



# Town of Sudbury

*Route 20 Sewer Technical Advisory Committee*

sewertech@sudbury.ma.us

April 7, 2011

Dear Sudbury Business Leader,

Sudbury faces a significant challenge to continue providing and preserving drinking water from underground aquifers to all residents, and sustaining the viability of our commercial property. Sudbury relies almost entirely on individual on-site septic systems for the disposal and treatment of wastewater (both residential and commercial). This is generally not an issue in residential areas, but as you may know, it has become a major problem in the areas of commercial development, particularly along an approximately 2 mile stretch of Boston Post Road. The Town's majority of business establishments, with almost 1 million square feet of commercial real estate, are located along this stretch of Boston Post Road, as are the Town's water supply wells. The continued reliance on septic systems for wastewater disposal is severely limiting the growth of existing businesses, curtailing the types of businesses that are able to locate in Sudbury, eliminating the possibility of introducing mixed-use development along the corridor, and threatening the adjacent underground water supply.

Sudbury's commercial corridor is at a competitive disadvantage because of its wastewater treatment challenges. Due to the high water table and poor soils along the corridor, septic systems fail more frequently resulting in costly repairs and maintenance, which hurts the bottom line of businesses. Reliance on on-site septic systems severely limits the ability for property owners along the corridor to attract new tenants, particularly restaurants and food services like grocery stores. Installing a decentralized wastewater treatment system along the corridor would eliminate the costly financial burden of frequent septic system repairs, create opportunities for new tenants, allow property owners to reinvest and redevelop their properties knowing that potential increased wastewater would be managed effectively, and allow the corridor to better compete with surrounding commercial areas.

Since 2000, the Town has spent considerable time and resources analyzing this issue and identifying potential options. The most favorable solution is the installation of a decentralized wastewater treatment system for the commercial corridor. The Town has advanced this idea most recently by identifying suitable locations on existing Town properties for both the treatment plant and the leaching field. Wastewater would be collected from all properties fronting Route 20 from approximately Massasoit Avenue to Lafayette Drive. The wastewater would be treated at a plant located on Route 20, and would be piped up to the Curtis Middle School for leaching. Hydrogeological testing was completed in the late fall of 2010, confirming the locations.

The next step in this process is a proposal at May's upcoming Town Meeting to authorize the Town to contract for the design and permitting of the system. This phase of the project is estimated to cost approximately \$1 million. Once designed, a final Town Meeting vote will be needed to authorize funds for construction of the system, currently estimated at \$14 million.

These are significant sums to ask any property owner to contemplate, and we are working on funding scenarios which are fair and equitable to both the residential property owners, and the small commercial property owners. We don't have all the answers yet, and are open to suggestions, comments and considerations from all parties. However, we view this project as an investment in Sudbury's future, and are hoping all residents and property owners do as well.

A brief presentation will also be made on the wastewater project to the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 5:30 pm at the Wayside Inn. The vote for design funding will be at the May 2 Annual Town Meeting, Article 20.

In the meantime, questions regarding this project can be sent to [sewertech@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:sewertech@sudbury.ma.us)

Sincerely,

Lisa Eggleston, Chairman, Route 20 Sewer Technical Advisory Committee