

Secretary Bialecki Announces \$1.275 Million MassWorks Grant for Salem

SALEM – Wednesday, November 13, 2013 – Today, Housing and Economic Development Secretary Greg Bialecki announced over \$1.2 million in funding for the city of Salem through the MassWorks Infrastructure Program to help support development and growth in the city. Through strategic investments in housing and economic development projects, the MassWorks Infrastructure Program has helped make communities across the Commonwealth great places to live, work, and play.

“We remain committed to working with local communities to help identify opportunities to maximize growth and spur regional development,” said Secretary Bialecki. “I look forward to our ongoing partnership with the city of Salem and private industry leaders to explore additional ways to promote continued growth.”

Through the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, the Patrick Administration partners with local communities and helps municipalities make targeted investments in infrastructure such as roadways, streetscapes, water, and sewer to facilitate and support new and sustained housing and economic growth throughout the state.

The funding announced today will support the improvement of Grove Street from Harmony Grove Road to Goodhue Street to produce a "complete streets" circulation environment with pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. MassWorks funds will be used for construction, environmental remediation, and design.

The infrastructure development will directly support the proposed redevelopment of Legacy Park and four other key sites within the North River Canal Corridor to create a total of 315 housing units. These projects will revitalize this blighted, former industrial area into a mixed-use neighborhood consistent with the goals of the North River Canal Corridor Master Plan

“I am very excited to welcome Secretary Bialecki to Salem for this important announcement and I would like to thank both he and Governor Patrick for their continued support of investments that will grow our local economy,” said Salem Mayor Kimberley Driscoll. “These funds will help implement transportation improvements that are an important component of our strategic plan to revitalize the North River Canal Corridor. Our goal is to transform the area, turning blight, brownfields, and abandoned factories into commercial storefronts, open green space, and new residences. These private investments will, in turn, add to our tax base, create local jobs, and provide needed housing for our growing community. An enhanced transportation infrastructure is essential to both stimulate and accommodate this positive new growth.”

“It’s a pleasure to be here this morning for this announcement,” said Senator Lovely. “The improvement of Grove Street has been needed for quite a while, so this MassWorks grant is much appreciated.”

Michael Hubbard of MRM Development, developer of Harmony Grove Apartments, said, “I want to thank Mayor Driscoll and the State for their support of development in the North River Canal Corridor, a former industrial area. Harmony Grove Apartments will provide much needed housing and create construction and permanent jobs, as well as increasing the tax base for the city.”

Administered by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, the MassWorks Infrastructure Program provides a one-stop shop for municipalities seeking funding to support housing, economic development and job creation and placed a particular emphasis on assisting communities to advance multi-family housing development in the 2013 round. The first competitive MassWorks grant round was held in September 2011 and HED awarded \$63.5 million in grants to 42 communities throughout Massachusetts. In 2012, under the second round of grants, the Administration approved 26 projects worth nearly \$38 million.

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