

# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 12, 2024

**TO:** York County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Mark L. Bellamy Jr., County Administrator 

**SUBJECT:** Property Owner Survey for Proposed Sewer Extension Projects

### Purpose

To provide the Board of Supervisors notification that Public Works will be sending out surveys to property owners within proposed sewer extension areas in support of the Utilities Strategic Capital Plan (USCP) revision.

### Discussion

In an effort to educate and gather feedback/comments from property owners located within the proposed sewer extension target areas in the USCP, Public Works will be mailing an informational cover letter and survey on or about the first week of January 2025 (draft is attached to this memo). This cover letter and survey will be mailed to approximately 400 property owners with active septic systems, all within the 18 proposed sewer extension areas. We plan to allow sufficient time for property owners (approximately 30 days) to respond to the survey and will include a pre-paid self-addressed return envelope to encourage higher response rates.

The cover letter provides a brief summary of why the survey is being conducted, its linkage to the USCP revision process, and useful information about requirements for connecting to the County's sewer systems, financial impacts, and useful points of contact for any potential follow-up questions. The survey itself asks property owners to check one of two preferences- yes, I am interested in public sewer service, or no, I am not interested in public service. It also provides a comments section for those who wish to add any.

The evaluation criteria for sewer extension projects presented to you during the November 19th Board of Supervisors meeting is still the method by which projects will be evaluated and prioritized. The feedback from this survey will help staff understand property owner preferences, especially in smaller target extension areas requiring grinder pump connections (connection to public sewer is optional for grinder pump connections, unlike gravity connections which are mandatory).

York County Board of Supervisors

December 12, 2024

Page 2

### **Next Steps**

Public Works will send out the attached cover letter and survey the first week of January 2025 and anticipate closing the survey out 30 days later in early February 2025. The goal is to start conducting one on one sessions with Board members in February 2025 to discuss the completed draft revisions to the USCP.

Seiter/lm 3806

Attachment:

- Draft Survey Cover Letter and Survey

**Department of  
Public Works**

**Director**

Robert L. Krieger, III

**Deputy Director**

Joseph A. Sisler, P.E.

**Assistant Director**

K. Scott Ashworth

Jonathan M. Seiter



Engineering  
Fleet Services  
Mosquito Control  
Utilities Operations  
Waste Management  
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Stormwater & Grounds  
Construction Inspections  
Infrastructure Management

December 12, 2024

«First\_Name» «Last\_Name»

«Other\_Name»

«House\_» «Street»

«OtherAdd»

«City», «State» «Zip»

Subject: Property Owner Sewer Extension Survey; «PropAdd\_1» «PropAdd\_2»

The Department of Public Works is in the process of evaluating potential sewer extension projects across York County. This evaluation process is in coordination with our current update to the Utilities Strategic Capital Plan, which prioritizes potential sewer extension projects prior to placement within County's Capital Improvement Program for funding.

This letter is intended to survey property owners within the proposed sewer extension project areas regarding potential sanitary sewer service. Your response to the survey is important because it will help aid in prioritizing when sewer service will be constructed in your area. To help you make an informed decision, please carefully review the following information about sanitary sewer service and the potential costs involved. After reviewing the provided information, **please complete the attached survey form by <<DATE>>** and mail it utilizing the self-addressed stamped envelope included with this letter.

- Connection fees depend on what type of connection is required between your property and the proposed sewer line extension. Most properties will be able to connect via a gravity connection, those properties that are set back from the roadway (greater than 300') may require a grinder pump to connect to sewer services.
- For gravity connections:
  - Connection is **mandatory** per York County Code 18.1-62.
  - Connection fees are based on water meter size; for standard residential service (5/8" water meter) the connection fee is **\$3,700**.
  - Once construction is complete you will have ninety (90) days to pay the fee and connect, otherwise the connection increases to \$8,625.

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*A Hampton Roads Community*

- For grinder pump connections:
  - Connection is voluntary per York County Code 18.1-62.
  - Connection fees and timelines are the same as gravity connections.
- Payment of the connection fee may be made as lump sum payment or by entering into an installment agreement with York County where the cost can be financed over pre-determined period of time. For additional information on payment installation plans please contact Utility Billing at [utility@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:utility@yorkcounty.gov) or (757) 890-3702.
- New plumbing will be required between your property and the sewer system (referred to as a lateral connection) at an estimated cost of **\$35-\$45 per foot**. Additionally, the septic tank will need to be disconnected and properly abandoned, the estimated cost for this is **\$1,500**. The plumber conducting the work for you will also be required to obtain a plumbing permit from York County prior to starting the connection process. The cost for this permit is **\$91.80**.
- The York County Department of Community Services offers financial assistance programs which may help defray some or all of the costs associated with connecting to sanitary sewer. For additional information or to determine eligibility requirements please contact Ms. Tiffany Garrett at [housing@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:housing@yorkcounty.gov) or (757) 890-3885.
- York County constructs the sewer collection system, then operates and maintains it through its life. The cost for operating and maintaining a public sewer system is recovered through the collection of a **\$54** fixed sewer service fee for **residential properties**, billed on a bimonthly (every other month) basis. For non-residential properties, the sewer service fee is collected based on water consumption as outlined in Section 18.1-72 of the York County Code.
- The Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) also charges a sewer service fee for the treatment of wastewater in Hampton Roads. Their fee is based on water consumption, costing residential users approximately **\$35-\$55** bimonthly (every other month).

I hope the information provided will help aid in your decision process whether sewer service is in your best interest. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Mr. Jon Seiter, Assistant Director of Public Works at [jonathan.seiter@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:jonathan.seiter@yorkcounty.gov) or 757-890-3750.

Sincerely, Robert L. Krieger, III  
 Director of Public Works

## PROPERTY OWNER SEWER EXTENSION SURVEY

Property Owner Name: <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>

Property Address: <<House\_>><<Street>>

**Please indicate your choice by checking one of the two boxes below, adding any optional comments, and returning this page in the self-addressed stamped envelope. Thank you!**

- I would be interested in connecting to a public sewer system if one were constructed to serve my property.
  
- I would **not** be interested in connecting to a public sewer system if one were constructed to serve my property.

Comments:

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