



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
WORKS WATER RESOURCES
PROJECT FACT SHEET**

**Commercial Street and Portland Fish
Pier Storm Drain Outfall Project**

Project:	Commercial Street and Portland Fish Pier Storm Drain Outfall Project
Project Owner:	City of Portland
Project Location:	Commercial Street – Maple Street to Center Street; Portland Fish Pier
Sewershed:	Fore River/ Portland Harbor
CSO's Impacted:	025 Long Wharf, 026 Maple Street
Construction Timeline	July 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027
Bid Amount:	6.26 Million
Prime Consultant:	Gorrill Palmer Consulting Engineers
Prime Contractor:	Chase Excavating

Project Goals and Description:

The City has identified three main goals for this project:

- To increase stormwater capacity in Commercial Street (Center St to Maple St) to help mitigate frequent flooding issues being experienced as a result of excessive stormwater runoff and tidal impacts in this area.
- To provide a new storm drain system with 25-year storm capacity that allows for the future combined sewer separation of a 30-acre watershed located in Center Street, Free Street, Spring Street and Pleasant Street in an effort to reduce Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) into Portland Harbor.
- To provide new tidal backflow prevention valves on the new storm drain system and the adjacent Maple Street CSO line to increase the system's resilience against tidal impacts.

This project will include the installation of a new 42" separated storm drain outfall located at the south western corner of the City's Portland Fish Pier property. 42" Storm drain will be extended and installed in Commercial Street from Maple St to Center St to replace an existing 18" storm drain line. In total the project will install approximately 1,000 linear feet of new storm drain pipe.

Existing stormwater drainage in this section of Commercial Street currently flows into a combined sewer outflow pipe with limited capacity located at the intersection of Maple St and Commercial St.

The proposed project will direct stormwater from this section of Commercial St to the new separated system in an effort to provide capacity relief to the overtaxed combined sewer outflow pipe.

The new system and adjacent Maple Street CSO line will also be equipped with Tide-Flex backwater valves to help increase system wide capacity at high tide as part of the project work.

In the 1970's, the City installed a separate sanitary sewer up Center Street, Spring Street and Free Street with the intention of converting the existing combined sewers in this area into a separated storm drain in the future. This Center Street combined sewer line is still connected to the combined sewer system in Commercial Street and contributes to CSO's at Long Wharf (CSO # 25) for the following reasons:

- There currently is not an existing separated storm drain outfall in this section of Commercial Street with enough capacity to drain the entire Center Street watershed.
- The City has identified several sanitary sewer connections that remain connected to Center Street drain which will need to be removed and directed to the sanitary sewer system before it can be converted into a separated storm drain and be connected to the new separated outfall line in Commercial Street. This remaining sewer separation work is scheduled to occur as part of a second project phase.

The proposed Commercial Street storm drain pipe has been designed to convey a 25-year storm from the entire Commercial Street and Center Street watershed. This will allow the City to connect the existing Center Street storm drain to the new Commercial storm drain system. This separation will remove approximately 30 acres of watershed area from the Commercial Street combined sewer and will result in a reduction of combined sewer overflow discharge volumes at the downstream Long Wharf CSO in the City's continued efforts to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) into Casco Bay.



Photo: Flooding at the Maple Street/Commercial Street Intersection on 8/18/2023