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PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Announces \$2.5 Million MassWorks Award for Amesbury

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Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

MEDIA CONTACT

Colleen Arons , Communications Director

Phone

857-324-0499(tel:8573240499)

Online

colleen.arons@mass.gov(mailto:colleen.arons@mass.gov)

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AMESBURY – Today, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito joined Amesbury Mayor Ken Gray and other local and state officials to announce a \$2.5 million MassWorks Infrastructure Program grant for transportation improvements to several Route 495 ramps in the South Hunt Area Development District.

The roadwork includes ramp reconstruction at Route 495 intersections with Route 150 and South Hunt Road. The traffic improvements support Phase I of the \$40 million commercial development Atlantic Sports Center complex. The 410,000 square foot complex will offer five and a half rinks with event seating for 2,500, 7,000 square feet of medical space, 43,000 square feet of office space and conference room, and a restaurant.

In addition, these road improvements will benefit three planned housing developments located within a mile of the Route 495 ramps. These include 240 apartments in

Amesbury Heights, 100 townhouses in Bailey's Pond, and 45 condominiums at Hatter's Point.

"Our Administration is committed to investing in programs like MassWorks, which impact not only local infrastructure, but also play a critical role in strengthening businesses and the communities that surround them," **said Governor Charlie Baker.** "MassWorks is one of many administration initiatives that enable local communities to tap into private investment and accelerate local economic growth across the Commonwealth."

"I am excited to be in Amesbury to award \$2.5 million in MassWorks funding for Route 495 intersection improvements and to support important commercial and residential development in the South Hunt Road area," **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.** "The Governor and I are pleased to continue to make the investments in the public infrastructure our cities and towns need to create sustainable growth."

"Through the flexibility of MassWorks, we have been able to drive over two million square feet of new commercial space, made possible by listening to individual communities' needs and by responding with individualized programs that benefit many stakeholders, such as this project, which will support a significant commercial development in Amesbury, and the addition of over 380 units of housing nearby," **said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash.** "Our office saw another competitive round of MassWorks for 2018 and we are happy to keep the momentum going across the Commonwealth in the year ahead."

This is the first step of a three-phase project on 90 acres in the South Hunt Area Development District. The project will also include traffic signals, turning lanes, sidewalk extensions, and bike lanes. This phase also leverages another \$1.2 million in District Improvement Funding.

"I'd like to thank Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, and Secretary Ash for their continued commitment to bolstering local infrastructure in Amesbury. The receipt of this MassWorks grant will enable the city to modernize the South Hunt Road corridor by creating streamlined access to area businesses, including the new Atlantic Sports Center, and generating exciting opportunities for economic development in the future," **said Amesbury Mayor Ken Gray.**

“Global Property Developers is happy to be working with such a great team in Mayor Gray and the City of Amesbury as well as Lt. Gov. Polito, Secretary Ash and the entire Baker Administration to bring the Atlantic Sports Center to life,” **said Steven Callahan, president of Global Property Developers.** “Having this tremendous grant assistance from MassWorks enables this project to become a reality.

“This is fantastic news for our community,” **said Representative James Kelcourse.** “It demonstrates the Baker-Polito Administration’s continued commitment to not only invest in the city of Amesbury but support economic growth across the Commonwealth.”

Since 2015, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded over \$275 million in MassWorks grants to support 138 projects in 106 communities. MassWorks funding has been critical to the addition of over 2 million square feet of commercial/retail space, approximately 10,000 full and part time jobs, more than 7,000 immediate housing units, at least 7,000 square feet of new public space and 1,200 new hotel rooms.

Through the 2018 MassWorks round, the Administration will award more than \$82 million in new grants for 40 projects that intend to leverage \$2.9 billion in private investment, and drive an anticipated 4,000 units of new housing and more than 9,000 full time jobs. 37 communities across the Commonwealth will benefit from this round’s investments.

Governor Baker signed economic development legislation in August that includes substantial new funding for municipalities, including another \$250 million for MassWorks awards. The legislation builds on the Baker-Polito Administration’s work to partner with communities to catalyze economic development and create new opportunities for residents across the Commonwealth, including the [**2016 Job Creation and Workforce Development act**](#)(/news/governor-baker-signs-economic-development-legislation), which authorized \$1 billion to support economic development efforts across the state, including \$500 million authorization for MassWorks Infrastructure Program, enhanced tools and the introduction of new strategies for job-readiness efforts.

Learn more about MassWorks at [mass.gov\(/service-details/massworks-2018-round-opens\)](https://mass.gov/service-details/massworks-2018-round-opens).

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