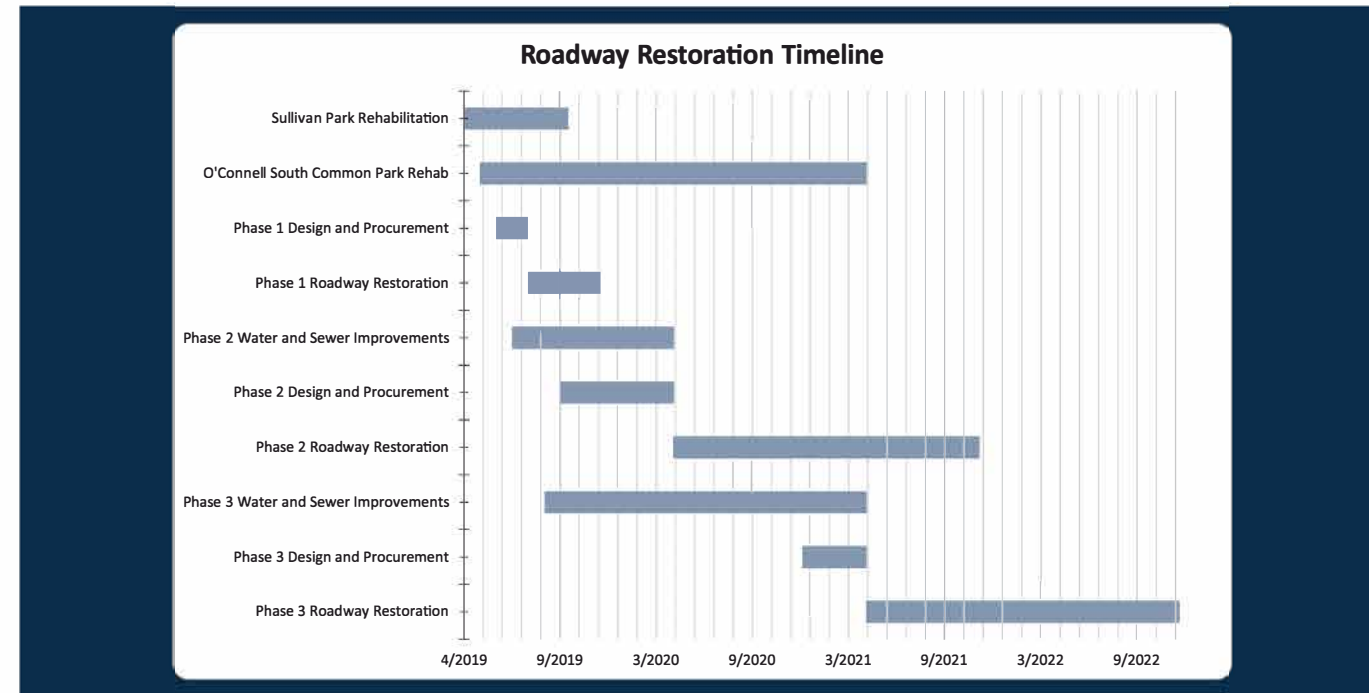




## Closing Remarks

You can expect a dramatic transformation in the way South Lawrence will look over the next several years. Nearly 30 miles of roads will be repaved and tens of thousands of feet of sidewalk will be replaced. The Settlement Agreement is meant to make Lawrence whole; to erase the physical scars left behind on our roadways, and restore our infrastructure to serviceable levels.

Many areas will indeed see improvements, from ADA-complaint ramps, to improved curb reveal. The Settlement Agreement, however, was not meant to provide for complete and total replacement of all sidewalks. Sidewalks that were directly disturbed during the gas system replacement will be part of this project, as well as, sidewalks that present a current safety hazard. Sidewalks that were in poor condition prior to the gas disaster may not be repaired or replaced during this project; repairs/replacement will be coordinated as part of the City's routine Capital Improvement Plan.



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### When will my street be paved?

If your street was impacted by the gas disaster, it will be paved according to a 4-year schedule, based on the amount of underground utility work that needs to occur first. For a complete map of all the work areas, please visit: <http://www.cityoflawrence.com/785>.

### My neighbor's sidewalk was replaced, but mine wasn't. Why is that?

Only sidewalks that were directly impacted by the Gas Disaster, or those that pose an imminent hazard, are included in this project. Sidewalks that are cracked or worn are not included in the project, and will be replaced separately.

