



The City of Westfield
Engineering Department
59 Court Street
Westfield, Massachusetts 01085
City Engineer: Allison B. McMordie

City Council
59 Court Street
Westfield, MA 01085

Re: **Little River Levee Update**

Dear City Council:

At the December 7, 2023, City Council meeting, a motion was made to the Engineering Department requesting an update on the progress and remaining work to be performed on the Little River Levee to achieve compliance with the Army Corp of Engineers. Below is the status of the two projects that the Engineering Department is undertaking.

Culvert Repair: JL Raymakers was given the Notice to Proceed on November 27, 2023. The Agreement was dated on October 23, 2023, however since it is only a 90-day project period, 30 days were given before the official start date for the Contractor to submit design submittals for approval. This gave the Contractor some extra time in case any of the submittals need revision. Tighe & Bond is providing full time observation as well as construction administration of the project to ensure project compliance and compliance with Army Corp of Engineers.

On November 27, 2023, JL Raymakers was on site setting up the project including: mobilizing equipment, installation of timber matting, installation of the construction entrance, and installation of erosion controls. The installation of the sheeting and large sandbags for the cofferdams was began Monday 12/11, and the cofferdams are now 90% complete. The existing culverts have been video inspected. Debris in the pipes was identified, which held up the initial date of sliplining. Cleaning of the culverts is scheduled for Monday 12/18. Raymakers will be fusing the sliplining pipe sections together Monday 12/18 as well, while doing other prep work at the site. Sliplining is scheduled for Tuesday 12/19 with the annular space grouting scheduled for Wednesday 12/20.

Army Corp of Engineers has reviewed Raymakers submitted shoring concept, and gave approval on 12/15, and asked to review the final design. Raymakers will be meeting their shoring representative at the site Monday 12/18 to review a final design. Depending on the timing with submittals, etc, they may begin shoring the following week for the riverside headwall or begin prep for the landside headwall.

Tree Removal/Clearing: Northern Tree has cleared the trees on and 15-20' from the toe of the levee, from the boundaries of the Army Corp 550' repair northbound, to the end of the levee. Northern Tree has been given Tighe & Bond's stamped plans for stump removal, backfill, and compaction. We have coordinated with Army Corp throughout the design process, and they have reviewed and approved the design for tree and stump removal. The backfill material specifications for the riverside was provided by Army Corp, which we've included in the design. The landfill side backfill material was developed by Tighe & Bond based on sampling of existing material. The 15' tree clearing from the toe of the slope is an Army Corps requirement.

I was quoted upwards of \$300-400k for the stump removal of that section of that levee, which will be requested in FY2025 budget. South of the 550' Army Corp repair section will also be cleared beginning next year (Ponders Hollow Road to the Columbia Greenway). Some trees have to be removed adjacent to the Army Corp repair area; however JL Raymakers is currently on site working on the culvert project.



The City of Westfield
Engineering Department
59 Court Street
Westfield, Massachusetts 01085
City Engineer: Allison B. McMordie

Those trees are in JL Raymakers controlled work site, therefore Northern Tree was directed to not touch anything in and around that area. Northern Tree will clear those trees adjacent to the culvert project as well as the southbound remainder of the levee all in one mobilization next year when JL Raymakers has left the site.

I hope this is sufficient. If you have any questions, please contact me at allison.mcmordie@cityofwestfield.org.

Thank you,

Allison McMordie, City Engineer