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Members of the General Assembly's Committee on Environment:

You are currently considering Proposed Bill No. 5485, An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Flood Control Projects in Bridgeport.

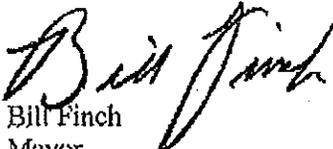
I am writing to emphasize the critical need to address the flooding problems in Bridgeport. Evaluations undertaken by licensed engineers nearly 30 years ago concluded that nearly 400 separate properties were negatively impacted from flooding by the Ox Brook alone. The number of impacted properties has undoubtedly increased since those studies occurred. Other watercourses in Bridgeport, such as the Rooster River, and Island Brook, also flood and cause property damage frequently.

Undeniably, the development of previously open space in the north end of Bridgeport has contributed to the flooding problems, a lesson that we have learned from. However, it is critically important to note the widespread agreement that intense development in Trumbull and Monroe has also contributed to flooding in Bridgeport's neighborhoods in a very significant way. Simply, other communities are dependent on Bridgeport's watercourses and storm water system for drainage and to remove their potential flooding problems

In this light, it is an issue of fairness that a regional solution and state resources be sought to bear on the flooding problems in Bridgeport.

In your consideration, please let me know if specific information or assistance can be provided.

Sincere thanks for your attention,


Bill Finch
Mayor

NOTES

History

The original design prepared by the Kasper Group in 1980 reported that the total number of structures affected by flooding by the Ox Brook was 388. This has undoubtedly increase in the near 3 decades since. The limits of the floodway are the town line with Trumbull at Old Town Road and flows downstream crossing Main Street down to Lincoln Avenue. The study was a list of recommendations for increasing pipe sizes and widening of channels to accommodate more flow and reduce flood elevations.

Recommended Improvements

Recommendations were broken down into 6 phases and wee as follows

Phase 1

Construct a new berm and remove the existing berm at Elton Rogers Park creating upstream storage. The park is approximately 74 acres and has a storage capacity of 4 million cubic feet of water. The phase included an 18 inch overflow pipe to Loumel Street.

Phase 2

Acquire land downstream for storage (area of Hart and Greenwood Streets). A 9' x 5' box culvert would direct water to this storage area via Bronx Avenue and Hunting Street.

Phase 3

Reconstruct downstream tributary widening with riprap trapezoidal channels from Quince Avenue to Lincoln Ave

Phase 4

New trapezoidal channels in backyards from Savoy Street to Burnsford Avenue

Phase 5

Burnsford to Loumel where the overflow of Rogers Park ties in would be concrete pipe decreasing in size going upstream from 84 inch to 54 inch

Phase 6

The final phase is the installation of a 10' x 3' box culvert from Island Brook headwaters at the Trumbull Town Line to Rogers Park.

The total cost of construction in 1980 (not including land acquisition) was approximately \$7 million. A revised cost was submitted in the 1998 redesign for \$22 million. That

would approximate the cost in present day dollars in the neighborhood of \$35-\$40 million.

At this point Kasper is no longer in existence. The design is 10 years old and obsolete considering development over the past decade. There would need to be a full scale design done for the project. This would most likely be in the neighborhood of \$2 million dollars although the amount of detail required for this project could require more design.

If there is a funding to shoot for on this project it would probably be best suited for the redesign of the project. Some of the phases could be broken out of the project as a whole. The land acquisition for example is absolutely necessary for the project. We would need a place to store the water and there are very few locations suitable for this magnitude of volume. The Greenwood and Hart Streets location is what was recommended and remains the only viable location. Reconstruction of the Berm at Rogers Park would also help a great deal as it provides a large storage area for water. That phase in 1998 dollars was approx \$2 million. That would be approx \$3-3.5 million in present day dollars.

If I had a recommendation it would be to go after funding for the Rogers berm reconstruction and a new design of the Ox Brook. If the goal is to maximize what we ask for then we would be looking at asking for upwards of \$40 million dollars for design and implementation of the Ox Brook Flood Control Project.