### My road was recently paved and it is not level with my driveway. Why is that?

There may be several reasons why the level of the roadway does not match the driveway. Commonly, a differential is left for drainage purposes, to avoid stormwater runoff from entering the driveway, allowing it to flow to nearby catch basins. In other instances, it may be that the road has not been completely paved. Pavement is installed in 2 layers, and often over the course of several days.

### Why are trees being removed as part of this project?

Tree removal occurs for one of several reasons: trees may be diseased or decaying; having an impact on public infrastructure, such as sidewalks and fire hydrants; or they may be impeding the City's ability to meet ADA regulations. When a tree has been identified for removal, a notice will be placed on the tree, giving the exact reason(s) for removal.

## Investments in Public Safety



1st of 2 New Fire Engines



New Mobile Police Command Center



One of The 5 New Patrol Vehicles



New River Rescue Boats & Gear



# Lawrence Reconstruction Project: Public Ways, Parks & Fields

Mayor Dan Rivera  
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## Cityoflawrence.com/785

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**Resident  
Lawrence, MA 01843**

## Thank you

Thank You to all the people of the City of Lawrence that were affected by the careless and callus action of Columbia Gas, Massachusetts. Thank you for all the time you spent away from your homes and all of the time we had to endure our streets, sidewalks, parks, fields and public ways destroyed and our lives generally made chaotic. Thank you all for your patience as we attempt to try to improve these spaces and ways and attempt to erase some of the last visible scars of the Columbia Gas Disaster of September 13, 2018.

### Elected Officials:

Charlie Baker, Governor  
Karyn Polito, Lieutenant Governor

Kendrys Vasquez, City Council President  
David C. Abdo, City Councilor  
Maria De La Cruz, City Councilor  
Marc L. Laplante, City Councilor  
Ana Levy, City Councilor  
Pavel Payano, City Councilor  
Celina Reyes, City Councilor  
Estela A. Reyes, City Councilor  
Jeovanny A. Rodriguez, City Councilor

Ed Markey, US Senator  
Elizabeth Warren, US Senator  
Lori Trahan, US Congresswoman

Barry Finegold, State Senator  
Marcos Devers, State Representative  
Frank Moran, State Representative  
Christina Minicucci, State Representative

Brian A. DePena, Former City Councilor  
Niki Tsongas, Former US Congresswoman  
Barbara L'Italien, Former State Senator  
Diana DiZoglio, Former State Representative  
Juana Matias, Former State Representative

### Contractors, Partner Organizations, & Vendors:

Environmental Partners, Quincy, MA  
Groundwork Lawrence, Lawrence, MA  
Newport Construction Corp., Nashua, NH  
P.J. Keating, Company, Dracut, MA  
P.J. Albert, Inc., Fitchburg, MA  
WES Construction, Halifax, MA

### City Departments Heads:

Frank Bonet, Director of Personnel  
Mark Ianello, Director of Finance  
Jorge Jaime, Cemetery Director  
William Maloney, City Clerk  
Vilma Martinez-Dominguez, Community Development Director  
Jaime Melendez, Director of Veterans Affairs  
Franklin Miguel, Capital Assets Project Manager  
Michael Miller, Airport Director  
Brian Moriarty, Fire Chief  
Cynthia Paris, Superintendent of Schools  
Brian Pena, Director of Public Works  
Milagros Puello, Water and Sewer Commissioner  
Kate Reilly, Chief of Staff  
Raquel Ruano, City Attorney  
Luis Santiago, Director of MIS  
Roy Vasque, Police Chief  
Jessica Valentin, Library Director  
Martha Velez, Director of Health & Human Services  
MaryLou Bergeron, Former Superintendent of Schools  
Eileen Bernal, Former Chief of Staff  
Rita Brousseau, Former Purchasing Agent  
Ana Camargo, Former Acting Inspectional Services Director  
Carlos Jaquez, Former Director of Public Works  
Theresa Park, Former Director of Office of Planning  
Abel Vargas, Former Economic & Business Development Director

Thank you to all the people that make up the staff, including, police, firefighters, teachers and all the departments within City Hall that form the Government of the City of Lawrence. Thank you for Making Lawrence Better.

